

SAT-ACT-PSAT/NMSQT

INFORMATIONAL NIGHT



What Tests -- When

- PSAT – October of 11th Grade
- SAT – Spring 11th Grade and Fall 12th Grade
- SAT Subject Tests – At the end of the course
- ACT – Fall of 12th Grade

How to Register

- PSAT – at home school
- SAT – on your own
- ACT – on your own – either on-line or by paper

You can register for either test directly on the internet at the www.Collegeboard.com for the PSAT and SAT; www.actstudent.org for the ACT.

Why take the PSAT?

- To assess skills needed for college and the SAT
- To gain practice before taking the real SAT
- To become eligible for national scholarships
- To become registered with the College Board's Student Search Service
- To gain access to the Student Prep Center and *My Road* on the College Board website

Registering for the PSAT

- ☞ Students will pick up the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT and fill out the included registration form. All forms will be picked up from and turned in to the Guidance Office.
- ☞ Students register at their home school. Announcements will be made and monies collected during late September, early October.
- ☞ The test will take place on Saturday, October 16, 2010. There will be announcements and newsletters next fall.
- ☞ Any student who receives test modifications should apply for College Board approved modifications by the end of 10th grade. See your child's counselor.
- ☞ PSAT results will be mailed home in December.

Time Specifications

PSAT/NMSQT

Total Time	2 hours 10 minutes
Critical Reading	50 minutes Two 25-minute sections
Math	50 minutes Two 25-minute sections
Writing	30 minutes One 30-minute multiple choice section

PSAT/NMSQT

Score Report *Plus*

- ✔ Tells students how their scores compare to those of other sophomores or juniors
- ✔ Tells students what SAT score ranges they can expect
- ✔ Includes a question-by-question breakdown
- ✔ Helps students identify strengths and weaknesses and provides tips on how to improve specific skills
- ✔ Provides an access code for an online personalized SAT study plan at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

SAT Reasoning Test

- Used for College Admissions
- Three parts – Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing. Scores range from 200 – 800 on each part
- Often the Critical Reading and the Math are combined score range from 400 – 1600 (average scores are 1000)

Score Choice

- Students will be able to select which scores they send to colleges by test date for the SAT and by individual test for SAT Subject Test.
- Our schools will no longer send SAT scores to colleges with transcripts

Time Specifications

SAT

Total Time	3 hours 45 minutes
Critical Reading	70 minutes Two 25-minute sections and One 20-minute section
Math	70 minutes Two 25-minute sections and One 20-minute section
Writing	60 minutes Two multiple-choice sections (one 25-minute section and one 10-minute section) and One 25-minute essay
Variable Section	25 minutes

Test Content and Question Types

	SAT
Critical Reading	Sentence Completion Critical Reading: Short and long reading passages
Math	Multiple-choice items and student-produced responses measuring: Number and Operations; Algebra I, II and Functions; Geometry; and Statistics, Probability, and Data Analysis
Writing	Multiple-choice: Improving sentences and paragraphs and identifying errors. Student-written essay: Effectively communicate a point of view on an issue, supporting a position with reasoning and examples.

Critical Reading

Strengthens alignment with classroom practices

- ✔ Measures knowledge of genre, cause and effect, rhetorical devices, comparative arguments, and the ability to recognize relationships among parts of a text.
- ✔ Long and short reading passages are taken from different fields:
 - Natural sciences
 - Humanities
 - Social science
 - Literary fiction
- ✔ Short reading passages will measure reasoning.

The Critical Reading Section

Example of short paragraph reading items

Dinosaurs have such a powerful grip on the public consciousness that it is easy to forget just how recently scientists have become aware of them.

Line 5

A two-year-old child today may be able to rattle off three dinosaur names, but in 1824 there was only one known dinosaur. Period. The word “dinosaur” didn’t even exist until 1841. Indeed, in those early years, the world was baffled by the discovery of these absurdly enormous creatures.

The Critical Reading Section

Example of new short paragraph reading items

1. The reference to the “two-year-old child” (line 4) primarily serves to
 - (A) challenge a popular assumption
 - (B) highlight the extent of the change
 - (C) suggest that a perspective is simplistic
 - (D) introduce a controversial idea
 - (E) question a contemporary preoccupation

Correct answer: B

2. The statement “Period” (line 6) primarily serves to emphasize the
 - (A) authoritative nature of the finding
 - (B) lack of flexibility in a popular theory
 - (C) stubborn nature of a group of researchers
 - (D) limited knowledge about a subject
 - (E) refusal of the public to accept new discoveries

Correct answer: D

SAT Writing Section

Additional measure of an important college success skill

Multiple-choice Items

- 3 types of multiple-choice writing questions:
 - Identifying Sentence Errors
 - Improving Sentences
 - Improving Paragraphs

SAT Writing Section

Examples of Multiple-Choice Writing Items

Identifying Sentence Errors:

It is likely that the opening of the convention center,
previously set for July 1, would be postponed because of
(A) (B) (C) (D)
the bricklayers' strike. No error.
(E)

Correct answer: C

SAT Writing Section

Examples of Multiple-Choice Writing Items

Improving sentences:

The car that we found left in the parking lot last night after the festivities were expensive.

