



**presents**

# **SAT/ACT Prep Workshop**

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# What Are Students Up Against?

**Student population is growing**

- An estimated 3.2 million students graduated from American high schools in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

**Enrollment is growing**

- The percent of students enrolling directly to degree-granting institutions continues to rise. In 2016, projected enrollment in degree-granting institutions will exceed 21 million students.<sup>2</sup>

**Today, 25% of students submit 7 applications or more.<sup>3</sup>**

**Seats remain stagnant**

- The number of available seats has not kept up with the increase in enrollees.

1. LA Times  
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2013/01/college-admission-may-get-easier-as-the-ranks-of-high-school-graduates-drop.html>
2. US Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics
3. NACAC: 2011 State of College Admissions

# A College Degree is Important

## Better jobs mean better pay

**“Median lifetime earnings rise steadily for workers with increasing educational attainment.”<sup>4</sup>**

•On average college graduates earn approximately 42% more in hourly wages and annual earning over high school graduates\*.

	No High School Education	With a High School Diploma	With a Bachelor's Degree
Average Hourly Wage	\$11.70	\$15.67	\$27.26
Median Annual Earnings	\$24,000	\$32,600	56,700

\*Over a 40 year career based on 2009 data.



# Admissions: Just How Competitive Is It?

RANKINGS

RANKINGS DATA

U.S. News rank	School	Tuition	Total enrollment	Fall 2011 acceptance rate	Average freshman retention rate	6-year graduation rate
#1	Harvard University Cambridge, MA	\$40,866	19,872	6.3%	98%	97
#1	Princeton University Princeton, NJ	\$38,650	7,859	8.5%	98%	96
#3	Yale University New Haven, CT	\$42,300	11,875	7.7%	99%	97
#4	Columbia University New York, NY	\$47,246	22,885	7.0%	99%	96
#4	University of Chicago Chicago, IL	\$44,574	12,316	16.3%	98%	92
#6	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA	\$42,050	10,894	9.7%	98%	93

Look on college websites for acceptance rates for colleges you are interested in.

6. US News and World Report Best Colleges 2013



# How Do They Choose?

## Factors influencing college admissions

- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores
- Courses taken
- Extra-curricular activities/community service
- Essay/personal statement
- Recommendations
- Interview



# **How are the SAT and ACT Scores Used?**

- **Compare students with a common yardstick**
- **Determine how well a student will handle college-level work**
- **Select the best candidates from thousands of college applicants**
- **Determine eligibility to participate in NCAA sports**
- **Determine financial aid and scholarships**
- **Admissions decisions**
- **Determine acceptance to college programs (Honors program, acceptance in major)**
- **Course placement**

# College is a BIG Investment

- **Average Tuition, Fees, Room and Board (2014-2015)<sup>7</sup>**
  - Four-year public college: \$18,943 per year (in state)
  - Four-year public college: \$32,762 per year (out of state)
  - Four year, private college: \$42,419 per year
- **Better performance on the ACT SAT can bring these costs down**



7. College Board: Trends in College Pricing 2011

# A Closer Look at the New SAT and ACT





# The NEW SAT as of March 2016

## OLD VERSION

## CURRENT VERSION

<b>Scaled scores</b>	<b>600-2400</b> <i>Critical Reading: 200-800</i> <i>Math: 200-800</i> <i>Writing: 200-800</i> <i>(Essay score scaled to Writing multiple choice)</i>	<b>400-1600</b> <i>Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200-800</i> <i>Math: 200-800</i> <i>Essay (optional): scored separately</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 separate scores (Reading, Analysis, Writing)</li> </ul>
<b>Total test time</b>	<b>3 hours 45 minutes</b>	<b>3 hours</b> (plus 50 minutes with optional essay)
<b>Subsections</b>	<b>Critical Reading:</b> Two 25-minute sections One 20-minute section <b>Math:</b> Two 25-minute sections One 20-minute section <b>Writing:</b> One 25-minute section One 10-minute section One 25-minute essay	<b>Evidence-based Reading and Writing:</b> <b>Reading Test</b> - One 65 minute section - (52 questions) <b>Writing and Language Test</b> - One 35-minute section (44 questions) <b>Math:</b> - One 55-minute section (37 questions) – with calculator - One 25-minute section (20 questions) – no calculator <b>Essay: (optional)</b> - 50 minutes
<b>Scoring</b>	Gain 1 point for correct answers Lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for incorrect answers No gain or loss for omitted answers	<b>"Rights only" scoring</b> - No penalty for incorrect answers

- Charts and graphs throughout the test

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
Type of Test	Assessment	Achievement
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical thinking</li> <li>• Mathematics conceptualization</li> <li>• Reading ability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading ability</li> <li>• Knowledge of high school core curriculum</li> </ul>
Highest Mathematics Level	Algebra II (graphing functions)	Trigonometry
Vocabulary	Important	Unimportant
Science Knowledge	Unimportant	Important
Essay	<b><i>Now Optional</i></b>	Optional
Difficulty	Predictable order of difficulty	Random order of difficulty
Traps	Many	Few
Wrong Answers	<b><i>No Longer Penalized</i></b>	Not penalized
Question Types	Mostly multiple choice	All multiple choice
Paths to Success	Reasoning and strategy	Academic knowledge
Composite Scale	<b><i>400-1600</i></b>	1-36
Average Score	<b><i>TBD</i></b>	21

# What You Should Know About the SAT and ACT

- Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.
- It is unclear how schools will incorporate the NEW SAT into the admission process

# ACT

## Understanding the test...



And, the  
pressure  
of time!

