

ACT vs. SAT

Which test is right for you?

The
Princeton
Review®



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Agenda

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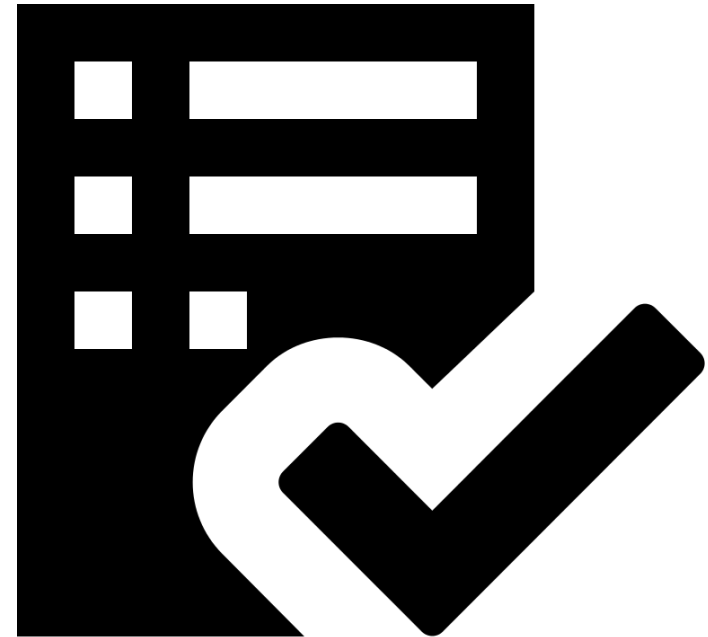
What are the SAT and ACT?

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When should you take the test?

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What we can do to help.

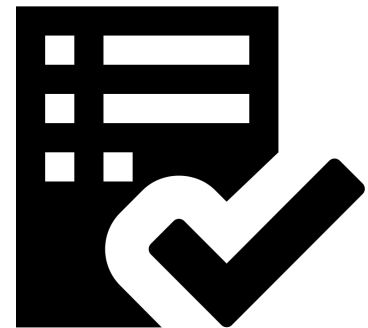


Before we talk SAT/ACT

STAY INFORMED! Text westportcollege to 877877

Let's discuss the PSAT

- Scored 320-1520
- Sum of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math (160-760)
- “Vertical Learning Ladder” to the SAT
 - Scores comparable between PSAT and SAT
 - 7 subscores (8-38)
 - 2 cross-test scores (8-38)



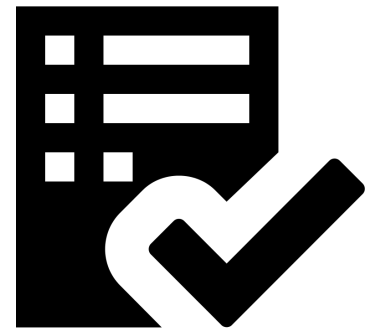
PSAT, Continued

Differences: PSAT and SAT

- Reading: 5 fewer questions, 5 fewer minutes
- Writing and Language: Nothing!
- Math: 10 fewer questions, 10 fewer minutes
- No Essay

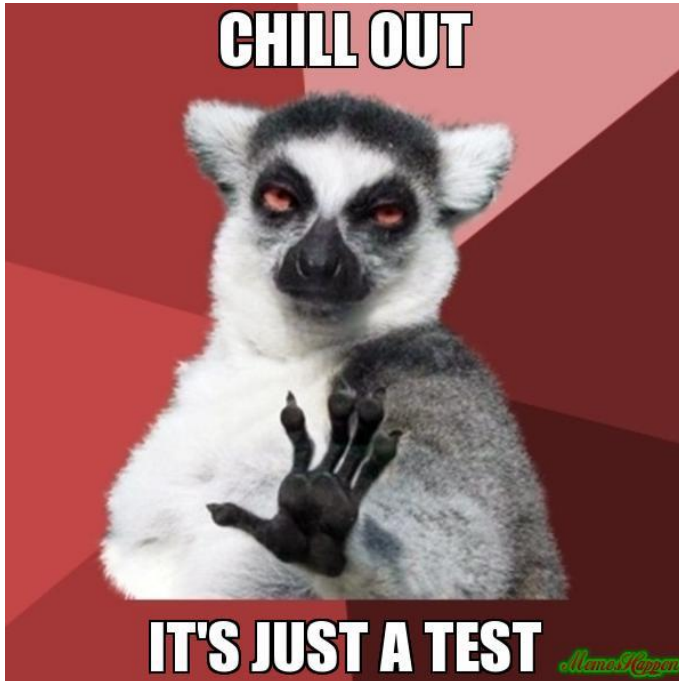
National Merit Scholarship

- PSAT is also the National Merit Qualifying Test (NMQT)
- Junior year test counts for this
- Top 3% of Juniors in your state
- Qualifying scores vary by state





What are the ACT and SAT?



