



College Admission Tests



What you
need to know!



Sylvan Learning Center
Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Los Altos,
Mountain View and Sunnyvale

Phone (650) 472-2505

Email: contact@sylvanmv.com

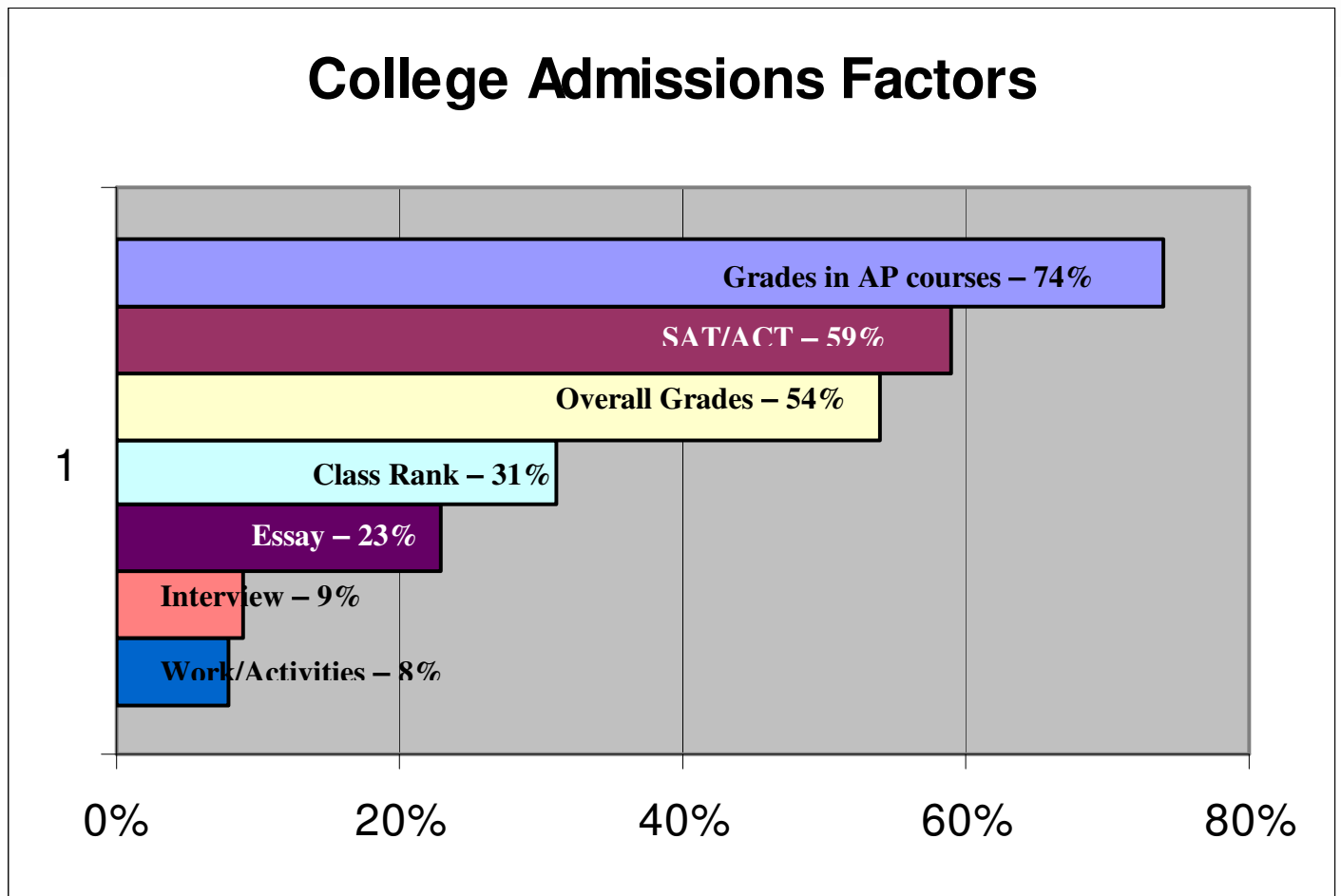
Website: www.sylvanmv.com

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Major Factors in the Admissions Decisions of Colleges:



*NACAC 2005 survey of college admissions officers as stated in *State of College Admissions 2006*

The reason SAT/ACT scores are important to a student is that they are one of the only ways you can significantly impact your application in a short period of time. It is tough to boost your class rank and 3 years of grades. Course selection is typically already made. The application essay is another significant factor that can quickly enhance your application.

Sylvan College Prep Service

College Planning & Consulting

Step One: start college planning.

Parents and students will meet Sylvan college consultants to discuss potential college choices and start to develop a draft college plan.

