



Know the Score:

How to Capitalize on FREE Test Prep Resources for the SAT/ACT

Presented by: *Angela Castonguay*

The NHHEAF Network Organizations' Center for College Planning



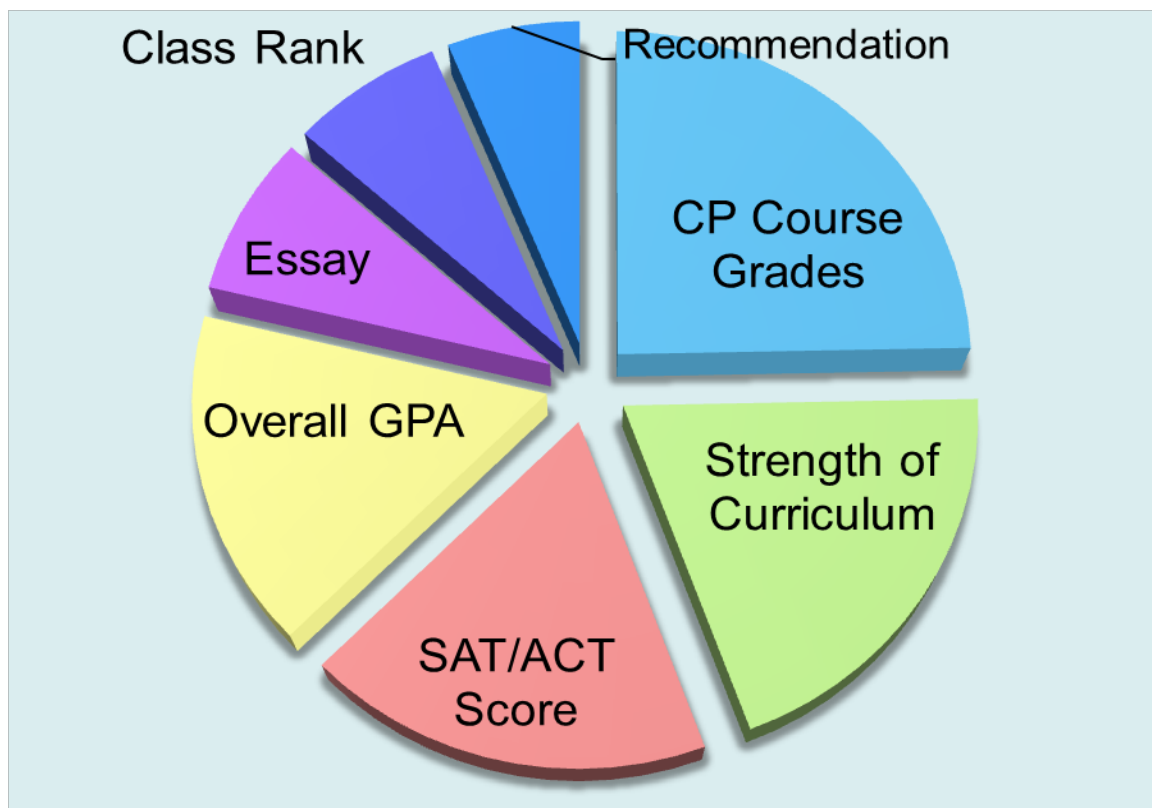
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119 • nhheaf.org • collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



On the Agenda...

- The landscape of college entrance
- Comparison of the SAT and the ACT?
- Which test is right for me?
- What is a “good” score?
- How to start “studying” for the big day

College Admission Factors



- CP Course Grades
- Strength of Curriculum
- SAT/ACT Score
- Overall GPA
- Essay
- Class Rank
- Recommendation

Why & How Colleges Use Standardized Tests

- Some colleges use test scores in their admission decisions
 - Creates a level playing field
 - Adjusts for grade inflation
 - *May* help predict student success in college level work
- Some colleges use test scores to award merit scholarships
 - May have **VERY DIFFERENT** score requirements for scholarships than for admission
- Scores may determine placement in college classes

Which Test Should I Take?

- In 2012, the ACT overtook the SAT in test-takers for the first time.

In 2016...

2.09 million students took the ACT

1.64 million students took the SAT

- In terms of college admissions, the ACT and SAT are treated equally, so we tell students to take the test that's best for them.

Comparing ACT & SAT Scores

Note:

Concordance Tables
for SAT to ACT scores
can be found at BOTH
collegeboard.org
and
act.org

ACT Composite	SAT Reading and Math
34	1540
32	1470
30	1400
28	1320
26	1260
24	1180
22	1110
20	1030
18	950

What's a "Good" Score?

It depends on...

