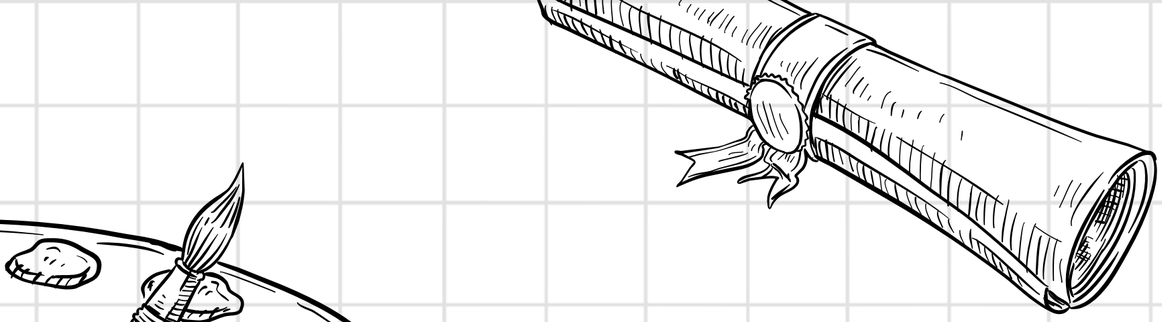
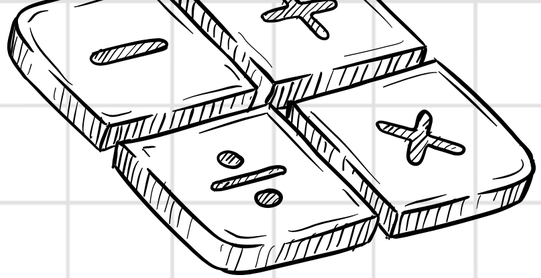
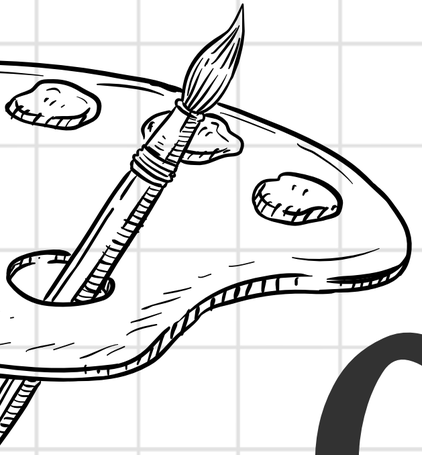
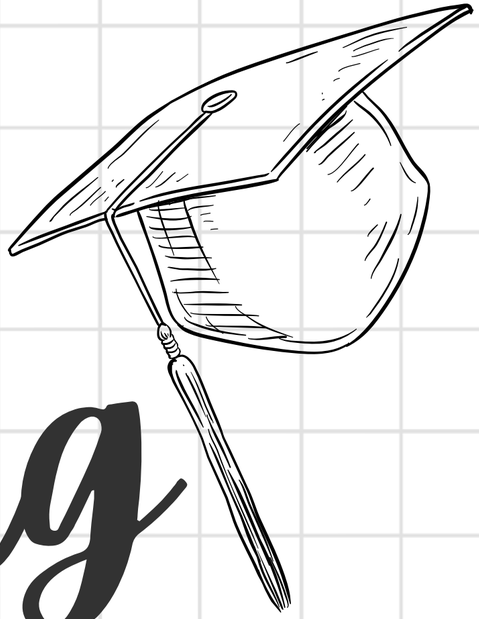
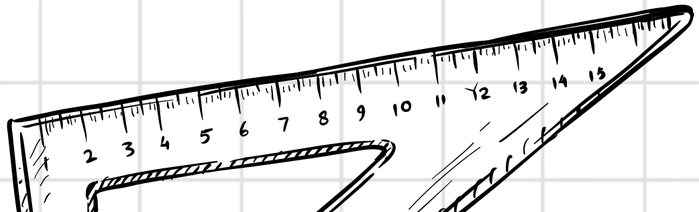





