



College Testing Evening

Student Services
Conestoga High School
November 2013

PSAT

- One time per year in October
- Same as SAT minus essay
 - Measures critical thinking and reasoning skills
- Results in December—very useful!
- 10th graders—just practice
- 11th graders—practice and National Merit Qualifying (for top 3% of test takers nationally)

SAT

Making high schoolers' lives difficult since 1901

- 3 sections: Math, Critical Reading, Writing
- Each section scored out of 800; 2400 total possible score
- Writing is not optional
- Offered 7 times throughout the year:
<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-us-dates>
- Most students test 2-3 times in winter/spring of 11th grade/fall of 12th grade

Structure of SAT

10 sections

3 hours and 45 minutes

- One 25 minute Essay section
- Two 25 minute Math sections
- Two 25 minute Critical Reading sections
- One 25 minute multiple choice Writing section
- One 20 minute Math section
- One 20 minute Critical Reading section
- One additional 25 minute section of Math, CR, or Writing (unscored "variable" section)
- One 10 minute multiple choice writing section

How is the SAT scored?

- A raw score between 200 and 800 is given in 10 pt increments for each section category: Reading, Writing and Math.
 - 2012 National Average Scores
 - Reading – 496
 - Math – 514
 - Writing – 488
- Total score mean = 1498

SAT Registration

www.collegeboard.com

- Offered at CHS every testing date *except* December
- CHS Code 390295
- Not Conestoga Valley!
- Send results to 4 schools for free
- Question #22- College Profile- if completed will generate a lot of college mailings home
- Students with accommodations must apply to CollegeBoard to receive accommodations

SAT Subject Tests

- Literature
- United States History
- World History
- Math 1- Alg 2 and Geom
- Math 2- Pre-calc/Trig
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Hebrew (reading only)
- Italian (reading only)
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin (reading only)
- Spanish

SAT Subject Tests

- Only about 40 colleges in the country require SAT Subject Tests
- Students in AP level courses should consider taking them (some honors also)
- Typically in May or June upon completion of the course
- Colleges that require Subject Tests typically require 2-3 tests
- Subjects Tests can be used for admissions and placement

Reporting Scores- Score Choice

- SAT
 - Select by date (not by section)
- Subject Tests
 - Select by subject test
- NOT likely to make a difference

ACT

www.actstudent.org

- English, Reading, Math, Science
- Writing is optional, but beware!
- Score choice by date
- Can replace SAT with Subject Tests at most colleges
- Offered 6 times throughout the year
- Offered at CHS in October and June
- Students with accommodations must apply to ACT for accommodations at time of registration

How is the ACT is structured?

Four tests and one optional Essay test

- English
 - 75 multiple choice questions
 - 45 minute test
- Math
 - 60 multiple choice questions
 - 60 minute test
 - Emphasis on Geometry with some Algebra and Trigonometry
- Reading
 - 40 multiple choice questions
 - 35 minute test
- Science
 - 40 multiple choice questions
 - 35 minute test
 - Questions based on science-based passages
- Writing
 - 1 optional essay
 - 30 minute test

How is the ACT scored?

- Student will earn 1 to 36 on each test
- ACT composite score is the average of the 3 tests (does not include writing).
- The national average is 21.1.

You will see sub scores between 1-18 in some tests. These just provide you with more detail about your performance. They are not used by colleges or universities.

Score Comparisons

SAT/ACT

SAT Composite	Percentile	ACT Composite
2200-2400	99	32-36
1730	75	24
1490	48	20
1370	33	18

SAT vs. ACT? A perspective from The Princeton Review...

1. ACT questions tend to be more straightforward.
2. SAT has a stronger emphasis on vocabulary.
3. ACT has a science section; SAT does not.
4. ACT tests more advanced math concepts.
5. ACT Writing is "optional."
6. The SAT is broken up into more sections.
7. The ACT is more of a "big picture" exam.

Testing Timeline Considerations

- Midterms
- Finals
- AP Exams
- When do you plan to submit your applications?

AP Exams

- Register in March at CHS
 - Use same name and SS#
- Classroom teacher will provide details
- Can help with admissions and earn credit/advanced standing
- Students with accommodations—get the same accommodations as for PSAT/SAT

Testing Preparation

■ SAT/ACT

- Independent work
- Online resources
- Group classes
- Individual tutors

■ Subject Tests/AP

- Must study! CHS classes, study books, etc

■ General Strategies

National Center for Fair and Open Testing

www.fairtest.org

- Hundreds of schools no longer require standardized testing
- Mostly liberal arts colleges including some selective ones
- Usually need to provide a writing sample or alternative submission
- There may be exceptions

- FREE SAT/ACT Prep:

www.mystudentedge.com (both)

www.ineedapencil.com (SAT only)

- Resources

www.collegeboard.com

www.actstudent.org

www.fairtest.org

Naviance- access through www.stoga.net

THANK YOU!

Questions? Please contact your
student's counselor.