# English

- 75 questions/45 minutes
- Largest raw number of questions on the test
  - 75 out of a total 215 questions
- Broken into two categories:
  - Usage/Mechanics
    - Fundamentals of grammar
  - Rhetorical Skills
    - Writing strategy and organization



# Mathematics

- 60 questions/60 minutes
- Broken into three categories:
  - Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra
    - Number properties, percent, averages
  - Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry
    - Linear equations, exponents, polynomials
  - Plane Geometry/Trigonometry
    - Lines, angles, quadrilaterals, sine, tangents



# Critical Reading

- 40 questions/35 minutes
- Broken into four passages:
  - Prose Fiction and Humanities
  - Social Studies and Natural Science
  - Meant to be read
  - Questions challenge a students ability to:
    - Understand main idea
    - Infer
    - Determine author's point of view
    - Demonstrate college level vocabulary
    - Get the facts



# Science

- 40 questions/35 minutes
- Questions are based on:
  - Biology, chemistry, earth/space science, physics
- Measures students ability to read, digest and analyze scientific data
  - Contains charts, tables, graphs and scientific hypotheses





# Writing (Optional)

- Scale of 1-36 and four writing domain scores (Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use and Conventions), each scored on a scale of 2-12.
- Your essay will be evaluated based on the evidence that it provides of your ability to:
  - analyze and evaluate multiple perspectives on a complex issue
  - state and develop your own perspective on the issue
  - explain and support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed examples
  - clearly and logically organize your ideas in an essay





# How Do You Get a Leg Up?

Strategies to improve your score

- Strategic guessing
- Omitting
- Analyze the question
- Time management

Test Code: ACTPT1 Test Date: 09/17/2005

Table 3:

English Test Analysis

	<u>Expression</u>	<u>Agreement</u>	<u>Eloquence</u>	<u>Execution</u>
Number of questions answered correctly	14	5	10	13
Number of questions answered incorrectly	4	3	8	18
Number of questions omitted	0	0	0	0
Total number of questions	18	8	18	31
Percentage of answers correct vs. total number of questions	77%	62%	55%	41%

Table 4:

Math Test Analysis

	<u>Arithmetic</u>	<u>Algebra</u>	<u>Coordinate Geometry</u>	<u>Plane Geometry</u>	<u>Trigonometry</u>
Number of questions answered correctly	12	7	3	6	1
Number of questions answered incorrectly	4	10	3	11	3
Number of questions omitted	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of questions	16	17	6	17	4
Percentage of answers correct vs. total number of questions	75%	41%	50%	35%	25%

# Know the Test

## Know Yourself As a Test Taker

Test Code: ACTPT1 Test Date: 09/17/2005

Table 10:

Math Test

No.	Selected Answer	Correct Answer	Subscore Group	Question Topic	Question Category
1	E	E	EA	Arithmetic	Percents
2	H	H	GT	Plane Geometry	Lines/Angles
3	B	B	AG	Arithmetic	Patterns/Sequences
4	K	K	EA	Algebra	Ratio/Proportion
5	C	E	GT	Plane Geometry	Lines/Angles
6	F	F	EA	Arithmetic	Solving Equations
7	C	C	EA	Algebra	Solving Equations
8	H	H	EA	Arithmetic	Absolute Value
9	C	C	EA	Arithmetic	Percents
10	F	F	AG	Arithmetic	Exponents
11	B	B	EA	Algebra	Solving Equations
12	K	F	EA	Algebra	Solving Equations
13	E	E	AG	Coordinate Geometry	Quadrilaterals
14	J	K	EA	Algebra	Factoring/Quadratics
15	A	D	GT	Plane Geometry	Quadrilaterals
16	G	G	AG	Coordinate Geometry	Slope

