

College Counseling Parent Coffee:

Standardized Testing
January 2018



SAT/ACT – How important are these tests?

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2016

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in College Prep Courses	216	76.9%	12.5%	9.3%	1.4%
Grades in All Courses	218	77.1	13.8	6.4	2.8
Strength of Curriculum	218	51.8	35.3	7.3	5.5
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	219	54.3	27.9	13.7	4.1
Essay or Writing Sample	217	18.9	35.9	22.1	23.0
Counselor Recommendation	213	14.6	46.0	25.8	13.6
Student's Demonstrated Interest	212	13.7	25.5	32.1	28.8
Teacher Recommendation	211	10.9	46.4	28.0	14.7
Class Rank	217	9.2	24.0	34.6	32.3
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	216	6.9	30.6	30.6	31.9
Portfolio	210	6.2	5.7	27.6	60.5
Extracurricular Activities	214	7.9	36.0	36.9	19.2
SAT II Scores	212	2.4	6.1	21.2	70.3
Interview	213	4.7	17.4	31.9	46.0
State Graduation Exam Scores	210	1.9	7.6	21.9	68.6
Work	211	2.8	15.6	47.4	34.1

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2016



**National Association for
College Admission Counseling**
Guiding the way to higher education



How important are these tests?



From the CA College Counseling survey to seniors, students voted for *these* factors as “highly important” in their college process:

- ◆ Individual Meetings with Ms. Heywood or Ms. FitzPatrick.....95%
- ◆ Common Application Workshops for Seniors in August.....88%
- ◆ **Test Prep: SAT/ACT Class or Tutor.....88%**
- ◆ College Counseling Class.....79%



Terminology

- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- SAT Subject Tests
- AP Exams
- TOEFL
- Test Optional
- Score Choice





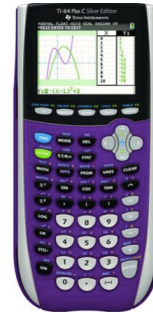
PSAT



PSAT/NMSQT

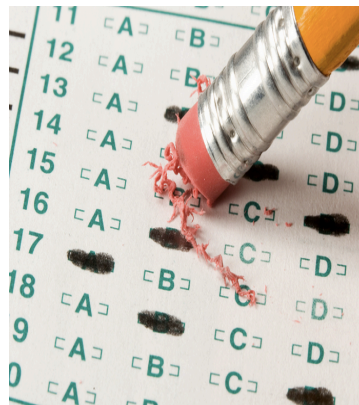


- Understanding your PSAT scores (video on Collegeboard.org)
- Given to grades 10 & 11 at Columbus Academy in October as practice for the SAT
- Avg. PSAT for juniors at CA (Fall '17) = 1226
- Highest Selection Index score is now a 228
- Grade 11 score can qualify a student for
- National Merit Recognition (announced in Sept.)
 - Different states have different cutoffs
 - Selection Index for *last year* for OH was 219



SAT v. ACT

- Colleges will take either the SAT or ACT for admission
- Regardless of the test, make sure to take it **WITH WRITING** (unless you are sure the colleges you are applying to do not need it)
- On average, CA students take one exam 2-3 times, beginning in Grade 11
- Register on-line
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.actstudent.org
- Counselor can provide fee waivers
- Avg ACT at CA = 30
- Test Prep – consider options
 - BWS class at CA
 - Private Tutoring
 - On-line SAT prep via **Khan Academy (free)**





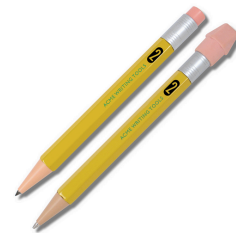
How do I know which score is better?

SAT/ACT Concordance Chart

New SAT	Old SAT	ACT	New SAT	Old SAT	ACT	New SAT	Old SAT	ACT
1600	2390	36	1200	1670	25	800	1060	14
1590	2370	35	1190	1650	24	790	1040	14
1580	2350	35	1180	1640	24	780	1030	14
1570	2330	35	1170	1620	24	770	1010	14
1560	2300	35	1160	1610	24	760	990	14
1550	2280	34	1150	1590	23	750	980	13
1540	2260	34	1140	1570	23	740	960	13
1530	2230	34	1130	1560	23	730	950	13
1520	2210	34	1120	1540	22	720	930	13
1510	2190	33	1110	1530	22	710	910	12
1500	2170	33	1100	1510	22	700	900	12
1490	2150	33	1090	1490	21	690	880	12
1480	2130	32	1080	1480	21	680	870	12
1470	2110	32	1070	1460	21	670	860	12
1460	2090	32	1060	1450	21	660	850	12
1450	2080	32	1050	1430	20	650	840	12
1440	2060	31	1040	1420	20	640	830	12
1430	2040	31	1030	1400	20	630	820	12
1420	2020	31	1020	1390	20	620	810	11
1410	2000	30	1010	1370	19	610	800	11
1400	1990	30	1000	1360	19	600	790	11
1390	1970	30	990	1340	19	590	780	11
1380	1950	29	980	1330	19	580	770	11
1370	1930	29	970	1310	18	570	760	11
1360	1920	29	960	1300	18	560	750	11
1350	1900	29	950	1280	18	550	740	-
1340	1880	28	940	1270	18	540	730	-
1330	1870	28	930	1250	17	530	730	-
1320	1850	28	920	1240	17	520	720	-
1310	1840	28	910	1220	17	510	710	-
1300	1820	27	900	1210	17	500	700	-
1290	1810	27	890	1200	16	490	690	-
1280	1790	27	880	1180	16	480	680	-
1270	1780	26	870	1170	16	470	670	-
1260	1760	26	860	1150	16	460	660	-
1250	1750	26	850	1140	15	450	650	-
1240	1730	26	840	1120	15	440	640	-
1230	1710	25	830	1110	15	430	630	-
1220	1700	25	820	1090	15	420	620	-
1210	1680	25	810	1070	15	410	610	-
						400	600	-