Standardized tests used for colleges admissions.

All schools accept the ACT or SAT for admission.

May also be used for scholarship and financial aid considerations.



Take a practice test for the ACT or SAT and see how you score.
Find free practice tests at PrincetonReview.com/Events.



How the Tests Compare

	SAT	ACT
Number of Times Offered	7 times per year	6 times per year
Duration of the Test	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)*	3 hours, 35 minutes if you choose to do the essay*
Test Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading (52 questions; 65 minutes)• Writing and Language (44 questions; 35 minutes)• Math (58 questions; 80 minutes)• Optional essay (50 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English (75 questions; 45 minutes)• Math (60 questions; 60 minutes)• Reading (40 questions; 35 minutes)• Science (40 questions; 35 minutes)• Optional Writing Test (1 prompt; 40 minutes)
Scoring	200–800 for each section, for a combined total score from 400–1600	1–36 for each section, averaged together for a composite score ranging from 1–36
Wrong Answer Penalty	No	No
Registration Information	Visit the College Board website or call 866-756-7346	Visit the ACT, Inc. website or call 319-337-1270

*The Writing Test or essay is optional on both tests, but may be required by many schools. Check with the schools you're applying to before opting out.



What does the ACT or SAT measure?

Admission tests..	True	False
... measure intelligence?		✓
... can be used to award aid?	✓	
... reflect your GPA in high school?		✓
... predict your college GPA?		✓
... can be prepared for?	✓	
... should be prepared for?	✓	
... test what you've learned in HS?	?	?



Which one do I take?

SAT

Coca-Cola

REDVINES®

MARVEL

ACT

pepsi

Twizzlers

DC
COMICS™

Colleges accept
both tests equally.
There's no "right"
test.

**Only the right test
for you.**



The best way to pick the right test? Take a practice test for each and see how you score. Find free practice tests at [PrincetonReview.com/Events](https://www.princetonreview.com/events)



Why Students Struggle

	SAT/ACT	High School
Number of Questions	Designed so you can't finish or you really have to rush to finish	Designed so you can finish
Answer Choices	Written to trick students and filled with common errors	Goal is to assess strengths and weaknesses, not to try to get a student to answer questions incorrectly
Essay	40-50 min	Hours & weeks
Reading	Under serious time constraints	Read at home
Writing	GRAMMAR!	Grammar has little emphasis in most schools
Math	Intentionally hard to understand and convoluted (especially on the SAT)	More straightforward

Let's take a look at some sample ACT and SAT questions.



Math Sample Questions

ACT

3. A function $f(x)$ is defined as $f(x) = -8x^2$.
What is $f(-3)$?

- A. -72
- B. 72
- C. 192
- D. -576
- E. 576

SAT

1. The function f is defined by $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 + cx + 8$, where c is a constant. In the xy -plane, the graph of f intersects the x -axis at the three points $(-4, 0)$, $(1/2, 0)$, and $(p, 0)$. What is the value of c ?

- A) -18
- B) -2
- C) 2
- D) 10



Reading Sample Questions

ACT

Passage I

LITERARY NARRATIVE: This passage is from the short story “From Aboard the Niangua” by Kimberly M. Blaeser (©1993 by Kimberly M. Blaeser). It is from the book *Earth Song, Sky Spirit: Short Stories from Native American Experience*.

The passage begins with a female narrator traveling to her hometown.

Late at night in my old bed, I listen to the night
50 sounds of the house and fall asleep counting the
changes that have come to my little hometown: The
park is off limits after dark now, the football field is
fenced in, one-hour photo has come to town along with
a tanning salon and a pizza parlor. The dry goods store
55 is gone, the dairy, long gone. People lock their houses
now more than once a year when the carnival comes to
town. But all of these changes pale in comparison to
what has replaced the bait shop, the used car lot, and
Mr. Morton’s small farm, what has sprung up on High-
60 way 59 at the edge of town: Las Vegas-style gambling.

6. According to the narrator, which of the following businesses is relatively new to her hometown?

- F. The tanning salon
- G. The bait shop
- H. The dry goods store
- J. The used-car lot



Reading Sample Questions

SAT

The following passage is adapted from the first inaugural address of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The speech was given in 1933 as the nation faced the Great Depression, the worst crisis since the Civil War. In the speech, Roosevelt sought both to calm the fears gripping American and to outline a plan to combat the economic crisis.