Step Two: conduct skills assessments.

Sylvan can conduct a complete skills assessment including, reading, writing, math, study skills and SAT subjects.

Step Three: create an action plan.

Sylvan will create a detailed high school action plan for students based on students' skills assessments, school grades, extra-curricular activities, interests...

Step Four: monthly meetings.

Sylvan Directors will meet parents and students monthly to discuss student progress and make plan adjustments.

Tutoring Services:

- SAT Test Prep – 30 hours
- Speed Reading – Increase reading speed and comprehension
- Speed Writing – train students writing 30 minutes essays quickly
- Reading / Writing / Math tutoring
- Vocabulary Program
- AP course tutoring, such as, Calculus, Physics, Spanish...
- College Application Essay
- Homework help
- Study Skills

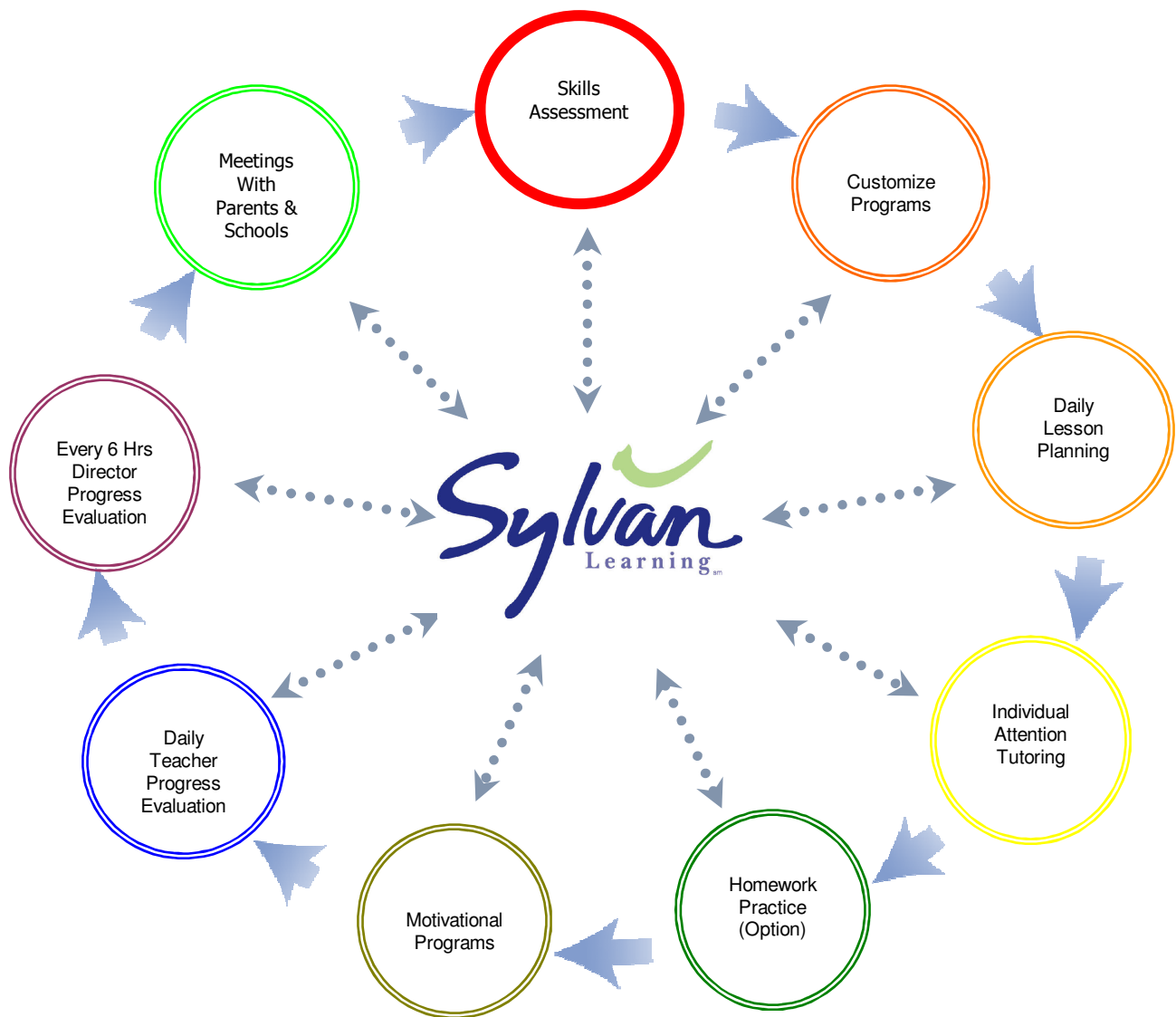
Sylvan College Prep Advantage

- Quick progress with customized tutoring programs.
- Highly qualified teachers. We have a strict teacher hiring and training process.
- Rich programs with proven results for over 30 years.
- Flexible schedules. Students can make their own schedules.

