

IVY LOUNGE TEST PREP™

DEMYSTIFYING THE SAT AND THE ACT:

Find out which standardized test your college-bound student should take to show off his or her strengths

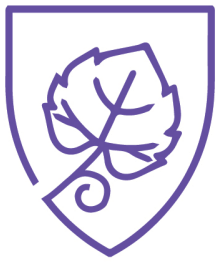
I. THE BIG PICTURE: GETTING INTO COLLEGE

- A. College List
- B. Standardized Tests
 - 1. SAT or ACT?
 - 2. SAT II Subject Tests?
- C. College Applications

II. LET'S COMPARE THE TWO TESTS

- A. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Grammar
 - 1. ACT – “English Section” – 1st Section
 - a. 1 section with 75 Q's in 45 min
 - b. 5 passages with 15 Q's per passage
 - c. 9 min per passage
 - 2. SAT – “Writing & Language Test” – 2nd Section
 - a. 1 section with 44 Q's in 35 min
 - b. 4 passages with 11 Q's per passage
 - c. 8:45 min per passage
 - d. Graphs or charts on 1+ passage(s)
 - 3. Basically same layout and same grammar and rhetorical skills tested!
- B. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Reading Comprehension
 - 1. ACT – “Reading Section” – 3rd Section
 - a. 40 Q's in 35 min
 - b. 4 passages with 10 Q's each (Fiction, Soc Sci, Humanities, Natural Sci)
 - c. 8:45 min per passage
 - d. One passage is a PAIRED DOUBLE Passage
 - 2. SAT – “Evidence-Based Reading Test” – 1st Section
 - a. 52 Q's in 65 min
 - b. 5 passages with 10-11 Q's each (Fiction, 2 History/Social Studies, 2 Science)
 - c. 13 min per passage!!
 - d. 1 Paired Double Passage
 - e. 2 passages will have charts or graphs in them
 - f. “Evidence” questions
- C. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Math
 - 1. ACT – “Math Section” – 2nd Section
 - a. 1 Section, all multiple choice
 - b. 60 Q's in 60 min
 - c. Geometry: 24% of test

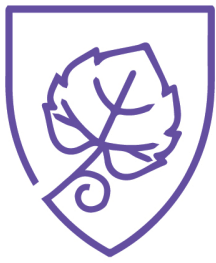
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2. SAT – “Math Test” – 3rd & 4th Sections
 - a. Section #3 – NO CALCULATOR
 - i. 25 min
 - ii. 15 multiple choice
 - iii. 5 grid-in (self-produced)
 - b. Section #4 – Calculator OK
 - i. 55 min
 - ii. 30 multiple choice
 - iii. 8 grid-in (self-produced)
 - c. Total 58 Q’s in 80 min
 - d. Geometry < 10 % (considered “Additional Topic”)
 - e. Focus: “Heart of Algebra,” “Problem Solving and Data Analysis” and “Passport to Advanced Math”
- D. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Science
 1. ACT – Science Section – 4th Section
 - a. 40 Q’s in 35 min
 - b. Typically 6 passages, sometimes 7.
 - c. STILL a time crunch at 5:50 min per passage.
 2. SAT – NO Science Section
 - a. Instead, charts, graphs and tables are included in:
 - i. 1 Writing and Language passage
 - ii. 2 Reading passages
 - iii. in several math questions
 - b. Students given a “Science subscore” of up to 40 pts based on how well they answered questions with Science content, across the sections of the test.
 - c. There’s also a “History subscore” of up to 40 pts.
- E. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Writing Skills: The Essay
 1. ACT
 - a. 40 min
 - b. Issue and 3 perspectives.
 - c. Come up with your own perspective on the issue and relate it back to at least one of the given 3 perspectives.
 - d. Scored on a 2-12-pt scale (scored separately)
 2. SAT
 - a. 50 min
 - b. Read a passage and analyze the features the author uses to make his or her argument.
 - c. Scored on a 2-12 pt scale (scored separately)
- F. How the ACT and the SAT evaluate Vocab
 1. BOTH – vocab is tested indirectly with specific “Vocab In Context” questions in the Reading sections.
 2. Still helpful to review vocab for increased reading comprehension and essay writing ability.