- the Colleges to which you are applying (& the program within the college)
- the test scores of the other applicants
- the college's Scholarship requirements

School	Typical SAT	Typical ACT
Dartmouth College	1390-1570	30-34
Bowdoin College	test optional	test optional
Northeastern University	1400-1540	31-34
Univ. of Vermont	1170-1360	25-30
Univ. of New Hampshire	1080-1280	22-27
Plymouth State Univ.	test optional	test optional
Rivier University	970-1150	17-27
NHTI	Not Required	Not Required

What If I Don't Test Well?

- There are about 850 test-optional colleges in the U.S., and the trend is slowly growing.

Fairtest.org

- So if they are not “required”, but “optional”, do I send them or not?

“If [applicants] feel that the score does not accurately reflect their academic abilities, and they don't want it included in their application materials, they now have that option,”

Wake Forest University

“This policy allows applicants to decide for themselves whether or not their test results accurately reflect their academic ability and potential.”

Bowdoin College



SAT Subject Tests



1.888.7.GRADUATE x119 • nhheaf.org • collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



SAT Subject Tests (SAT II's)

WHAT ARE THEY

Subject specific tests
required for admission
to *some* colleges

TEST COST

\$26 to sit for the test –
then an extra \$21
(*\$26 for languages*) for
each subject you take

HOW ARE THEY SCORED

Each subject is scored
from 200-800 points

TEST FORMAT

All are multiple choice
(*some languages having a
listening portion*)

Mathematics

Math Level 1
Math Level 2

Science

Biology E/M
Chemistry
Physics

English

English

History

U.S. History
World History

Languages

Spanish
French
Chinese
Italian
German
Hebrew
Latin
Japanese
Korean



“Studying” for the Test!



1.888.7.GRADUATE x119 • nhheaf.org • collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



Free SAT Prep with Khan Academy



- Khan Academy is designed to engage students in **30 minutes of productive practice on a daily basis.**
- All questions in the Khan platform **meet SAT test specifications.**
- Each question will provide step by-step **answer explanations.**

Studying for the SAT makes a difference!

a 2016 study by College Board found that studying for the SAT for **20 hours through Khan Academy** is associated with an **average score gain of 115 points**, nearly double the gain for students who do not use Khan Academy.

Link SAT Scores to Khan Academy

Step 1: Log in OR create a Khan Academy Account and click **START PRACTICING**

Step 2: You can now choose **“Sign in to Collegeboard.org”**

Step 3: You will be prompted to sign in to your Collegeboard account

Step 4: When prompted; hit **“Send”** to authorize the account linking

Step 5: Start practicing

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy 'SAT Practice' dashboard. The 'Sign in to CollegeBoard.org' button is highlighted with a yellow circle. An overlaid 'Request for Approval' dialog box contains the following text:

Request for Approval

Khan Academy is requesting permission for the following:

Press **“Send”** below to give College Board permission to send your test results to Khan Academy so that Khan Academy can personalize your practice recommendations based on how you did. And once you're registered for the SAT, College Board will also send Khan Academy your upcoming test date so they can update your practice schedule. You can remove permission at any time.

Logged in as **SOA1693**

CollegeBoard

Don't Send **Send**

Dashboard

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy SAT Practice dashboard for user 'angela casto'. At the top, there are navigation options: 'Subjects', 'Search', and 'KHANACADEMY'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Official SAT® Practice', 'Dashboard' (highlighted), 'Practice', 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests', and 'Review'. A partnership logo for 'CollegeBoard' is also visible.

The main content area features a large blue banner with an envelope icon containing a certificate with a gold seal. The text reads: 'COLLEGE ADMISSIONS Learn more about college admissions. Learn more about the application process, paying for college, campus visits, and more by checking out our college admissions content.' Below this is a button 'Go to college admissions content' and a link 'Or choose a schedule for your next exam'.

Below the banner are several informational boxes:

- Sign In to CollegeBoard.org:** A box explaining that previous SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9 results will be used for personalized practice recommendations. It includes a button 'Sign In to CollegeBoard.org'.
- Test scores:** A box with a 'View Full Tests' link. Text: 'Your test scores will appear here once you [complete your first practice test](#) or import a real exam from [CollegeBoard.org](#).'
- Current skill levels:** A box with a 'What are skill levels?' link. It shows two categories: 'Math' (light blue) and 'Reading & Writing' (purple). Text: 'To set your current skill levels, complete your [diagnostic quizzes](#), take a [full test](#), or [link](#) your SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9 results.'
- Frequently asked questions:** A box with text: 'Do you have a [problem](#) or a [sweet idea](#)? Check out our [frequently asked questions](#) first.'