Sylvan Advantage

Sylvan is more than tutoring. We design and customize a complete educational program for each student based on their strengths & weaknesses, learning style, scheduling availability and family budget.

We guarantee students improve one grade level after first 36 hours tutoring.



Sylvan College Planning Tracking

Dream College & Major _____

Advanced Placement

Subjects	Score	Subjects	Score

SAT I Tests & Scores

	Math	Verbal	Writing	Total	Note
PSAT					
SAT #1					
SAT #2					
SAT #3					
SAT #4					
SAT #5					

SAT II Subject Tests

Subjects	Score	Subjects	Score

ACT Tests and Scores

	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite	Essay
Plan						
ACT #1						
ACT #2						

High School Courses and Grades

Subjects									
	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
9th Grade									
10th Grade									
11th Grade									
12th Grade									

High School Class Rank and GPA

Class Rank		GPA	
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Extra-curricular Activities

Activity	Years Involved	Leadership Position

Sylvan Test Results

Speed Reading

Grade Level	Words Per Minute	Comprehension Recommendation
Grade 9		
Grade 10		
Grade 11		
Grade 12		

Average Reading Speed & Comprehension

Grade Level	Words Per Minute	Comprehension Recommendation
Grade 9	190-200	90%+
Grade 10	200-210	90%+
Grade 11	210-220	90%+
Grade 12	220-230	90%+

Sylvan Academic Reading Skills Assessment

Date Taken	Percentage Correct	California Grade Level Equivalent

Sylvan Academic Writing Skills Assessment

Date Taken	Percentage Correct	California Grade Level Equivalent

Sylvan High School Math Skills Assessment

Date Taken	Percentage Correct	California Grade Level Equivalent	Math Subject

Sylvan Study Skills Assessment

Date Taken	Subject	California Grade Level Tested	Summary
	Learning Style		
	Listening Test		
	Note-Taking		
	Reference Skills		
	Listening Test		

College Comparison Worksheet

Colleges					
AP Course Expectation					
Typical SAT/ACT scores					
SAT Subject Requirement Level					
% of students in Top 10%					
Average GPA of incoming freshmen					
Extra-curricular Activities Expectation					
Interview Requirement					
Reputation (academic, social, sports)					
Desired majors?					
Location: Urban/Rural Distance from home					
Size of school					
Social aspects/campus life/Dorm appearance					
Endowment					
Scholarships / Financial Aid					
Sports (varsity and /or intramural) Programs					

College Comparison Worksheet

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Scholarships / Financial Aid					
Sports (varsity and/or intramural) Programs					

Incoming Freshmen SAT I Scores (2007)

Scores of Incoming Freshmen at Popular Schools

SCHOOL NAME	SAT Reasoning - Verbal	SAT Reasoning - Math	SAT Reasoning - Writing	ACT Composite
	Mid 50%	Mid 50%	Mid 50%	Mid 50th %
American University	590-690	580-670	580-690	25-30
Amherst College	670-770	660-760	670-760	29-34
Auburn University	500-610	520-630	NR	22-27
Barnard College	640-740	620-700	650-730	28-31
Baylor University	550-650	560-660	540-640	23-28
Boston College	610-700	630-720	620-710	28-32
Boston University	580-680	590-690	590-670	25-30
Bowdoin College	650-740	650-730	650-730	29-33
Brandeis University	630-720	650-740	NR	28-32
Brown University	660-760	670-770	660-760	28-33
Bryn Mawr College	620-730	580-690	620-720	26-30
Bucknell University	600-690	630-710	600-690	27-31
California Institute of Technology	700-780	770-800	680-770	32-35
Claremont McKenna College	640-740	650-740	NR	NR
Colby College	640-720	640-720	630-710	28-31
Colgate University	620-720	630-710	NR	29-32
College of William and Mary	630-740	620-710	620-710	27-32
Colorado College	610-700	620-690	600-700	27-31
Columbia University	660-760	670-780	650-760	28-33
Connecticut College	630-720	610-690	630-720	25-29
Cornell University	630-770	660-730	NR	28-32
Dartmouth College	660-770	670-780	660-770	29-34
Davidson College	630-730	640-710	NR	28-32
Duke University	660-750	680-790	680-780	29-34
Emory University	640-730	660-740	660-740	29-33
George Washington Univ.	600-690	600-690	600-680	26-29
Georgetown University	650-750	650-740	NR	29-33
Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges	700-800	700-790	690-790	31-35
Haverford College	650-750	640-740	650-740	NR
Indiana University	510-620	520-640	NR	23-28
Johns Hopkins University	630-730	660-770	630-730	28-33