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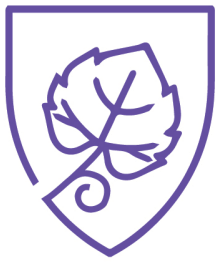
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- G. Scoring on the tests
 - 1. ACT:
 - a. Each Section 1-36
 - b. Composite Score **averaged** to create 1-36
 - c. Essay scored separately; not required for every college.
 - d. No Guessing Penalty!
 - 2. SAT:
 - a. Combined Grammar + Reading = 200-800 ("Evidence-Based Reading and Writing"); Combined Math Sections = 200-800
 - b. Sections **added** for a Total Score of 400-1600
 - c. Essay scored separately; not required for every college.
 - d. No Guessing Penalty!

III. MAJOR PROS AND CONS OF EACH TEST

- A. ACT
 - 1. PROs:
 - a. We have history! Tons of practice tests
 - b. We know what ACT scores each college wants.
 - c. You might be exempt from taking SAT II Subject Tests.
 - d. Score Choice
 - e. Questions are generally straightforward.
 - 2. CONS:
 - a. TIMING – this is a SPEED TEST. Many students REALLY struggle, especially with the Reading and Science sections.
 - b. Your score is averaged. It's harder to move up a point—you actually need to get 4 more points test-wide.
 - c. Fewer schools Super Score for the ACT.
- B. SAT
 - 1. PROs:
 - a. TIMING is incredibly more forgiving!!!
 - i. Grammar: 8:45 min for 11 Q's instead of 9 min for 15 Q's!
 - ii. Reading: 13 min per passage vs. 8:45 min per passage!!!
 - iii. No Science section!
 - b. Fewer Geometry questions (if Geometry is your weak point)
 - c. Your score is added. If you improve 100 points on the Math, you get to keep it ☺ And MANY more schools Super Score.
 - d. Score Choice
 - 2. CONS:
 - a. We have limited history with this test ☹
 - i. Only 8 College-Board-approved practice tests right now.
 - b. No-Calculator Math section (if that's your weak point)
 - c. Reading passages tend to be more sophisticated / harder.

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IV. PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY CHOOSE?

- A. Top Priorities and Deal Breakers:
 - 1. Extended Time
 - 2. Required Subject Tests for your college list
 - 3. National Merit Scholarship Program
- B. Take a Practice Test of Each.
 - 1. Test "Allergy"?
 - 2. Timing struggles?
 - 3. Awful at Geometry? Would prefer No-Calc arithmetic?
 - 4. Compare scores! We have concordance charts.
- C. If tests are pretty much equal, go with the ACT.
 - 1. More practice tests available for prepping.
 - 2. More reliable stats on what range colleges want.
 - 3. You may luck out and be exempt from Subject Tests once you figure out your college list.

V. I FOUND MY TEST! NOW WHAT? (CREATING YOUR TESTING TIMELINE)

- A. ACT test dates:
2018: Feb 10*, Apr 14, June 9, July 14*, Sep 8, Oct 27, Dec 8
- B. SAT test dates:
2018: Mar 10*, May 5, June 2, Aug 25**, Oct 6**, Nov 3**, Dec 1**
- C. Timing your first attempt:
Spring of Junior Year (Feb* or Apr for ACT; Mar or May for SAT)
- D. How many attempts?
2-3 is normal these days. (1 or 2 in Spring, last attempt in the Fall)
- E. When should you take Subject Tests (if you need to)?
In May or June, when you're already studying for your finals, AP exams, and Regents. Sophomore and/or Junior years.

VI. RESOURCES

- A. FREE E-course and helpful advice - www.IvyLoungeTestPrep.com
- B. Official ACT website - www.ACTstudent.org
- C. Official SAT website - www.CollegeBoard.org
- D. Researching Colleges:
 - 1. College stats and requirements: www.CollegeBoard.org
 - 2. Book: "Fiske Guide to Colleges"
- E. DIY ACT Prep:
 - 1. "The Real ACT Prep Guide" – official practice tests from the company
 - 2. Barron's ACT, Erica Meltzer's ACT English, McGraw Hill's 50 Math Skills
- F. DIY SAT Prep:
 - 1. www.KhanAcademy.org - Free practice questions
 - 2. Barron's SAT, Erica Meltzer's SAT Grammar, Kaplan's Math Workbook
- G. National Merit Scholar info – <http://www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php>
- H. List of test-optional schools – <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

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