SAT Subject Tests



- Formerly called SAT 2's
- Each exam is one hour
- Student **may** take up to 3 on a test day
- Available in many subject areas
- Required by *very* few colleges
 - Declining market share
 - Check www.compassprep.com/compass-guide
 - Check individual college websites
 - Ask during campus visit



How many schools REQUIRE Subject Tests?

8

California Institute of Technology	Required (2)
Cornell University	Required (2)
Harvard University	Required* (2)
Harvey Mudd College	Required (2)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Required (2)
McGill University	Required (2) (or ACT)
Tufts University	Required (2) (or ACT)
Webb Institute	Required (2)

Brown University	Recommended (2)
Carnegie Mellon University	Recommended
Dartmouth College	Recommended (2)
Duke University	Recommended Strongly (2) (or ACT)
Emory University	Recommended
Georgetown University	Recommended Strongly (3)
Lafayette College	Recommended
Northwestern University	Recommended (2)
Princeton University	Recommended (2)
Rice University	Recommended (2)
University of Delaware	Recommended
University of Pennsylvania	Recommended
Yale University	Recommended



Preparing for SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests About Subjects Register Taking the Tests Scores For Educators Important Dates

Example

Mathematics Level 2 Subject Test

Subjects

Mathematics

- Math Level 1
- Math Level 2

Science

English

History

Languages

Introduction

The Mathematics Level 2 Subject Test covers the same material as the Mathematics Level 1 test – with the addition of trigonometry and elementary functions (precalculus). If you performed well in these courses, taking this test gives you the opportunity to highlight your abilities and showcase your interest in higher-level mathematics.

[Start practicing](#)

Important Notes

- Offered in Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., May and June
- Calculator use permitted. See [calculator policy](#), including what calculators are acceptable.

Test Basics

www.collegeboard.org



Score Choice



Used by some, but not all colleges and universities

Most selective schools will require you to send **all** SATs

-“all” does not mean SAT *and* ACT

-These are two separate companies

SAT		Evidence Based Reading & Writing			Reading Test	Writing Test	Mathematics	Math Test	Total
Date	Grade								
05/2016	11	690			32	37	710	35.5	1400
06/2016	11	730			36	37	650	32.5	1380

ACT								
English	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	ELA 	STEM 	Composite	Date
24	23	26	20	24	25	22	23	Dec 2015
30	25	22	24	23	25	25	25	Apr 2016
29	25	32	24	24	28	25	28	Apr 2016



What is super scoring?

SAT		Evidence Based Reading & Writing				Reading Test	Writing Test	Mathematics	Math Test	Total
Date	Grade									
05/2016	11	690				32	37	710	35.5	1400
06/2016	11	730				36	37	650	32.5	1380

ACT		Math	Reading	Science	Writing	ELA ⁱ	STEM ⁱ	Composite	Date	Grade
English										
24	23	26	20	24	25	22	23	Dec 2015	11	
30	25	22	24	23	25	25	25	Apr 2016	11	
29	25	32	24	24	28	25	28	Apr 2016	11	

To “superscore” SAT, simply add two highest sections

To “superscore” ACT, add four subsections (not Writing) and divide by 4



High Scores in Context

Score	Number of Students
36	2,760
35	12,386
34	20,499
33	26,920

} 35,645

**In Columbus Academy's Class of 2017,
15 students scored at 35 or 36 on the ACT.**



Test Optional Colleges

- Over 1000 schools do not require an SAT or ACT score from applicants
- **Examples:** Bowdoin, Wake Forest, Hamilton, Holy Cross, Denison, Bates, Mount Holyoke
- More emphasis on academic performance
- Complete list at **www.fairtest.org**

FairTest
The National Center for Fair and Open Testing



TOEFL and AP Exams



Test of English as Foreign Language

Required by some colleges if English is not the student's primary language

Advanced Placement Exams

Student may choose to self-report these scores to colleges on the school's application, but it is not required

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