



Navigating Free Tools for SAT/ACT Prep

Kim Walter, Executive Director
HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER

Higher Scores Mean More College Choices





THE HUNTINGTON MISSION:

Our mission is student-centric:

**To give every student
the best education possible.**



Who is Huntington?

- Huntington is one of the nation's most trusted premier providers of test prep solutions.
- For nearly 50 years, Huntington has taught skills that last a lifetime, preparing students to succeed on exams, in college, and beyond.
- Huntington has helped thousands of students get the scores they want on the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and ACT.
- Huntington partners with schools and districts nationwide bringing high quality educational and test prep services right to your school!

AVERAGE STUDENT INCREASES

**229 POINT
INCREASE**
ON SAT SCORE

**5.4 POINT
INCREASE**
ON ACT SCORE

**\$71,000
PER STUDENT**
IN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

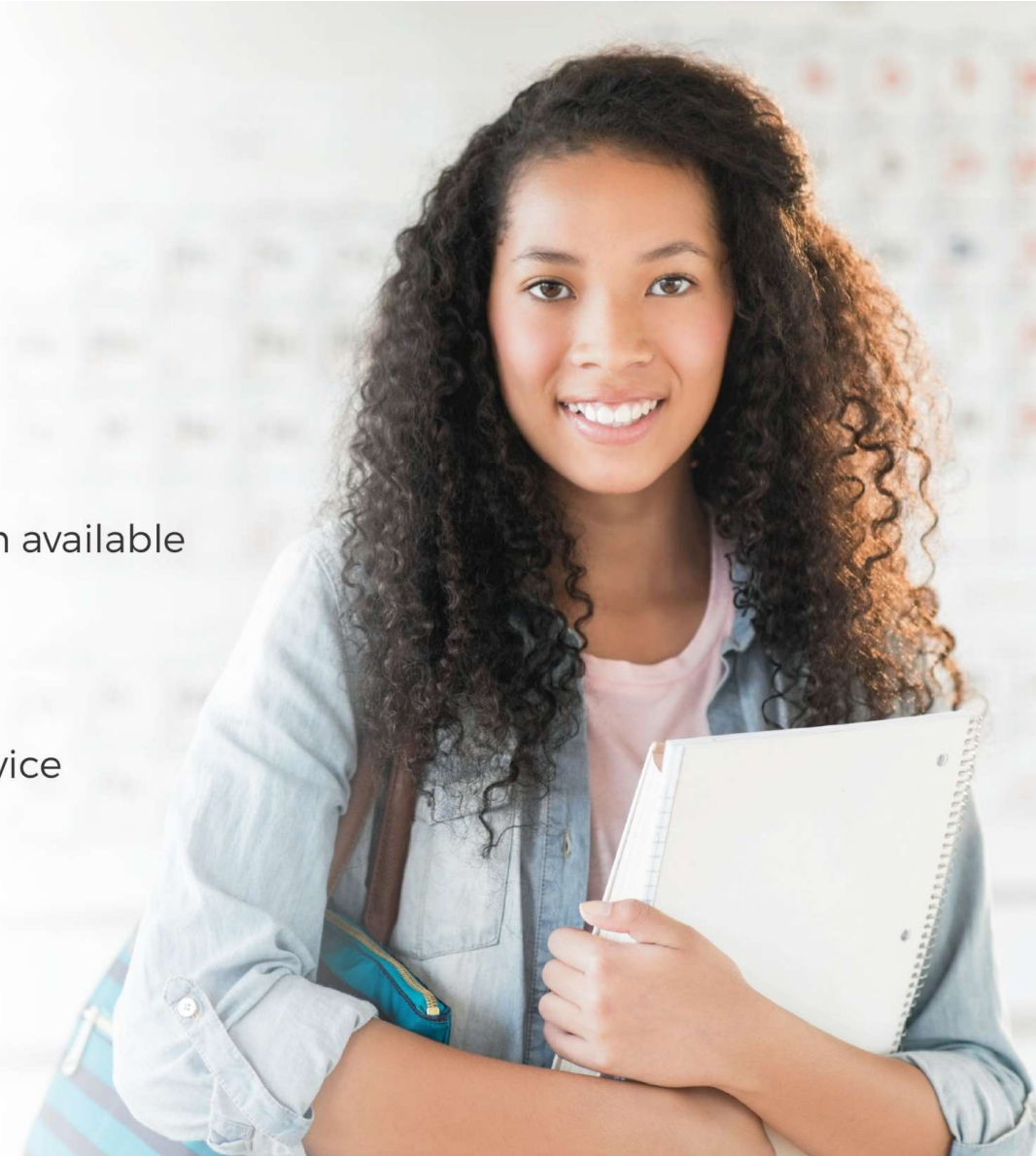
Today's Agenda

- Factors Influencing College Admissions
- How ACT & SAT Scores are used
- What is a 'Good' ACT/SAT Score?
- A closer look at the SAT and ACT
- Prep Tips - getting ready for success
- Q&A

How Do They Choose?

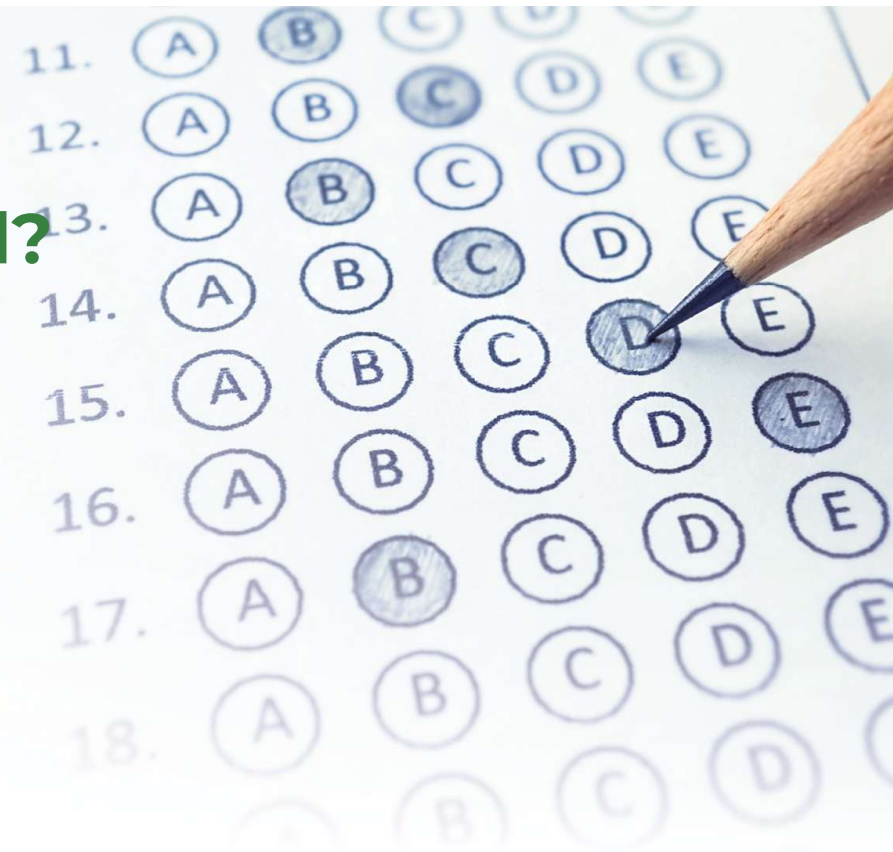
Factors Influencing College Admissions

- Grade point average
- Courses taken and strength of curriculum available
- SAT/ACT scores
- Essay/personal statement
- Extra-curricular activities/community service
- Recommendations
- Interview
- Demonstrated interest



How Are SAT/ACT Scores Used?

