

Standardized Testing in the College Admission Process

CHS STUDENT SERVICES

Standardized Testing Options

- PSAT
- SAT
- SAT Subject Tests
- ACT
- TOEFL (non-native English speakers only)

Timing and Trends

PSAT: October

SAT: Spring

ACT: Spring (numbers on the rise)

SAT Subject Tests: June

PSAT

- Redesigned for 2015
- 2 hours 25 minutes
- 3 Components: Writing & Language, Reading, Math
- www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org
- Khan Academy

2015 PSAT/NMSQT

- Wednesday, October 14, 2015
- First half of the day will be dedicated to taking the PSAT
- All students will be registered
- There is no cost to you

SAT- What is it?

- Test used for college admissions and scholarship purposes
- Measures college readiness
- Offered seven times a year on Saturdays
- Topics covered: Reading, Writing and Math

Current SAT vs. New SAT Overview

Category	Current SAT	New SAT- Coming March 2016
Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Reading 2. Writing 3. Math 4. Essay 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing 2. Math (with and without calculator) 3. Essay (optional)
Timing	3 Hours and 45 Minutes	3 Hours... (Plus 50 Minute Optional Essay)
Scoring	<p>200 – 800 for each section</p> <p>600 – 2400 total score range</p>	<p>200 – 800 for each section</p> <p>400 – 1600 total score range</p> <p>Essay: 6 – 24 total score range</p>

Sample Questions

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions>

Evidence Based Reading: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/reading/6>
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/reading/9>

Evidence Based Writing: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/writing/12>

Math: Calculator Permitted- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/math/calculator-permitted/1>

Calculator Not Permitted- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/math/calculator-not-permitted/1>

Essay: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/essay/2>

Scoring Current vs. New

CURRENT (UNTIL JANUARY 2016)

2400 scale

- Critical Reading 800
- Math 800
- Essay 800

- Quarter of point deduction for wrong answers

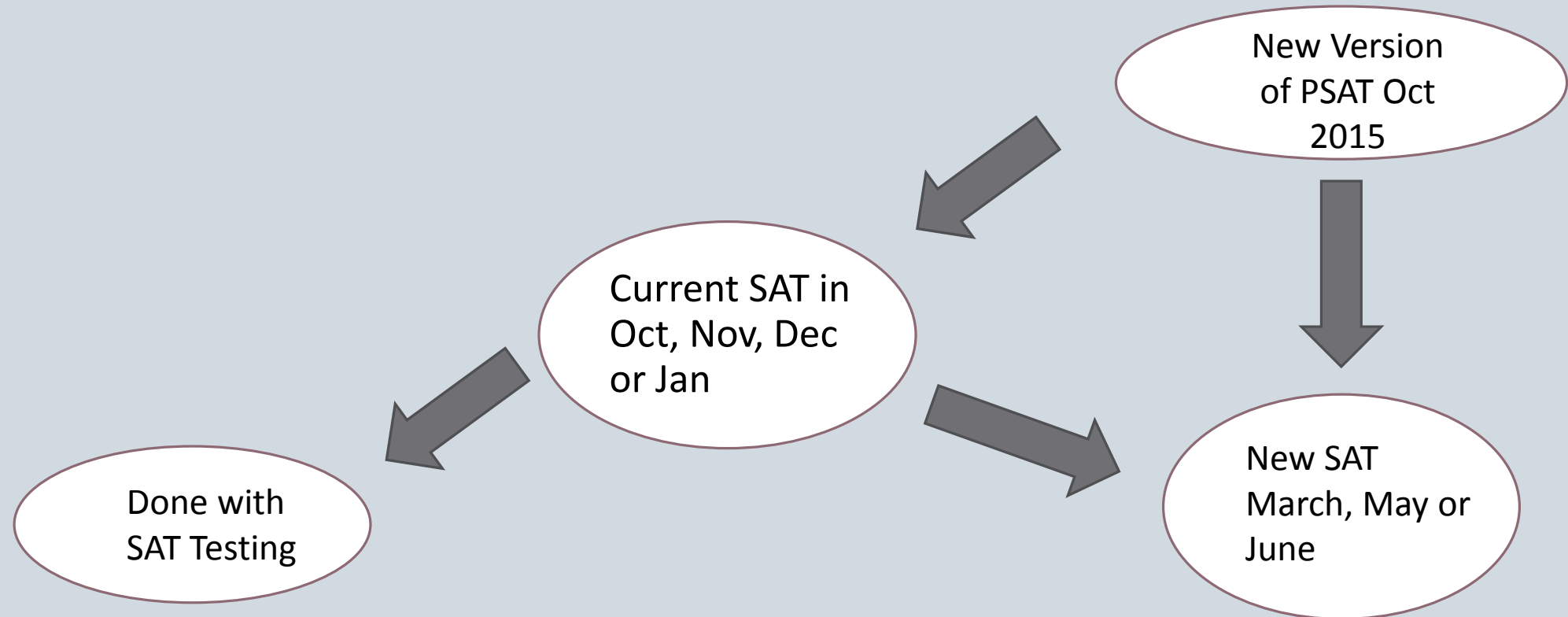
NEW (MARCH 2016)

1600 scale

- Evidence based Reading/Writing 800
- Math 800
- Optional Essay 6-24

- No penalty for incorrect answers

SAT Pathways



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

Available 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

ACT- What is it?