- A) Were expensive
- B) was in my mind it seemed expensive
- C) were real expensive
- D) being rather expensive, it appeared
- E) was very expensive

Correct answer: E

SAT Writing Section

Examples of Multiple-Choice Writing Items

Improving paragraphs:

(1) At one point in the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the evil archaeologist Belloq shows the heroic Indiana Jones a cheap watch. (2) If the watch were to be buried in the desert for a thousand years and then dug up, Belloq says, it would be considered priceless. (3) I often think of the scene whenever I consider the record album–collecting phenomenon, it being one of the more remarkable aspects of popular culture in the United States. (4) Collecting record albums gives us a chance to make a low-cost investment that might pay dividends in the future.

[Excerpt from longer three-paragraph passage]

SAT Writing Section

Examples of Multiple-Choice Writing Items

Improving paragraphs:

In the context of the first paragraph, which revision is most needed in sentence 3?

- (A) Insert "As a matter of fact" at the beginning.
- (B) Omit the words "it being."
- (C) Omit the word "scene."
- (D) Change the comma to a semicolon.
- (E) Change "think" to "thought" and "consider" to "considered."

Correct answer: B

Essay Prompt

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following quotations and the assignment below.

1. **While secrecy can be destructive, some of it is indispensable in human lives. Some control over secrecy and openness is needed in order to protect identity. Such control may be needed to guard privacy, intimacy, and friendship.**

Adapted from Sissela Bok, "The Need for Secrecy"

2. **Secrecy and a free, democratic government, President Harry Truman once said, don't mix. An open exchange of information is vital to the kind of informed citizenry essential to healthy democracy.**

Editorial, "Overzealous Secrecy Threatens Democracy"

Assignment: Do people need to keep secrets or is secrecy harmful? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

The Math Section

Number and Operations topics include:

- Word problems (including percents, ratios, proportions)
- Properties of numbers (even, odd, integer, prime numbers, etc)
- Sequences involving exponential growth
- Sets (union, intersection, elements)

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability topics include:

- Data interpretation
- Probability (including geometric probability)
- Statistics (mean, median, and mode)

The Math Section

Expanded Algebra topics include:

- Manipulating algebraic expressions
- Absolute value
- Rational equations and inequalities
- Radical equations
- Integer and rational exponents
- Direct and inverse variation
- Function notation
- Concepts of domain and range
- Functions as models
- Linear functions—equations and graphs
- Quadratic functions—equations and graphs

The Math Section

Geometry and Measurement topics include:

- Area and perimeter of polygons
- Area and circumference of circles
- Special properties of right, isosceles, and equilateral triangles
- Geometric notation for length, segments, lines, rays, and congruence
- Properties of parallel, perpendicular, and tangent lines
- Coordinate geometry
- Transformations and their effect on graphs of functions

The Math Section

Examples of math content

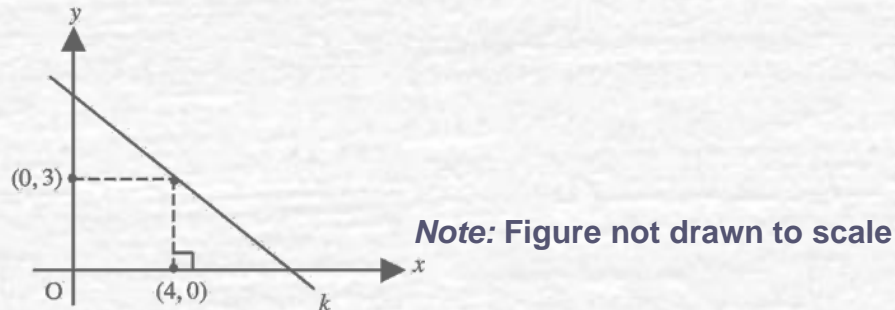
If $x^{-3} = 64$, what is the value of $x^{1/2}$?

- (A) $1/4$
- (B) $1/2$
- (C) 4
- (D) 8
- (E) 16

Correct answer: B

The Math Section

Examples of math content



In the figure above, if line k has a slope of -1 , what is the y -intercept of k ?

- (A) 6
- (B) 7
- (C) 8
- (D) 9
- (E) 10

Correct answer: B

Rebekah Williams

Registration

Online

- Register for the SAT
- Choose the test date and test center
- Get immediate confirmation
- 24 hour access to registration for printing or correcting admission ticket
- Print Your SAT Admission Ticket
- View Your SAT Scores
- Send Your SAT Scores

Register by Mail

- If you want to pay by check or money order
- You need an SAT Registration Booklet. The Registration Form and return envelope are included in the SAT Registration Booklet
- Your completed registration form must be returned in the envelope provided with proper payment
- SAT Registration Booklet contains all the necessary information

Registering with Accommodations

- If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for accommodations on SAT Program Tests
- You must sign a Student Eligibility Form (available from your counselor). Your school will complete the form and submit it online. This is done during the annual meeting in 9th grade
- You will receive an Eligibility Approval Letter which has a code that you must use when you register for all future College Board testing.