College Testing

An overview of SAT and ACT Testing and Protocols



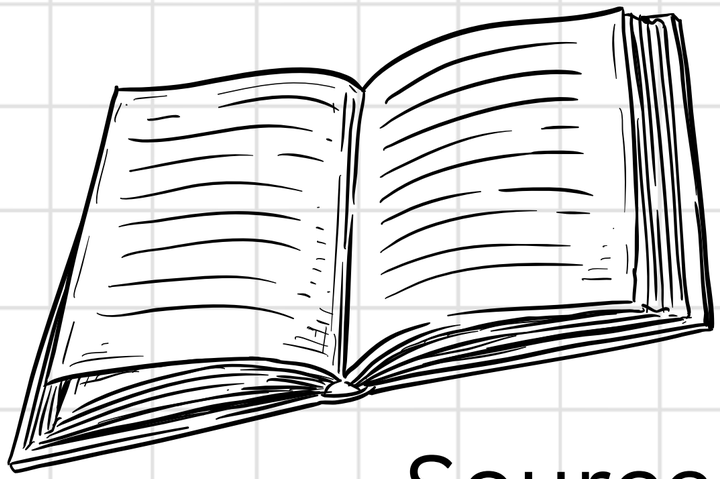




Agenda

- Brief history
- College Tests
  - College Board
  - ACT
- College Admissions
- General Timeline
- Accommodations
- Questions

History



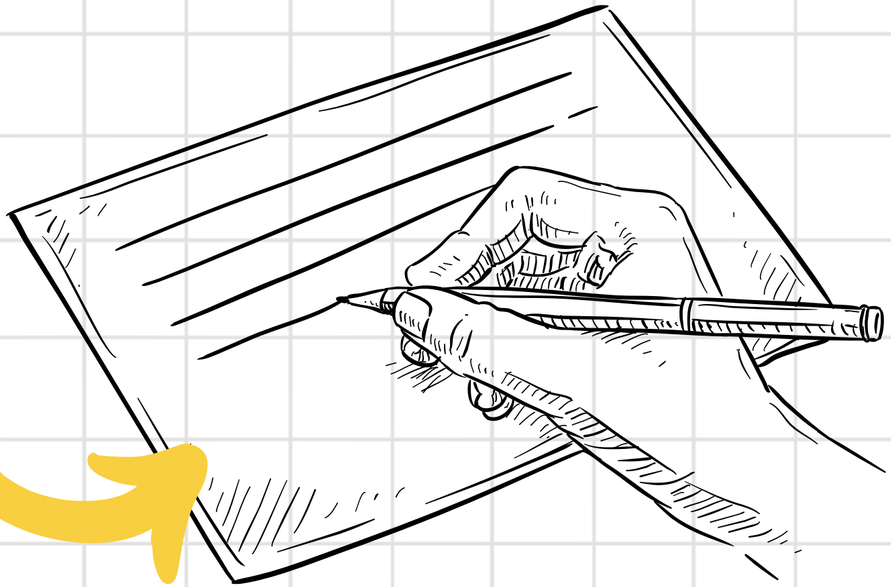
Source

1890
College Entrance Exams Proposed
Harvard President Charles William Eliot proposes a cooperative system of common entrance examinations that would be acceptable to colleges and professional schools throughout the country, in lieu of the separate examinations given by each school.

1900
College Entrance Examinations Become Common
The College Entrance Examination Board is established, and in 1901, the first examinations are administered around the country in nine subjects.

1965
In the 21st century the SAT and the ACT are just part of a gauntlet of tests students may face before reaching college. The College Board also offers SAT II tests, designed for individual subjects ranging from biology to geography. The marathon four-hour Advanced Placement examinations remain popular. There's also the PSAT, taken in the junior year as preparation for the full-blown SAT.

College Tests Overview



Allow colleges to compare students to other students who attend high schools all over the country.

Required by some 4 year colleges as part of a college application.