Lehigh University	600-680	640-710	NR	NR
Lewis & Clark College	610-700	590-680	590-680	26-31
Loyola University	540-640	620-640	510-630	23-28
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	660-760	720-800	660-750	31-34
Middlebury College	650-750	650-740	650-730	29-33
New York University (NYU)	620-710	620-720	620-710	28-31
Northwestern University	670-750	680-770	660-750	30-34
Ohio State University	550-650	580-680	NR	25-29
Oberlin College	650-750	620-710	NR	27-31
Pennsylvania State Univ. (Penn State)	530-630	560-670	NR	NR
Pomona College	690-770	690-760	680-750	29-34
Princeton University	690-790	700-790	690-780	30-34
Reed College	680-760	630-710	650-730	28-32
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.	600-690	650-730	580-670	25-29
Rice University	640-750	670-780	640-730	29-34
Sarah Lawrence College	NR	NR	NR	NR
Scripps College	650-740	630-700	640-720	28-31
Smith College	590-710	560-670	590-700	25-30
Stanford University	660-760	680-790	660-760	29-33
Swarthmore College	680-780	680-760	680-760	27-33
Syracuse University	540-650	570-680	NR	24-29
Tufts University	670-750	670-740	670-740	29-32
Tulane University	600-690	590-680	600-690	27-31
United States Air Force Academy	570-650	600-690	550-650	27-31
United States Military Academy	570-680	590-680	NR	26-29
United States Naval Academy	560-660	600-690	NR	NR
University of Arizona	490-600	500-630	NR	20-26
University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)	530-650	540-660	530-650	23-29
University of California, Berkeley	590-710	620-750	590-710	NR
University of California, Davis	490-630	5540-660	500-630	NR
University of California, Irvine	510-630	560-670	520-630	NR
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	570-690	610-740	580-700	24-31
University of California, San Diego	580-700	620-730	580-700	25-31
University of Chicago	670-770	660-760	NR	28-33
University of Colorado	520-630	540-650	NR	23-28
University of Connecticut	530-630	560-660	540-640	23-28
University of Florida	560-670	580-690	NR	25-29
University of Georgia	560-660	570-660	560-640	25-29
University of Illinois	540-670	630-740	NR	26-31
University of Iowa	520-650	550-670	NR	23-27

University of Maryland	570-680	600-700	NR	NR
University of Massachusetts-Amherst	510-610	520-630	NR	NR
University of Michigan	590-690	630-730	NR	27-31
University of Minnesota	540-680	580-700	530-660	24-29
University of North Carolina (UNC)	600-700	610-700	590-690	26-31
University of Notre Dame	640-750	660-760	630-720	31-34
University of Oregon	490-610	500-610	NR	NR
University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)	650-750	680-770	660-750	29-33
University of Pittsburgh (Pitt)	570-670	580-670	NR	24-30
University of Puget Sound	570-690	550-660	560-660	25-30
University of Rochester	600-700	630-720	NR	27-31
University of Southern California (USC)	620-720	650-740	640-720	28-32
University of Texas	540-670	570-700	540-660	23-29
University of Virginia	590-700	610-720	600-710	NR
University of Washington	530-650	560-670	520-630	23-29
University of Wisconsin	560-670	620-710	560-670	26-30
Vanderbilt University	640-740	660-740	640-730	29-34
Vassar College	660-750	640-710	650-740	29-32
Wake Forest University	610-700	630-710	NR	27-31
Washington University	680-750	690-780	NR	30-33
Wellesley College	660-750	640-730	660-730	28-31
Wesleyan University	650-750	650-740	650-740	27-32
Williams College	670-760	670-760	660-760	29-33
Yale University	700-800	700-790	700-790	30-34

SAT I score ranges are from The College Board's *College Handbook 2009* and are based on the freshman class entering in the fall of 2007.

NR=School did not report scores

College SAT II Policies (2006)



SCHOOL

American University (Washington, DC)
Amherst College (Amherst, MA)
Auburn University (Auburn, AL)
Barnard College (New York, NY)
Baylor University (Waco, TX)
Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)
Boston University (Boston, MA)

Bowdoin College (Brunswick, ME)
Brandeis University (Waltham, MA)

Brown University (Providence, RI)

Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr, PA)

Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA)
California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA)
Carleton College (Northfield, MN)
Case Western Reserve Univ. (Cleveland, OH)
Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
Colby College (Waterville, ME)

Colgate University (Hamilton, NY)
College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, VA)
Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO)
Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)

Columbia University (New York, NY)
Connecticut College (New London, CT)
Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH)
Davidson College (Davidson, NC)