At the bottom of the dashboard, there is a link 'Learn more about college admissions' and a button 'Go to college admissions content'.


Practice

Dashboard Practice Tips and Strategies Full Tests Review In part


Answer 20 questions 0 of 20 questions answered


MATH READING & WRITING ESSAY


Complete these 4 quizzes to unlock your personalized Math practice



DIAGNOSTIC QUIZ
Take this quiz

Quiz 1 — Math (No Calculator)

 Quiz 1 — Math (No Calculator)

 Quiz 2 — Math (No Calculator)





 Quiz 3 — Math (Calculator OK)

 Quiz 4 — Math (Calculator OK)

Do you have a [problem](#) or a [sweet idea](#)? Check out our [frequently asked questions](#) first.

Or choose from the full list of Math practice and videos

Heart of algebra
 These skills focus on linear equations, their graphs, and their applications.

	Practice	HOW-TO EXAMPLES
 Solving linear equations and linear inequalities	<input type="button" value="Practice"/>	<input type="button" value="Basic example"/> <input type="button" value="Harder example"/>
 Interpreting linear functions	<input type="button" value="Practice"/>	<input type="button" value="Basic example"/> <input type="button" value="Harder example"/>
 Linear equation word problems	<input type="button" value="Practice"/>	<input type="button" value="Basic example"/>
 Linear Inequality word problems	<input type="button" value="Practice"/>	<input type="button" value="Basic example"/> <input type="button" value="Harder example"/>

Tips & Strategies

KHANACADEMY angela castong

SAT Time Management, Part 1: The Two Passes Strategy

If you have trouble finishing sections on the SAT in the time allowed, you're not alone! Here's a strategy that many students find helpful in managing their time on Test Day.

[Share to Google Classroom](#)
[Share](#)
[Tweet](#)
[Email](#)

What Is the Two Passes Strategy?

The **Two Passes Strategy** is a method you can use to structure your time strategically while working through a group of questions. It can help to ensure that you don't run out of time before you have had the chance to work on the questions that are easier for you.

Pass One: Pick the lowest-hanging fruit

Go through each group of questions once fairly quickly to answer the questions that are easiest for you. Attempt only those questions that you immediately know how to approach and solve.

- **Reading Test:** If you are finding the first paragraph of a passage difficult to understand, consider skipping the entire passage and coming back to it later if time allows. This is called "*prioritizing the passages.*" Within a set of questions about a passage, skip the hardest questions until you have had a chance to grasp as much of the passage as possible. By the time you

About the SAT Reading Test

- The SAT Reading Test: What to expect
- Introduction to the SAT Reading test
- The SAT Reading Test: Overview
- SAT Reading Test: content areas
- The SAT Reading Test: Information and Ideas
- The SAT Reading Test: Rhetoric
- The SAT Reading Test: Synthesis
- Reading Test Strategies
- Active Reading Strategies Part 1: SQ3R
- Active Reading Strategies Part 2: Rephrase and Predict
- SAT Reading Test Tips Share Space
- About the SAT Writing and Language Test
- The SAT Writing and Language Test: What to expect
- Introduction to the SAT Writing & Language test
- The SAT Writing and Language Test: Overview

Full Tests

Official SAT® Practice Dashboard Practice Tips and Strategies **Full Tests** Review In partnership with CollegeBoard

Tests

- Practice test 1
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 2
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 3
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 4
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 5
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 6
0 of 4 sections complete
- Practice test 7
0 of 4 sections complete

Start Practice test 1 After completing a section, you can stop or review

65 min Reading 52 questions [Start this section](#)

35 min Writing and Language 44 questions
🔒 Complete previous sections to unlock

25 min Math (No calculator) 20 questions
🔒 Complete previous sections to unlock

55 min Math (Calculator OK) 38 questions
🔒 Complete previous sections to unlock

These practice tests were written by the College Board and provided exclusively to Khan Academy.

If you would like to take these tests on paper instead of online, you can [download the PDF versions of the practice tests and print them](#). You can also [download](#)



There's an "App" for That

Daily Practice for the New SAT

Warning: Reading further will eliminate any excuse not to practice for the SAT.



- Question of the Day
- Use to score practice tests.
 - Print out a bubble sheet
 - Take a real practice test (time yourself for even better practice)
 - Scan your bubble sheet and get it scored instantly

Should I Take a Course?

- Check YOUR high school first – possibly fee
- Local night school programs – minimal cost
- Sylvan Learning Center – \$795 - \$1290;
also offers an online class
- Private tutors - \$1,000 - \$9,000
- Online courses - \$80 - \$900

Questions?

www.nhheaf.org

Center for College Planning

1.888.7.GRADUATE X119

collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