Not required, in general, by 2 year colleges.



Vocab Check

Test Optional: Students do not need to submit test scores. Schools will look at the rest of their application to determine admissions.

Test Blind/Free: Schools will not consider test scores even if they are sent.

FairTest

The National Center for Fair & Open Testing

Test Optional and Test Free List

Our interactive database has powerful filtering and sorting options that are more limited on a mobile device than on a web browser. On your desktop you'll be able to filter, sort and view more columns. On mobile, click on the school's box to see additional details.

DONATE TO SUPPORT TEST OPTIONAL LIST

We know you appreciate FairTest's definitive list of Test Optional and Test Free colleges! We provide this service at no cost to users. But maintaining that list takes lots of time and MONEY. If you are a parent or counselor who relies on this service, show your appreciation by clicking the donate button and giving whatever you can to let FairTest help you with the college admissions process.

Hide fields | Filter | Group | Sort | ...

	Institution Name	State	Policy for 2025 - 26...	Policy...	Is policy temporary	Link to...	Percent of...	Control
257	Canisius College	NY	Test Free		Unannounced	https://www....	65%	Privat
258	Capella University	MN	Test Optional		Unannounced			
259	Capital University	OH	Test Optional		Unannounced	https://www....	20%	Privat
260	Capitol Technology University	MD	Test Optional		Unannounced	https://www....	100%	Privat
261	Career Networks Institute	CA	Test Optional	6	Unannounced	https://cnico...		Privat
262	Caribbean University-Bayamon	PR	Test Optional	4	Unannounced	https://www....		Privat
263	Caribbean University-Carolina	PR	Test Optional	4	Unannounced	https://www....		Privat
264	Caribbean University-Ponce	PR	Test Optional	4	Unannounced	https://www....		Privat
265	Caribbean University-Vega Baja	PR	Test Optional	4	Unannounced	https://www....		Privat
266	Carleton College	MN	Test Optional		No	https://www....	35%	Privat
267	Carlow University	PA	Test Optional	4	Unannounced	https://www....	96%	Privat
268	Carnegie Mellon University	PA	Test Optional		Yes	https://www....	29%	Privat
269	Carolina Christian College	NC	Test Optional		Unannounced			Privat
270	Carolina University	NC	Test Optional		Unannounced			Privat

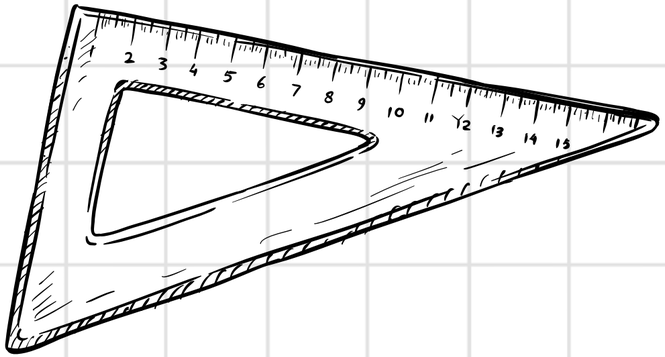
Source

College Board PSAT



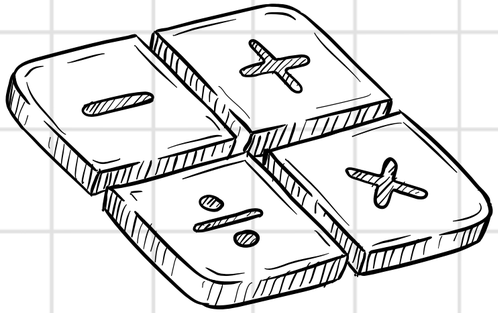
- Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test
- National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- “Practice” SAT
- Great way to preview and prepare for collegeadmissions tests
- The “experience”
- Receive free personalized studyrecommendations
- Typically taken by juniors in Fall of 11th grade