Duke University (Durham, NC)
Earlham College (Richmond, IN)
Emory University (Atlanta, GA)
George Washington (Washington, DC)
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges (Cambridge, MA)
Haverford College (Haverford, PA)
Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)
Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)
Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA)
Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR)
Loyola University (Chicago, IL)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA)

SAT II POLICY*

Recommended
2 subjects required; none if taking ACT with writing
Not required
2 subject tests required or ACT with writing
Not required; will offer course credit for Subject tests
Any 2 SAT Subject tests, or the ACT with writing
Most programs require 2 subject tests; most will allow ACT with writing in lieu of subject tests
Not required
2 subject tests required; none needed if taking the ACT with writing test
2 subject tests required; non if taking the ACT with writing
2 subject tests required; non if taking the ACT with writing
Not required
Math Level 2 and one science test required
Recommended
Not required
Not required
Not required
Not required; will offer course credit for Subject tests in languages
Not required
Not required
Not required
Math Subject Test any 1 other subject based on the college
2 Subject Tests required
2 Subject Tests required, none if taking the ACT
Any 2 Subject Tests required
Math (any level) and 1 other Subject Test; none if taking the ACT
3 Subject tests; none if taking the ACT
Not required
Encouraged, but not required
Not required
Any 3 Subject tests
Any 3 subjects required
Any 2 Subject Tests
Not required
Any 3 Subject Tests; none if taking the ACT
Not required
Not required
Not required
Requires 1 math and 1 science Subject Test

Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT)	Not required
New York University (New York, NY)	Any 2 Subject Tests
Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)	3 Subject Tests recommended for all applicants; required for some programs
Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH)	Not required
Pennsylvania State Univ. (University Park, PA)	Not required
Pomona College (Claremont, CA)	Any 2 subjects required, none if taking the ACT
Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)	Any 3 subjects required
Reed College (Portland, OR)	3 Subject Tests highly recommended
Rice University (Houston, TX)	2 Subject Tests required (related to area of study)
Sarah Lawrence College (Bronxville, NY)	Not required
Scripps College (Claremont, CA)	Language Subject Tests recommended (for placement purposes)
Smith College (Northampton, MA)	Recommended
Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)	Math level 2 and any other Subject Test highly recommended
Swarthmore College (Swarthmore, PA)	2 Subject Tests; none if taking the ACT with writing
Tufts University (Medford, MA)	3 subjects required (subjects vary by program)
Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)	Not required
University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)	Not required
University of California System (all UC's)	2 Subject Tests required
University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)	Not required
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)	Not required
University of Georgia (Athens, GA)	Not required
University of Illinois (Urbana, IL)	Not required
University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)	Not required
University of Maryland (College Park, MD)	Not required
University of Massachusetts- Amherst (MA)	Not required
University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)	Not required
University of Minnesota (Twin Cities, MN)	Not required
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)	Math 2 required after admission for placement; other tests can be submitted for placement
University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN)	Not required
University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)	2 Subject Tests required; none if taking the ACT with writing
University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)	Not required
University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)	Any 2 Subject Tests are highly recommended
University of Washington (Seattle, WA)	Not required
University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI)	Not required
Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)	2 Subject Tests highly recommended
Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC)	Not required
Washington University (St. Louis, MO)	Subject Tests are recommended
Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA)	2 Subject tests required
Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT)	2 Subject tests required; none if taking the ACT
Williams College (Williamstown, MA)	2 Subject Tests required
Yale University (New Haven, CT)	3 Subject tests required; none if taking the ACT with writing

**Some requirements vary by department or program and may also change from year to year. Home schooled students and graduates of unaccredited high school may face additional requirements. Information was obtained from school websites in December, 2006.*

2009-2010 SAT, PSAT, ACT Test Dates

SAT Test Dates

Test Dates	Test	Regular Registration Deadline
10-Oct-09	SAT & Subject Tests	9-Sep-09
7-Nov-09	SAT & Subject Tests	1-Oct-09
5-Dec-09	SAT & Subject Tests	30-Oct-09
23-Jan-10	SAT & Subject Tests	15-Dec-09
13-Mar-10	SAT only	4-Feb-10
1-May-10	SAT & Subject Tests	25-Mar-10
5-Jun-10	SAT & Subject Tests	29-Apr-10

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2009*	7-Aug-09	August 8 – 21, 2009
24-Oct-09	18-Sep-09	September 19 – October 2, 2009
12-Dec-09	6-Nov-09	November 7 – 20, 2009
February 6, 2010**	5-Jan-10	January 6 – 15, 2010
10-Apr-10	5-Mar-10	March 6 – 19, 2010
12-Jun-10	7-May-10	May 8 – 21, 2010

Call Sylvan Learning Center if you have any additional questions concerning college admissions testing or would like to request a free diagnostic test and computer analysis for the SAT Reasoning Test, PSAT, or ACT.