# Know the Test

## Know Yourself As a Test Taker



Student: 04232005085 -

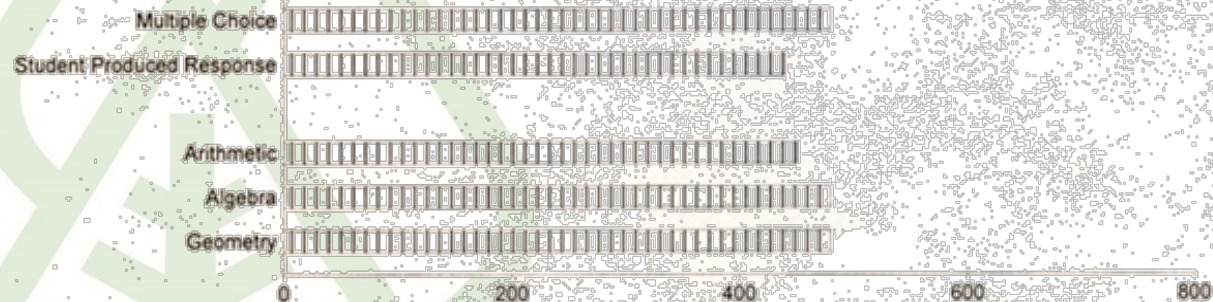
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Test Code: SATPT6

**Table 3**

**Math Analysis by Question Type**

	Multiple Choice	Student Produced Response	Arithmetic	Algebra	Geometry
Number of questions answered correctly	22	3	9	8	8
Number of questions answered incorrectly	15	2	7	5	5
Number of questions omitted	7	5	4	4	4
Total number of questions	44	10	20	17	17
Percentage of answers correct vs. total number of questions	50%	30%	45%	47%	47%
Raw score	18	3	7	7	7
Estimated scaled score	480	440	450	480	480



# Know the Test

## Know Yourself As a Test Taker





Student: 04232005085 -  
 Test Code: SATPT6

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Table 6:

Section: 3 Section type: Math

No.	Student Answer	Correct Answer	Difficulty	Format	Topic	Content
1	D	D	Easy	Multiple Choice	Arithmetic	Fractions
2	B	B	Easy	Multiple Choice	Coordinate Geometry	Coordinate Plane
3	A	A	Easy	Multiple Choice	Plane Geometry	Lines/Angles
4	C	C	Easy	Multiple Choice	Algebra	Solving Equations
5	D	D	Medium	Multiple Choice	Algebra	Exponents
6	C	C	Medium	Multiple Choice	Arithmetic	Graphs/Tables
7	C	Incorrect B	Medium	Multiple Choice	Plane Geometry	Triangles
8	C	Incorrect A	Hard	Multiple Choice	Algebra	Solving Equations
9	12	Incorrect 120	Easy	Student Produced Response	Algebra	Ratio/Proportion
10	.24	6/25 or .24	Easy	Student Produced Response	Arithmetic	Sequences
11	11	1 or 11	Medium	Student Produced Response	Plane Geometry	Lines/Angles
12	39	39	Medium	Student Produced Response	Arithmetic	Logic
13	2600	Incorrect 6500	Medium	Student Produced Response	Arithmetic	Percents
14	Omitted	5/18, .277 or .278	Medium	Student Produced Response	Plane Geometry	Circles
15	Omitted	2	Hard	Student Produced Response	Algebra	Quadratic Equations
16	Omitted	5	Medium	Student Produced Response	Plane Geometry	Quadrilaterals
17	Omitted	11	Hard	Student Produced Response	Arithmetic	Defined Operations
18	Omitted	3/8 or .375	Hard	Student Produced Response	Algebra	Averages

# Know the Test

## Know Yourself As a Test Taker

# How Do You Prepare?

## The road to success

- Work hard in school
- Develop the learning skills needed to succeed
- Read regularly
- Prepare with a test prep program

## When test day arrives

- Eat a good breakfast
- Wear comfortable clothing
- Bring the correct kind of calculator
- Bring several sharpened pencils
- Stay calm

# The College Admission Timeline

## If you are a JUNIOR

### • September

- Continue PSAT prep
- Register for the PSAT
- Study and get good grades
- Sign up for Advanced Placement courses
- Stay involved in community and school activities
- Apply for leadership roles in school activities
- Meet with your guidance counselor

### • October/November

- Take the PSAT
- Determine whether you will take the SAT or the ACT

### • December

- Begin test preparation

### • Spring

- Ask teachers to write recommendations
- Take the SAT or ACT exam
- Visit colleges
- Plan to take the SAT Subject Tests
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Attend college fairs

### • Summer after junior year

- Begin writing college essays
- If you are not satisfied with your score, prepare to retake the exam
- Complete applications for early admission
- Volunteer, work or take a course



# The College Admission Timeline

If you are a **SENIOR**

- **September**

- Continue to visit colleges
- Narrow list of college selections
- Continue test prep if you will be taking the exam again
- Determine which, if any, SAT Subject Tests you will take
- Study and get good grades
- Take leadership positions in school activities
- Meet with your guidance counselor
- Ask teachers to write recommendations

- **November**

- Finalize your essay
- Early action application deadlines

- **December**

- Early decision notification

- **January/March**

- Regular deadlines for college applications
- Financial aid deadline

- **April**

- Acceptances arrive
- Make your college decision

- **Summer after senior year**

- Pack your bags and head off to the college of your choice!



# QUESTIONS?

***Remember... Prepare. Achieve. Succeed.***

This program has been presented by