SAT

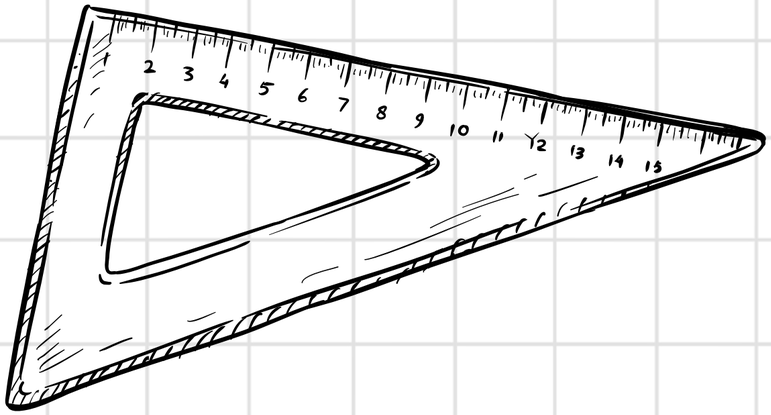


- 2 Sections
- Evidence Based Reading & Writing (EBRW)
- Reading - read passages followed by multiple-choice questions about each passage
- Writing and Language - read passages and find/fix mistakes and weaknesses through answering multiple choice questions
- Math - Multiple Choice and Grid in questions as well as Calculator and No Calculator Sections