2011-2012 SAT Test Dates

- ✓ January 22, 2011
- ✓ March 12, 2011 – SAT only
- ✓ May 7, 2011
- ✓ June 4, 2011
- ✓ October 1, 2011
- ✓ November 5, 2011
- ✓ December 3, 2011
- ✓ January 28, 2012
- ✓ May 5, 2012
- ✓ June 2, 2012
- ✓ The Regular Registration Deadline is approximately one month before the test date. Late Registration Deadline is about two weeks later.

FEES (For this year – not announced yet for 11-12)

☛ SAT Reasoning Test	\$47.00
☛ SAT Subject Tests	\$21.00
☛ Late Registration Fee	\$24.00
☛ Re-Registration by phone	\$13.00
☛ Standby testing fee	\$41.00
☛ Change test, date or center	\$24.00

ACT

- ✓ An alternative to the SAT
- ✓ Consists of four parts: English, mathematics, reading, and science.
- ✓ The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.
- ✓ Test dates in Valley Stream:
 - June 11, 2011, December 10, 2011
 - June 9, 2012, December 8, 2012
- ✓ The Composite score is the average of the 4 parts and is reported on a scale of 1-36.

ACT vs. SAT

1. Most students score similarly
2. ACT more easily provides testing modifications
3. ACT claims to be achievement based
4. If Math is a weakness: ACT=1/4 exam, SAT=1/2 exam
5. ACT is scored on number correct. No penalty for guessing. SAT are adjusted for guessing
6. For most schools, ACT counts as both SAT Reasoning tests and SAT subject tests. Must include the writing

ACT TEST CONTENT

ENGLISH	<p>(75 items, 45 minutes) Usage/Mechanics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation (13%)• Basic Grammar & Usage (16%)• Sentence Structure (24%)• Rhetorical Skills• Strategies (16%)• Organization (15%)• Style (16%)
MATH	<p>(60 items, 60 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra (23%, 17%)• Intermediate Algebra and Coord. Geometry (15%, 15%)• Plane Geometry and Trigonometry (23%, 7%)

ACT TEST CONTENT

READING	<p>(40 items, 35 minutes)</p> <p>Arts and Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose Fiction (25%)• Humanities (25%) (Art history, art, music, philosophy, theater, architecture, dance, religion/ethics, literary criticism) <p>Social Studies and Natural Sciences (25%, 25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History, Political Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Sciences
SCIENCE	<p>(40 items, 35 minutes)</p> <p>Interpretation analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in Biology, Earth/Space Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Representation (38%)• Research Summaries (45%)• Conflicting Viewpoints (17%)

ACT TEST CONTENT

WRITING

(Optional) (1 prompt, 30 minutes)

Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. Consists of one 30-minute essay.

SAT

TESTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES at National Test Sites TIMING

- 🕒 50% Additional Time
- 🕒 5 HOURS AND 5 MINUTES, PLUS 11 MINUTES FOR BREAKS= 5 HOURS AND 16 MINUTES
- 🕒 STUDENTS ARE NO LONGER SELF-PACED
- 🕒 STUDENTS CAN'T MOVE ON TO NEW SECTION UNTIL TOLD TO

SAT

TESTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES- SCHOOL TESTING

- 100% EXTENDED TIME
- NONSTANDARD TEST FORMATS
 - BRAILLE, CASSETTE, LARGE-TYPE, SCRIPT
- INDIVIDUALIZED ACCOMMODATIONS
 - READER, WRITER/SCRIBE, COMPUTER TO RECORD ESSAY

SAT

SCHOOL TESTING

- STUDENT MUST USE THE ENTIRE TIME:
6 HOURS 40 MINUTES (ACTUAL TEST TIME)
- TEST MUST BE GIVEN OVER TWO
CONSECUTIVE DAYS
 - SECTIONS 1-4 – DAY 1
 - SECTIONS 5-9 – DAY 2
- WINDOW IS SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY

Princeton Review/VSCHSD Partnership

- ✓ Test Prep Courses offered two ways
 - In School Elective – 1 semester course taken in eleventh grade. Day 1 – verbal prep, day 2 – math prep. No cost to family. Subject to Board Approval.
 - After School or Summer – 40 hours over 12 sessions. Cost is \$399

PREPARATION

- In-School Elective: SAT prep is a one semester, 1/2 credit course generally taken by juniors in either the fall or spring.
- We offer after school and summer SAT, PSAT and ACT preparation through the Princeton Review. These courses are offered at about 1/2 the retail price. Information and registration forms were mailed to you in December.