Paragon Presents

SAT and ACT

Information and More
What are the ACT and SAT?

- They are standardized tests that are often used for College Admissions
- The ACT is offered by ACT, Inc.
- The SAT is offered by The College Board

Why should I take the either test?

- Many colleges throughout the United States and even some aboard use either test to help assess for College Admissions.
- Standardized Tests make up at most 20% of your college application.
When I Should I Take an ACT or SAT?

- The SAT is offered 7 times a year.
- The ACT is offered 7 times a year.
- The best time to take a test is based on your schedule. Choose a time of year where you have little going on allowing the opportunity to prepare.
- Early-Mid Junior Year allows you to take the test more than once.

Which test do I take?

- Most colleges accept both tests for admission.
- The best test to prepare/take is the test you enjoy more.
- We’ll discuss the differences over the next couple of slides.
  - SAT is up first!!
SAT Structure

5 Sections

• Reading - 65 Minutes - 52 Questions
• Writing - 35 Minutes - 44 Questions
• Math No Calculator - 25 Minutes - 20 Questions
• Math Calculator - 55 Minutes - 38 Questions
• Experimental Section - 20 Minutes
• Essay (Optional) - 50 Minutes

• Scoring
  • Composite: 400 - 1600
    ► Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200 - 800
    ► Math: 200 - 800
  • Essay does not factor into the composite score
  • No Penalty for an Incorrect Question

• Testing Time:
  ► 3 hours 20 minutes (with Experimental Section)
  ► 4 hours 10 minutes (with Essay and Experimental Section)
The ACT

- **Structure**
  - 5 Sections
    - English - 45 Minutes - 75 Questions
    - Math - 60 Minutes - 60 Questions
    - Reading - 35 Minutes - 40 Questions
    - Science - 35 Minutes - 40 Questions
    - Experimental Section - 30 Minutes
    - Essay (Optional) - 40 Minutes

- **Scoring**
  - Composite: 1 - 36
  - Each section is scored 1 - 36
  - English, Math, Reading, and Science scores are added together and then divided by 4 (the average of the 4 sections)
  - Essay does not factor into the composite score
  - No Penalty for an Incorrect Question
How do I Prepare?

• Both the College Board (collegeboard.org) and ACT, Inc. (actstudent.org) offer at least one free practice test on their website. Take it!

• There are a multitude of prep materials available the best materials are from the respective companies. Both SAT and ACT have books available.

• Take the practice tests as close to Real Test as possible (yes in a four hour sitting).

• If resources are available take a Prep Course, in a group or individual sitting with a coach or tutor who is available to answer questions is best.

• If resources are not available, Khan Academy offers free online SAT Practice. The ACT is not so kind.
What is Superscoring?

- Superscoring is an opportunity for colleges to take the best scores from multiple test dates to create a higher composite.
- Most Colleges Superscore both tests.
- The best place to look whether a college superscores is through their admissions page.

What is Score Choice?

- Score Choice allows students to select which test date scores to be sent to college.
- Colleges are not sent information on how many tests a student has taken through the score choice option.
- Be warned some high schools print SAT and ACT scores on transcripts which will inform the colleges of all test scores.
The Essay (Should I take it?)

- List of Colleges Requiring the Essay (First up SAT and ACT)
  - Soka University of America (CA)
  - VanderCook College of Music (IL)
  - University of Mary Hardin Baylor (TX)
  - University of California:
    - Davis
    - Irvine
    - Los Angeles
    - Merced
    - Riverside
    - San Diego
    - Santa Barbara
    - Santa Cruz

- ACT Only
  - Berry College (CA)
  - Martin Luther College (MN)
  - Rhode Island College (RI)
  - United States Military Academy (NY)
  - University of Evansville (IN)
  - University of Montana Western (MT)
Want to look up scores for colleges?

- Go to bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- For Comparing 3 Schools at once
  - bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges
Contact Information

- Email: office@paragontutor.com
- Phone: 425-507-5093
- Website: www.paragontutor.com
- SAT: collegeboard.org
- ACT: actstudent.org
Questions