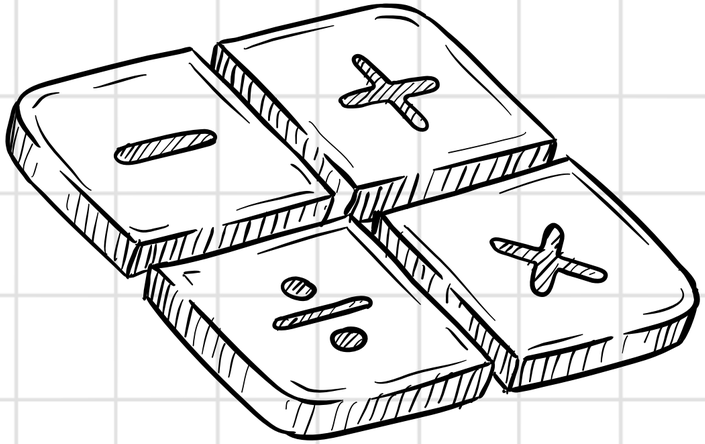
fully digital



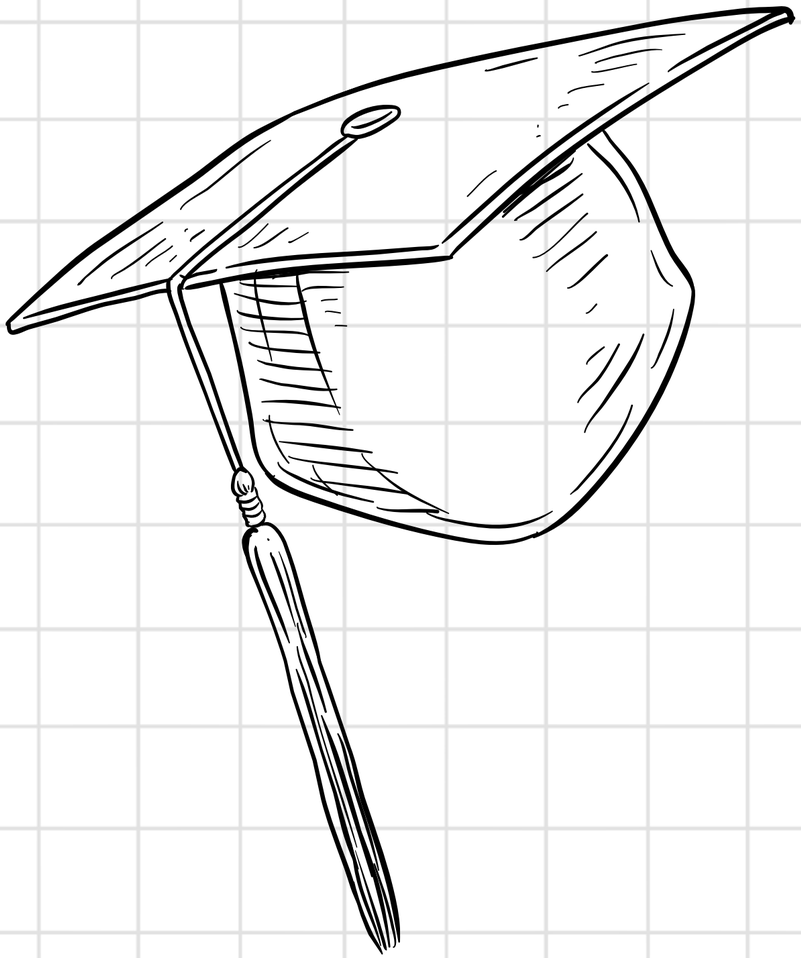
SAT



- 400 - 1600 score scale
- Sum of ELA and Math score (out of 800 each)
- $68 for each test (late registration $34)
- Students on free/reduced lunch qualify for a feewaiver
- Typically taken for first time in spring of junior year
- Retake fall of senior year



SAT Registration



1. Student goes to www.collegeboard.org to create or log into their account.
2. Complete online registration.
    - You'll enter identifying information (profile, coursework, activities, etc).
    - Select a date/location and confirm.
    - Upload a photo that meets specific requirements.
3. Check out
4. If you want any colleges to automatically receive your scores, you can add 4 for free at the time of registration - 9 days after taking the test.

SAT Prep



collegeboard.com

Khan Academy

Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy is free, comprehensive, and available to all students.

Go to Khan Academy

Practice Tests

Get free, downloadable SAT practice tests online or on paper.

Start Practicing

Digital SAT Practice

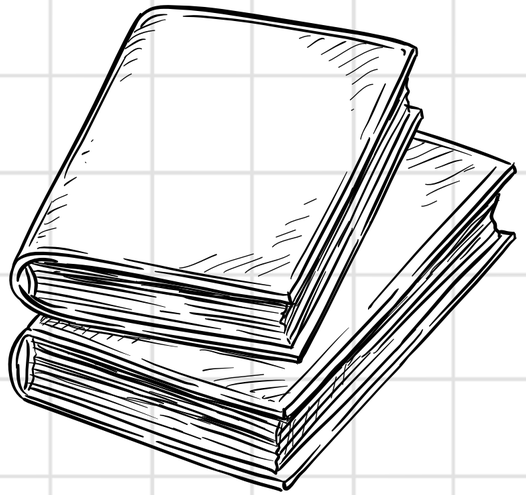
Find everything you need to prepare for the digital SAT.