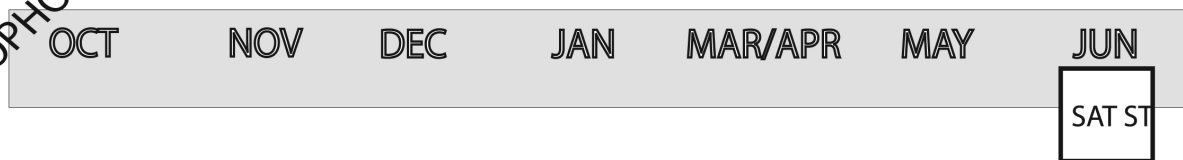
Phone (650) 472-2505

Email: contact@sylvanmv.com

Website: www.sylvanmv.com

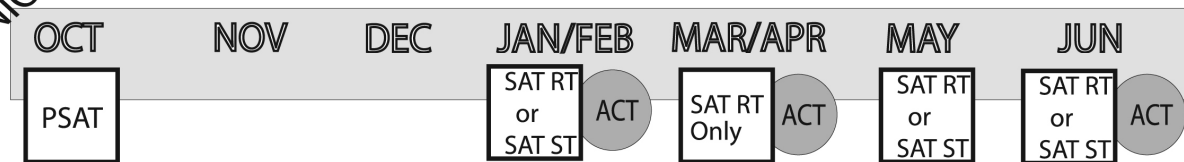
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST TIMELINE

SOPHOMORE



You should take your first SAT Subject Tests in June of your sophomore year. Since you may already be studying for finals in subjects like biology or history, this is an excellent opportunity to try the SAT ST's in the same subjects. By signing up for SAT ST Score Choice, you control which scores are sent to colleges, so you won't have to worry about a "bad" SAT ST performance appearing on your record.

JUNIOR

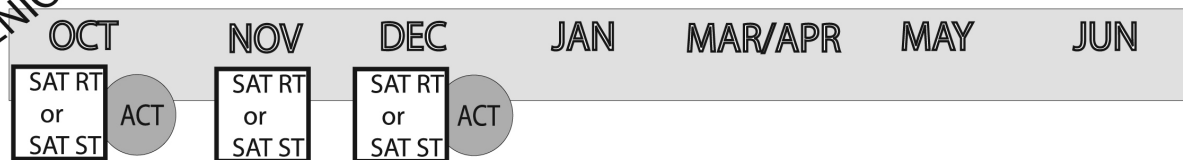


You will take your PSAT in the fall of your junior year. Your PSAT score will indicate how you would do on an SAT without further preparation. It will also help you identify any weak areas that you may want to improve before you take your first SAT.

By the spring of your junior year you should have taken at least one SAT RT and anywhere from one to three SAT ST's. It is advisable to take your first SAT I as early as Jan, so you can take your second one by May. This will leave June open for your SAT ST's.

Most colleges will accept either an SAT RT or an ACT score. Therefore, it is advantageous to take both the SAT RT and the ACT, since you may do better on one test than on the other.

SENIOR



It is advisable to take the SAT's more than once, since most colleges will simply use your highest scores in their evaluation process. The fall of your senior year is an ideal time to take your final SAT RT and any SAT ST's that you may still need to complete your applications.

* SAT RT = SAT Reasoning Test
SAT ST = SAT Subject Test

AP Courses Calendar & Fees



The fee for each exam is \$86.

The AP experience really begins a whole year before then. Here are some checkpoints based on a traditional school year.

Course Calendar

Spring before starting an AP course	Well ahead of time, you need to start thinking about what AP courses you might want to take. Learn more about the AP Program on this Web site. Discuss your AP plans with your parents, teachers, and AP Coordinator.
Summer	Some AP teachers require that you complete work (like summer reading) during the summer months to prepare for their course. For example, for AP English you may be given a reading list. Make sure you complete these assignments, so that you're up to speed when the class begins.
January	Talk to your AP teachers and/or AP Coordinator about taking the exams. Contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinator at your school if you will need testing accommodations.
19-Feb-10	Deadline for submitting complete disability documentation for students with disabilities whose SSD Eligibility Forms require Documentation Review.
1-Mar-10	Deadline for homeschooled students and students whose schools do not offer AP to contact AP Services for a list of local AP Coordinators at whose schools they could arrange to test.
5-Mar-10	Deadline for submitting complete student Eligibility Forms for students with disabilities using the School Verification Process.
15-Mar-10	Deadline for homeschooled students and students whose schools do not offer AP to contact AP Coordinators identified by AP Services.
May 3-7 and May 10-14, 2010	Exam dates
May 19-21, 2010	Late-testing dates
15-Jun-10	Deadline for receipt of requests for score withholding, score cancellation, or a change in college score report recipient.
Early-Mid July	AP Score Reports released to designated colleges, students, and their high schools.
1-Jul-10	Scores by Phone available for current year's administration.
September	Scholar Award and International Diploma notifications sent to schools and students.
15-Sep-10	Deadline for ordering free-response booklets.
31-Oct-10	Deadline for requesting Multiple-Choice Rescore Service