- Test used for college admissions and scholarship purposes
- Measures college readiness
- Offered six times a year on Saturdays
- Topics covered: English, Math, Reading, Science with an optional Writing section*
- Can often take the place of SAT **and** SAT Subject Tests
- Timing: 2 hours and 55 minutes plus optional 30 minute essay

What is on the ACT?

Test	No. of Questions	Subscore(s)
English Test	75	Usage/Mechanics (40 questions) Rhetorical Skills (35 questions)
Mathematics Test	60	Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra (24 questions) Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry (18 questions) Plane Geometry/Trigonometry based (18 questions)
Reading Test	40	Social Studies/Natural Sciences reading skills (20 social studies & natural sciences questions) Arts/Literature reading skills (20 prose fiction & humanities questions)
Science Test	40	None: the total test score is based on all 40 questions.

Scoring the ACT

- Students earn 1 to 36 on each test
- ACT composite score is the average of the 4 sections (does not include writing).
- Subscores between 1-18 are given to provide more detail about your performance. Subscores not typically used by colleges (they focus on composite).
- No penalty for wrong answers.

TOEFL

- Test of English as a Foreign Language
- International students and/or non-native English speakers *may* be required to take this additional test for college admissions purposes.
- 4 hour test that measures Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing Skills.
- Register at <http://www.ets.org/toefl/>

Frequently Asked Questions:

SATs vs. ACTs? What do colleges want? Do colleges prefer one over the other?

- Most colleges will accept the SAT or ACT and have no preference of one over the other.
- A concordance table exists in order to do a comparison between the scores.
- For colleges that require the SAT **and** SAT Subject Tests, the ACT may take the place of these two assessments.

Concordance Table

ACT Composite Score	Estimated SAT CR+M+W	Estimated SAT CR+M+W (Score Range)	ACT Composite Score
36	2390	2380–2400	36
35	2330	2290–2370	35
34	2250	2220–2280	34
33	2180	2140–2210	33
32	2120	2080–2130	32
31	2060	2020–2070	31
30	2000	1980–2010	30
29	1940	1920–1970	29
28	1880	1860–1910	28
27	1820	1800–1850	27
26	1770	1740–1790	26
25	1710	1680–1730	25
24	1650	1620–1670	24
23	1590	1560–1610	23
22	1530	1510–1550	22
21	1470	1450–1500	21
20	1410	1390–1440	20
19	1350	1330–1380	19
18	1290	1270–1320	18
17	1230	1210–1260	17
16	1170	1140–1200	16
15	1100	1060–1130	15
14	1020	990–1050	14
13	950	910–980	13
12	870	820–900	12
11	780	750–810	11

Registration Process

SAT & SUBJECT TESTS

- www.sat.org/register
- Register at least a month in advance
- Fees apply

ACT

- www.actstudent.org
- Register at least a month in advance
- Fees apply

* Students who receive testing accommodations should speak with their counselor or seminar teacher to ensure they have accommodations in place for the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT.

Preparing for the SAT/ACT

- The best preparation is always classroom preparation
- Other options include:
 - SAT Strategies class offered at CHS
 - Group courses
 - Private individualized tutors
 - Online Preparation
 - College Board/ACT
 - www.number2.com
 - Khan Academy

Other Factors

Stress Management

- **Plan ahead.** Create a testing timeline that makes sense for you given your other priorities and busy times of the year.
- **Prepare.** Maximize each testing opportunity by taking time to adequately prepare. When preparing, spend more time on the sections that will be more challenging for you.
- **Taking practice tests** can be an effective way to ease pre-exam jitters and identify gaps in knowledge.
- **Practice test-taking strategies.** A University of California at Santa Barbara study found that **mindfulness meditation** improved students' testing ability.
- **Drink water** not energy drinks. Even mild dehydration can impair cognitive functioning and mental performance.
- **Listening to soothing music** can help a wandering mind stay focused

MYTH

VS.

FACT

-
- **If I don't get a "perfect" score, I won't get into a good college.**
 - **SAT is preferred over the ACT.**
 - **Expensive prep courses are the only guarantee for a good score.**
 - **ACT is easier, the new SAT is harder.**
- **Colleges recognize that SAT/ACT tell them very little....high school grades are a much stronger predictor. More than 850 colleges are test optional including 165 schools ranked in the top tier. (The National Center for Fair and Open Testing)**
 - **Colleges accept either score and do not have preferences.**
 - **There are several free and low-cost SAT/ACT test prep resources. Number2.com is a popular one.**
 - **ACT is different, and the new SAT is designed similarly.**

Test Optional Colleges

<http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Just a sampling of the 850...

- Temple University
- Muhlenberg College
- Hamilton College
- American University
- St. Joseph's University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Bryn Mawr College
- Middlebury College
- Dickinson College
- Providence College
- Wake Forest University

Keep it in Perspective

- YOU and your college readiness are more than just a test score.
- Other factors in college admissions decisions include:
 - High School Record / GPA
 - Activities, accomplishments, experiences
 - Growth
 - Personal qualities and characteristics
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - College Essays

Questions?