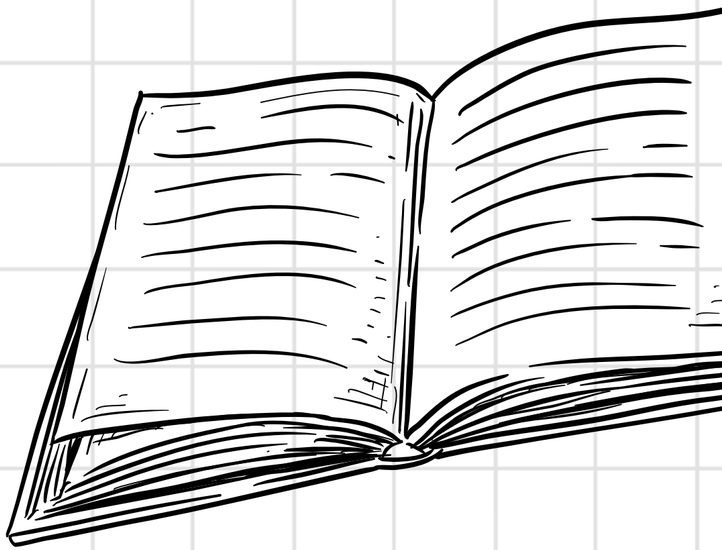
Get Started

ACT

4 Sections

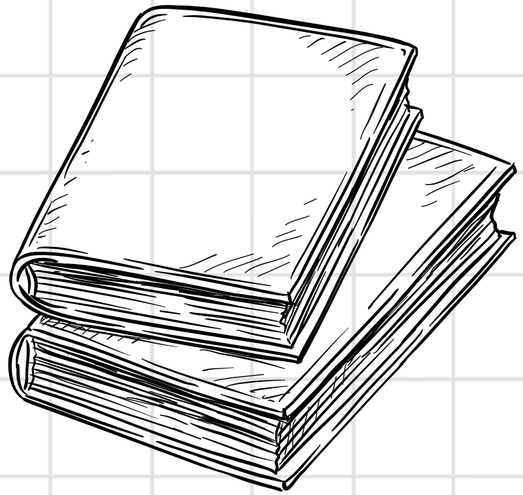
- Reading - measures ability to read closely, reason logically about texts using evidence, and integrate information from multiple resources through multiple choice questions
- English - measures ability to revise and edit texts through multiple choice questions
- Math - Multiple Choice Questions with calculator allowed
- Science - measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills through multiple choice questions



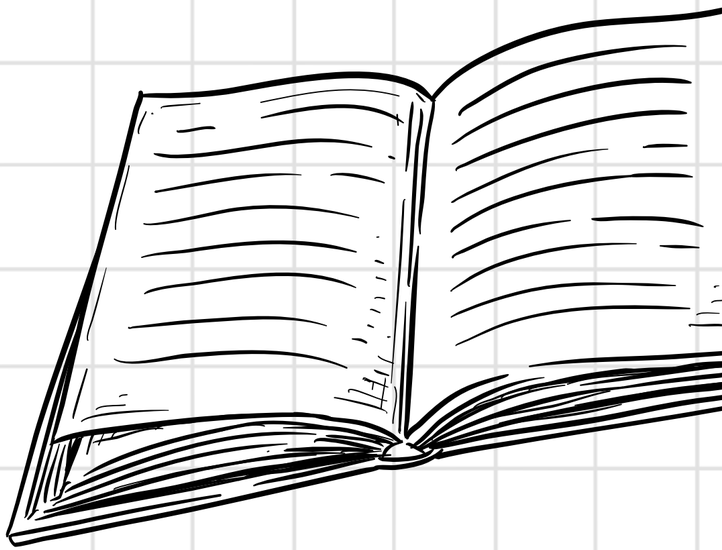


ACT

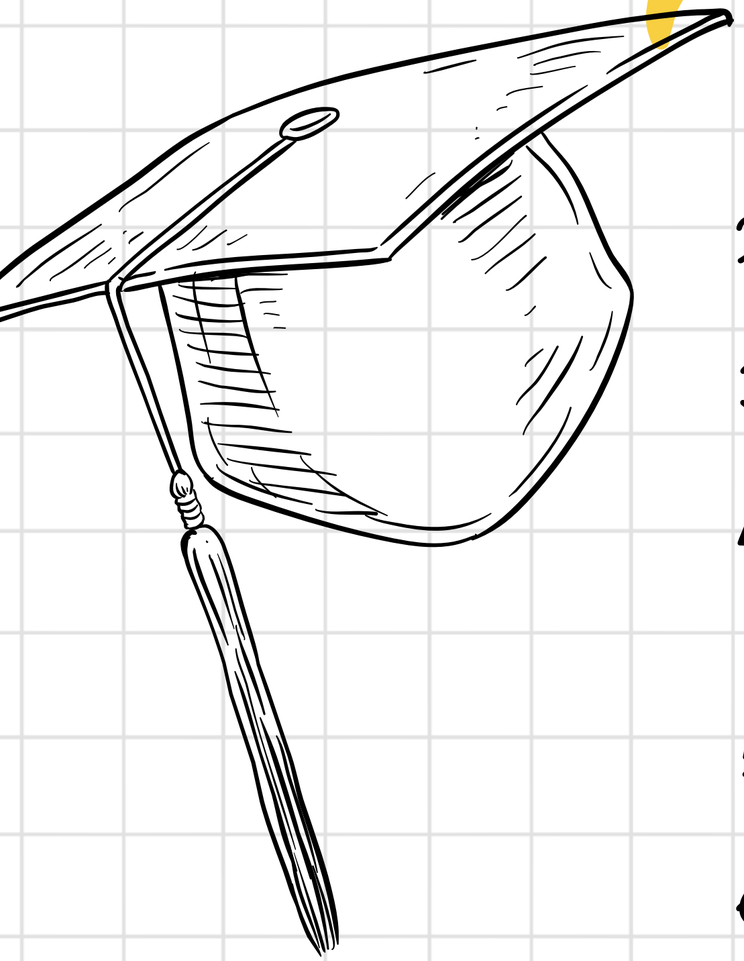
New- Science is optional
Schools may re-score without science score