2010 Exam Calendar - Week 1

	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.	
Monday, May 3	United States Government and Politics	Comparative Government and Politics, French Language	
Tuesday, May 4	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Statistics	
Wednesday, May 5	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language and Culture	
Thursday, May 6	English Literature and Composition German Language	Japanese Language and Culture	
Friday, May 7	United States History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)	

2010 Exam Calendar - Week 2

	Morning - 8 a.m.	Afternoon - 12 p.m.	Afternoon - 2 p.m.
Monday, May 10	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 11	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Wednesday, May 12	English Language and Composition	Art History	
Thursday, May 13	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics	
Friday, May 14	Human Geography Spanish Literature	Latin: Vergil	

Reference Numbers and Web Sites

The College Board (PSAT, SAT I, SAT II)

(800) 728-7267

(609) 771-7600

(609) 882-4118 (for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired)

www.collegeboard.com

SAT Services for Students with Disabilities

(609) 771-7137

(609) 882-4118 (for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired)

Advanced Placement Program (AP)

(888)-308-0013

(609) 771-7300

(610) 882-4118 (for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired)

www.collegeboard.com/ap

American College Testing (ACT)

(319) 337-1270 -- Registration & ID Requirements

(319) 337-1510 -- Test Centers

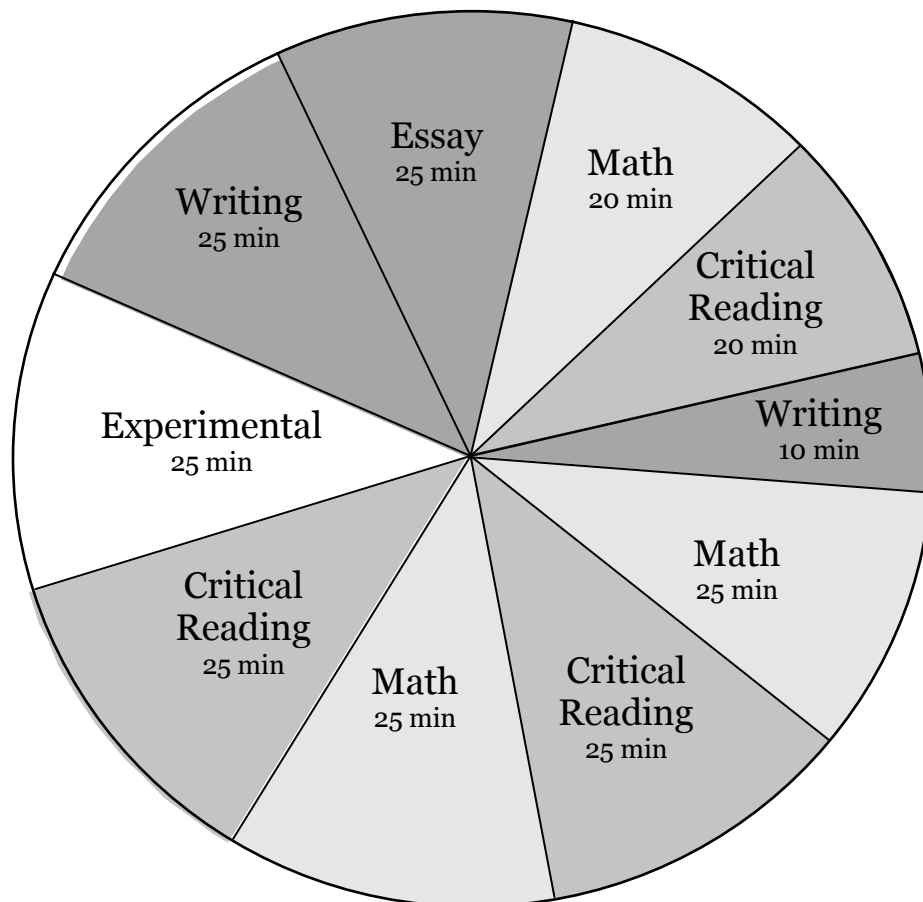
(319) 337-1313 -- Score Reports & Records

(319) 337-1332 -- Special Testing

www.act.org

SAT I -- Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test is three hours and 45 minutes (not including breaks). The test includes **ten** sections: **seven** 25-minute sections, **two** 20-minute sections, and **one** 10-minute section.