Today our nation faces profound difficulties, though these concern only material things. Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious
Line 5 curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; and the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

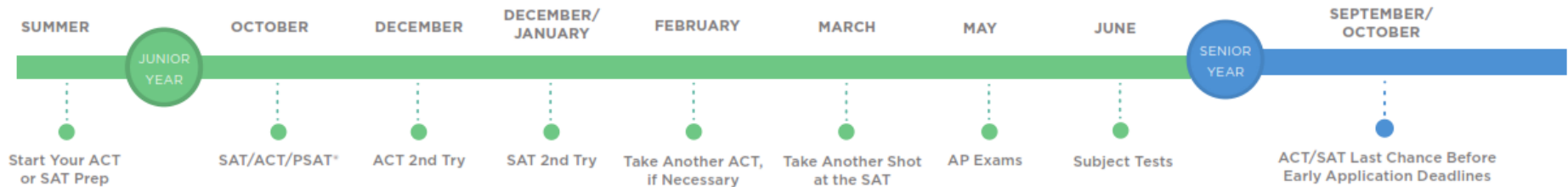
Line 10 More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.

2. The rhetorical effect of the phrase in lines 6-7 (“the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side”) is to
- A) Propose a specific plan for resolving the crisis facing the nation.
 - B) Suggest that farmers are encountering unusually difficult growing conditions.
 - C) Convey the seriousness of the obstacles confronting the country.
 - D) Imply that society no longer has the resolve to grapple with its problems.



When should you take the test?

Early-Start Testing Timeline



JUNIOR YEAR

SUMMER

- Begin researching schools
- Take a free ACT or SAT practice exam
- Pick the test that's right for you
- Start your ACT or SAT prep

FALL/WINTER

- Take the PSAT

SAT Strategy

- Sit for the October SAT
- Take the test again in December, January or March, if needed

ACT Strategy

- Take the October ACT
- Sit for the February ACT, if needed

SPRING

SAT Subject Test Strategy

- Take AP® exams in May
- In June, take the corresponding SAT Subject Tests

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

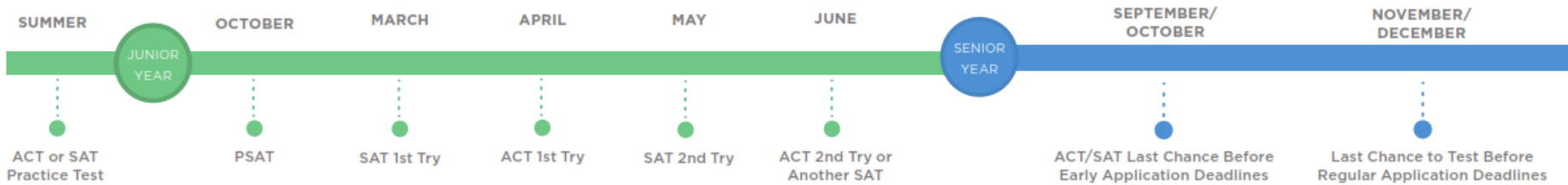
- Fall tests are your last chance before a senior year
- Prep now if you need to raise your score
- Kick off your college applications

SENIOR YEAR

FALL

- Take the September ACT or October SAT
- Fall tests are your last chance if you're applying Early Decision or Early Action
- Take SAT Subject Tests in October, if needed

Traditional Testing Timeline



JUNIOR YEAR

SUMMER

- Take a free ACT or SAT practice test
- Decide which test to focus on

FALL/WINTER

SAT Strategy

- Take the PSAT and start your ACT or SAT prep
- Sit for the March SAT

ACT Strategy

- Take the test in December or February

SPRING

- If needed, take the test
- Take SAT Subject Tests

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Fall tests are your last shot
- Applications are due

SENIOR YEAR

FALL

- Take the September ACT or October SAT
- Start your college applications

WINTER

- To hit regular admissions deadlines, December tests are your last shot



How we can help.



JUNIORS:

**The Princeton Review is offering a
May SAT course
at John Jay High School.**

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Review®



Grades



Activities



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PSAT

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Junior year

Comprehensive Test Prep

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Test Prep



SAT/ACT



Grades



Activities

Your Choice:

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- Private Tutoring
- Online Prep

EXCLUSIVE! [Student Portal](#) with access to videos, paced practice questions, quizzes and more.

EXCLUSIVE! **Chat with a Teacher** on the student portal connects you to our expert instructors 1:1 online through test day.

How do you want to prep? We have options to fit any schedule and learning style.



Better Score Guaranteed.

3

Senior year

College Admissions Counseling

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Test prep



SAT/ACT



Grades



College essays



Visit schools



Activities

- Work with a former Ivy League admissions expert.
- Find the right school, write a perfect college essay.
- Application strategies to access more scholarships.
- Take the stress out of the application process.



The Princeton Review is **#1** at getting students into top colleges.

Important Links

SAT vs. ACT

PrincetonReview.com/college/sat-act

HS Timelines

PrincetonReview.com/college-advice/college-prep-timeline

Free Practice Tests and Events

PrincetonReview.com/Events

About the ACT

PrincetonReview.com/college/act-information

Questions?



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Take out your phones!

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