- Compares students using a common yardstick
- Determines if a student can handle college-level work
- Selects the best from thousands of applicants
- Determines financial aid and scholarships
- Determines college programs (course placement, honors, major)

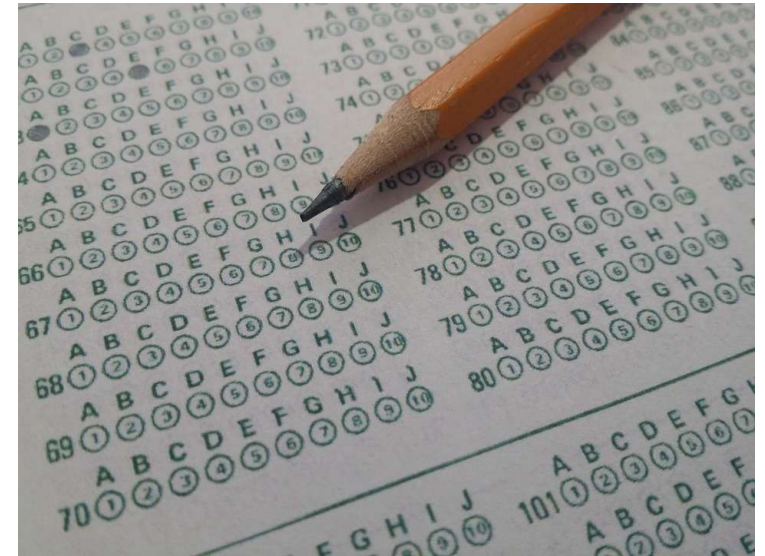


What is a “good score” on the ACT or SAT?

Question: What are your goals?

Answer: A good score is one that helps you achieve your goals

- 1. A competitive application at your dream school**
- 2. Gain admission to a specific program at your school of choice**
- 3. Honors Diploma**
- 4. Win Scholarship awards**





Prep Tip #1

Understand the Test Format

- Familiarize yourself with the test structure, including the number of sections, types of questions, and timing.
- Take a practice test to get a baseline score and identify strengths and weaknesses.

A graduation cap with a gold tassel is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a test paper with multiple-choice bubbles. The bubbles are arranged in a grid pattern, with some containing the letters A, B, C, and D, and others containing a question mark. The text 'A Closer Look at the SAT and ACT' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a green font. Below the title, the text 'The first step to prep is understanding the tests!' is written in a smaller black font. In the bottom right corner, the Huntington Learning Center logo is visible, featuring a green leaf icon and the text 'Huntington LEARNING CENTER'.

The first step to prep is understanding the tests!

2025 Changes to the ACT

WHAT CHANGED?	DESCRIPTION
THE SCIENCE SECTION IS NOW OPTIONAL	Students can choose from the following testing options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– ACT Core Test (<i>English, Math & Reading</i>)– ACT plus Science (<i>English, Math, Reading & Science</i>)– ACT plus Writing (<i>English, Math, Reading & Writing</i>)– ACT plus Science & Writing (<i>English, Math, Reading, Science & Writing</i>)
SECTIONS HAVE FEWER QUESTIONS	ACT will reduce the total number of test questions on the Core Test: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– 50 multiple choice questions on the English section (<i>originally 75 questions</i>)– 45 multiple choice questions on the Math section (<i>originally 60 questions</i>)– 36 multiple choice questions on the Reading section (<i>originally 40 questions</i>)
THE OVERALL CORE TEST IS SHORTER	Enhanced ACT will be 2 hours and 5 minutes, not including the break. A short break will occur between the Math and Reading. There are additional breaks given for the optional sections.



DID THE SCORING ON THE ACT CHANGE?

- The Composite score will be the average of English, Math, and Reading.
 - Separate scores will be reported for Science and/or Writing, if taken.
- Each section will continue to be reported on a 1-36 scale.



WHEN WILL ACT ROLL OUT THEIR NEW TEST?

