



presents

SAT/ACT Prep Workshop



A College Degree is Important

Better jobs with better pay

- In the US, college graduates earned 23% more than high school graduates.⁴
- In a 40 year working life, college graduates with a bachelor's degree can expect to earn \$350,000 more than high school graduates.⁵



4. US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

5. Pew Research Center, using 2010 census 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)⁷**
 - 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**



A Closer Look at the New SAT and ACT



The NEW SAT as of March 2016

	CURRENT SAT	REDESIGNED SAT
Scaled scores	600-2400 <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>	400-1600 <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"> 3 separate scores (Reading, Analysis, Writing)
Total test time	3 hours 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes with optional essay)
Subsections	Critical Reading: Two 25-minute sections One 20-minute section Math: Two 25-minute sections One 20-minute section Writing: One 25-minute section One 10-minute section One 25-minute essay	Evidence-based Reading and Writing: Reading Test - One 65 minute section - (52 questions) Writing and Language Test - One 35-minute section (44 questions) Math: - One 55-minute section (37 questions) – with calculator - One 25-minute section (20 questions) – no calculator Essay: (optional) - 50 minutes
Scoring	Gain 1 point for correct answers Lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for incorrect answers No gain or loss for omitted answers	"Rights only" scoring - No penalty for incorrect answers

- Charts and graphs throughout the test

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Selected Answer</u>	<u>Correct Answer</u>	<u>Subscore Group</u>	<u>Question Topic</u>	<u>Question Category</u>
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 Incorrect	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 Incorrect	F	EA	Algebra	Solving Equations
13	E	E	AG	Coordinate Geometry	Quadrilaterals
14	J Incorrect	K	EA	Algebra	Factoring/Quadratics
15	A Incorrect	D	GT	Plane Geometry	Quadrilaterals
16	G	G	AG	Coordinate Geometry	Slope

Know the Test

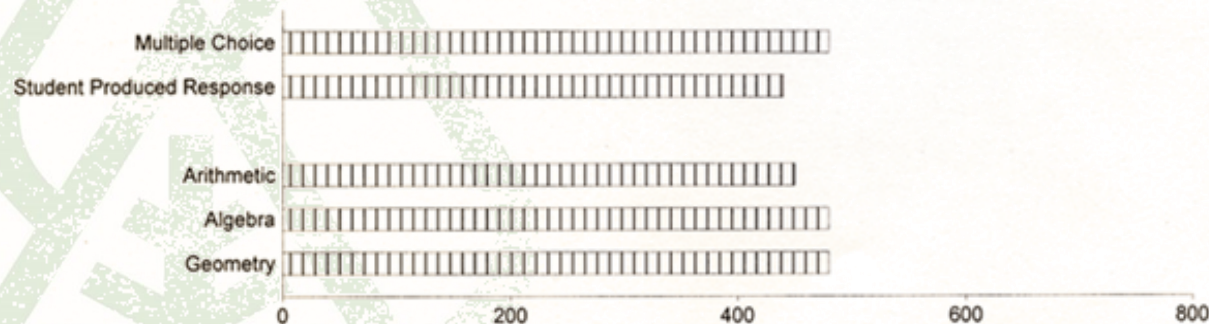
Know Yourself As a Test Taker

Student: 04232005085 -
 Test Code SATPT6

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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 Yourself As a Test Taker

Know the Test

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 you need to succeed
 - Read
 - Take a test prep program
- **When test day arrives**
 - Eat a good breakfast
 - Wear comfortable clothing
 - Bring the correct kind of calculator
 - 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