- 1 (low) to 36 (high) scaled score
- Optional essay score separately
- $68 for each test (late registration $38)
- Students on free/reduced lunch qualify for a feewaiver
- Typically taken for first time in spring of junior year
- Retake fall of senior year



ACT Registration



1. Students should go to my.ACT.org and create (or log in) to an account.
2. Enter if you need accommodations/supports(IEP, 504, ELL).
3. Choose your test (with or without essay),location, and date.
4. Upload your photo and provide informationabout yourself, your grades/classes taken,and what you are looking for in a college.
5. Decide if you want to send your scores directly to any colleges (4 for free).
6. Fill in preferences about ACT communication with parents.
7. Check out and print Admission Ticket.



ACT Preparation

Free ACT Practice Tests and Resources

Online Quizzes

ACT Practice Test PDF's

Sample Questions

ACT

Compare the ACT and SAT tests

- ACT includes a Science section
- SAT is a computer-based test

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Math	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	2 hours, 14 minutes	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	2 modules	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	You can use a calculator on all math questions.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	None	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

Timeline



-Fall Junior Year: PSAT

-Spring Junior Year: SAT and ACT

-Fall Senior Year: Retake SAT or ACT (whichever score was higher in spring)

-Send official scores to colleges



Dates

Test	Exam Date	Students to Take
PSAT	October 17	Adv Sophomores/Juniors
SAT	December 5 March 6 May 1 June 5	Seniors (Dec) Juniors
ACT	December 12 February 27 April 10 June 12 July 10	Seniors (Dec) Juniors

College Admissions



PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8

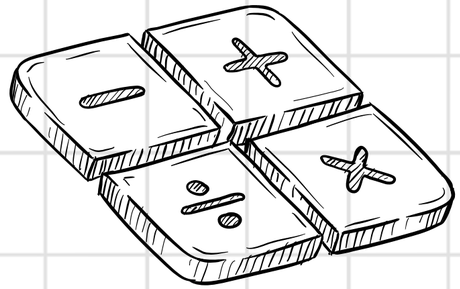
College Admissions

IHS does NOT send SAT or ACT scores. Go to CollegeBoard.org or ACT.org to send scores.

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

(If student is under 18 years of age)

Testing Accommodations



SAT

•School Counselors submit a request for accommodations typically before January of Sophomore year

•Student assigned an SSD # to use at registration

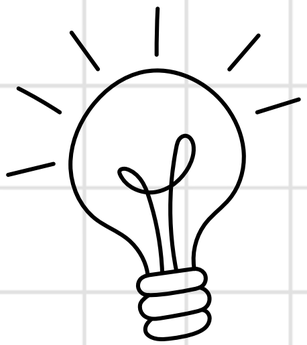
ACT

•At the time of registration, indicate you need accommodations and then contact your school counselor

Questions?







Thank You!

Post High School Planning Session Feedback