- **National Test** (*online/digital and paper-based*)
Rolled out in April 2025 & Sept. 2025 respectively
- **State & District Test:** Spring 2026

A computer-based version of the ACT is available internationally and on school day tests.

What You Should Know about the **SAT** and **ACT**

	SAT	ENHANCED ACT
Test type	Academic achievement	Academic achievement
Duration	2 hrs, 14 mins	2 hrs, 5 min (+ 40 min for Science) (+ 40 min for Essay)
Essay?	No*	Yes, Optional
Score range	400-1600	1-36
Average score	1024	19
Scoring	No penalty for wrong answer	No penalty for wrong answer
Traps?	No	No
Question types	Multiple choice (4 choices) Student-Produced Responses (in math section)	Multiple choice (4 choices)
Passage length	20 – 150 words	650 - 950 words

Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.

*The essay is only an option for students on an SAT School Day administration.

What You Should Know about the SAT and ACT

	SAT	ENHANCED ACT
Reading Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehension of informational & literary text• Words in context• Influence of author's word choice• Relationship between text and graphs, charts, & tables• Analysis of multiple texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehension of varied text types• Vocabulary in context• Analysis of multiple text

Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.

What You Should Know about the **SAT** and **ACT**

	SAT	ENHANCED ACT
Writing/ English Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing structure• Language and usage• Grammar and punctuation• Author's word choice• Relationship between text and graphs, charts, and tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing structure• Grammar and punctuation• Author's word choice

Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.

What You Should Know about the **SAT** and **ACT**

	SAT	ENHANCED ACT
Math Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic through trigonometry• “Math that matters” for college and career success• Fewer geometry questions but provides formula sheet• Formula reference guide available on screen• Calculator available on screen and permitted for all math	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic through trigonometry• Heavier in geometry than SAT and doesn’t provide formula sheet• Calculator allowed for all math

Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.

What You Should Know about the **ACT** Science Section

The ACT
Science Section is
NOW OPTIONAL!

Enhanced ACT Science Section

- Comprehension of scientific background knowledge
- Multiple choice questions
- Analysis of graphs, charts, and tables
- Interpreting and evaluating scientific models and experimental results

Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.

SAT Overview

The SAT contains two sections: Reading/Writing and Math.
Total time: 2 hours, 14 minutes

2 SECTIONS: Each with 2 modules

1: Reading/Writing:

MODULE 1:

32 minutes/27 questions

MODULE 2:

32 minutes/27 questions

2: Math:

MODULE 1:

35 minutes/22 questions

MODULE 2:

35 minutes/22 questions



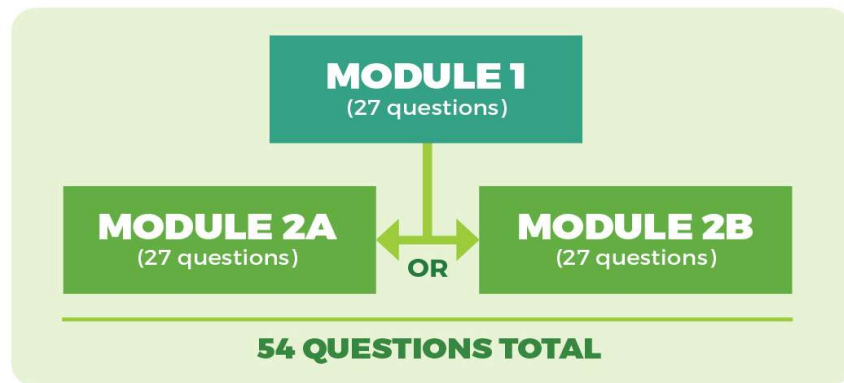
SAT Overview

Multistage Adaptive Testing

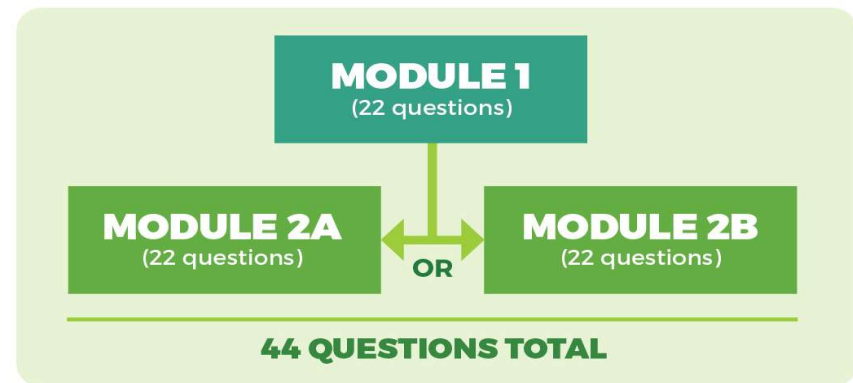
An Adaptive Test, which uses performance in the first module to determine which second module is administered. Students who perform:

- **Students who demonstrate a foundational-level performance** receive Module 2A, which contains a mixture of easy and medium questions
- **Students who demonstrate an advanced-level performance** receive Module 2B, which contains a mixture of medium to hard level questions.

READING/WRITING SECTION



MATH SECTION



SAT Suite of Assessments

The SAT is now all digital. College Board has an SAT Suite of assessments for students of different grades. The following chart provides information about each assessment.

	SAT	PSAT/NMSQT	PSAT 10	PSAT 8/9
Who takes the test?	Grades 10-12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grades 8-9
Total length	2 hours, 14 minutes			
Subjects tested	Reading, Writing, Math			
Scoring	Total score: 400-1600 Section scores: 200-800	Total score: 320-1520 Section scores: 160-760	Total score: 320-1520 Section scores: 160-760	Total score: 320-1520 Section scores: 160-760
What are the test results used for?	College Admissions and scholarships	Qualifying test for National Merit	Predictor for SAT and college readiness	Predictor for SAT and college readiness

Enhanced ACT Overview

Available in paper or digital format

The current ACT contains three multiple choice tests: English, Math, and Reading.

English	Math	Reading	Science (OPTIONAL)
50 multiple choice questions	45 multiple choice questions	36 multiple choice questions	40 multiple choice questions
35 minutes	50 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes
Grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and rhetorical skills	Algebra I and II, Geometry, some Trigonometry, Statistics and Probability	Four passages (literary narrative, social studies, humanities, and natural sciences)	Science-based passages presented with graphs, charts, tables and research summaries

The ACT is a linear test - **every student sees the same questions in the same order**. The test does **not** change based on how a student answers.



Prep Tip #2

Create a study schedule

- Set a consistent study routine
- Break study sessions into manageable chunks to avoid burnout
- Incorporate time for taking timed practice tests

When You Can Take the **SAT** and **ACT**: National Test Dates

(check your school calendar to determine when the test is offered for Juniors during the school day at your high school, typically in late Feb or early Mar)

ACT FEB 14, 2026 (reg. Jan 21, 2026)	ACT APR 11, 2026 (reg. Mar 24, 2026)	ACT JUN 13, 2026 (reg. May 27, 2026)	ACT JUL 11, 2026 (reg. Jun 24, 2026)
SAT MAR 14, 2026 (reg. Feb 27, 2026)	SAT MAY 2, 2026 (reg. Apr 17, 2026)	SAT JUN 6, 2026 (reg. May 22, 2026)	

*There are no test centers scheduled in New York in July

Sample Test Prep Schedule

Beginning 12 weeks out

- Get familiar with the exam(s) by taking an initial practice test.
- Choose which exam to take.
- Identify strong/weak areas and develop a targeted plan.
- Work with a tutor to develop the best test prep schedule.
- Divide study schedule into exam sections and sub-sections
- Start practicing different problem types.
- Study a few days a week.

Beginning 8 weeks out

- Delve more deeply into the different exam sections, targeting weaker areas.
- Practice time management.
- Gain an understanding of how the tests are scored.
- Take at least two full-length, timed practice tests.
- Register for the exam(s).
- Study a few days a week.

Beginning 4 weeks out

- Focus on weaker sections by taking timed simulation exams on those sections.
- Improve on question types where the lowest practice scores are received and adjust study schedule accordingly.
- Continue to focus on improving speed.
- Study each day and take one full-length, timed exam every week.



Prep Tip #3

Master Core Concepts

- Reading comprehension
- English grammar rules
- Vocabulary
- Math

Test Prep Tip:

Reading comprehension:

- Read nonfiction articles/passages. For example: newspaper articles, TIME, Sports Illustrated or Newsweek. Practice recalling answers to the *who, what, when, where,* and *why* questions.
- Actively strive to improve your reading rate through regular, timed practice.
- Practice annotation strategies to increase your comprehension and quick recall of information. This can be done in a daily manner when reading for homework/classwork and practiced while reading nonfiction articles.

Test Prep Tip:

Vocabulary Knowledge:

- Vocabulary acquisition is critical to achievement on the PSAT, SAT or ACT.
- Read for pleasure as often as possible to get exposed to new vocabulary words and their meaning in context.
- Make flash cards or a Quizlet for high-frequency words that you don't know, along with their definitions
- <https://learnvocabularyfree.com/quizzes/>

Test Prep Tip:

Math Skills:

- There are a vast amount of math concepts assessed on the ACT/SAT, so paying attention in class and learning the concepts the first time is critical.
- Math skills require regular usage for quick recall. Routine practice keeps concepts sharp.
- Learn how to use the Desmos calculator in addition to your own calculator for the SAT
- Practice solving math questions using a mix of mental math and a calculator

Test Prep Tip:

Get comfortable with the digital SAT and ACT tools:

- The SAT includes a Desmos-style graphing calculator for the entire Math section. This is NOT currently available on the ACT.
- Both tests allow: on-screen annotations, highlighting, eliminating answers. Students should practice the highlight tool, strikethrough tool and flagging questions to return to them later.



Prep Tip #4

Develop Test-Day Readiness

- Develop test-day routines: wake up early, eat a healthy breakfast, and prepare materials
- Build academic stamina by taking multiple timed practice tests

FREE Test Prep Resources:

<https://my.act.org/>

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat>

Borrow a test prep book from the library – make sure it is for the most updated version of the test!

Study with a friend. Friends don't let friends prep for the ACT and SAT alone!

The Week of The Test:

Print out your Admission Ticket and confirm your testing location (not necessary if taking the test during the school day at your high school).

For the SAT, download the Blue Book testing app.

Know your driving route to the test site.

Charge your calculator or replace the batteries.

Get a good night's sleep in the days leading up to the test.

When Test Day Arrives

- ✓ Eat a good breakfast and stay hydrated
- ✓ Bring a sweater or sweatshirt
- ✓ Arrive early to the test site
- ✓ Bring a photo ID and your Admission Ticket
- ✓ Bring a “halftime” snack
- ✓ Bring your calculator
- ✓ Bring several #2 pencils
- ✓ Stay calm



SPECIAL OFFER
Take a Discounted Practice Exam with Huntington!

The first step to prepare is to practice!

Saturday, January 10, 2026 SAT practice test \$25

Riverside High School Girls Tennis Team Fundraiser @ Riverside High School



Monday, January 19, 2026 Digital ACT practice test \$20

Huntington Learning Center of Mayfield Heights



Saturday, January 24, 2026 SAT practice test \$25

Mentor High School Model United Nations Fundraiser @ Mentor High School



Questions?



Thank you for supporting LEAF and attending our
webinar!

HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER

Kim Walter, Executive Director
WalterK@HLCmail.com

8000 Plaza Blvd, Suite H
Mentor, Ohio 44060
(440) 205-8226

1510 Golden Gate Plaza
Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124
(440) 683-1219