Total Testing Time: 3 hours and 45 minutes

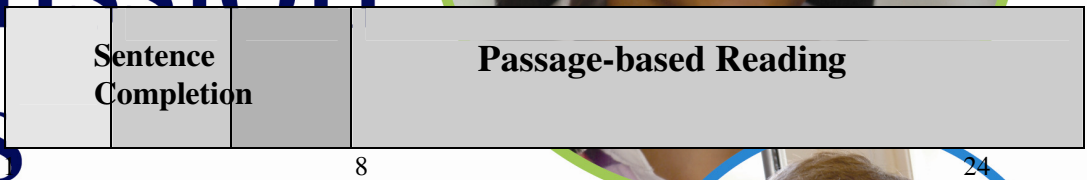


SAT Reasoning Test Critical Reading Breakdown

The Sentence Completion questions in the Critical Reading sections are presented in order of difficulty. Passage-based Reading questions are not arranged in order of difficulty. They follow a rough chronological order based upon the content of the passage and are a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions.

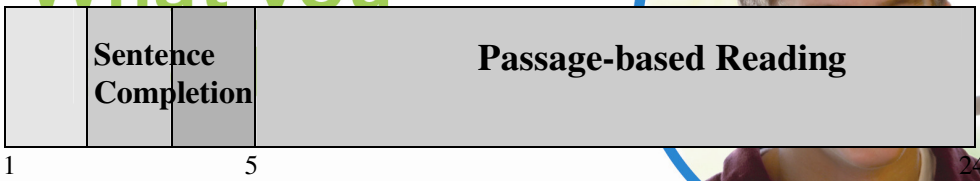
College Admission Tests

25-minute Multiple-choice Sections

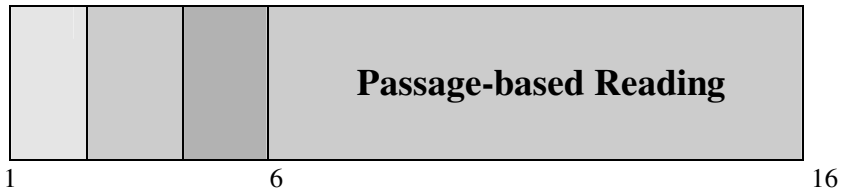


What you see

25-minute Multiple-choice Sections

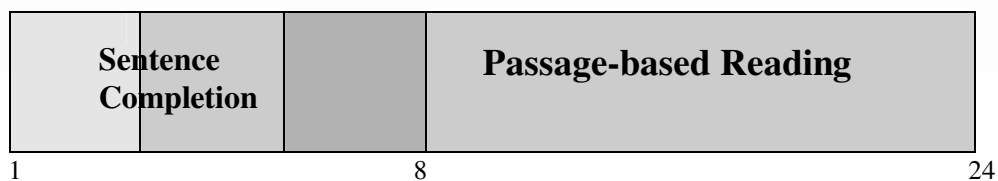


20 Minute Section

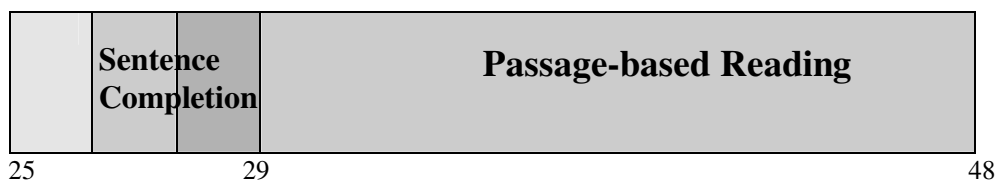


PSAT Critical Reading Breakdown

Two 25-minute Multiple-choice Sections



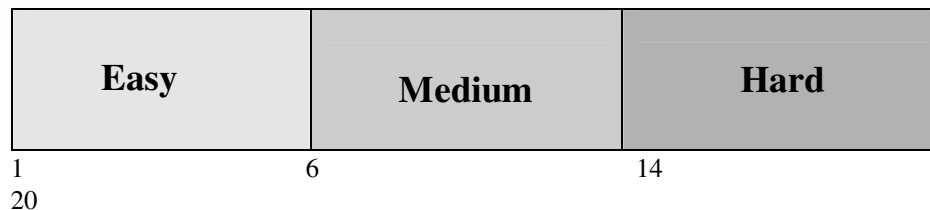
Two 25-minute Multiple-choice Sections



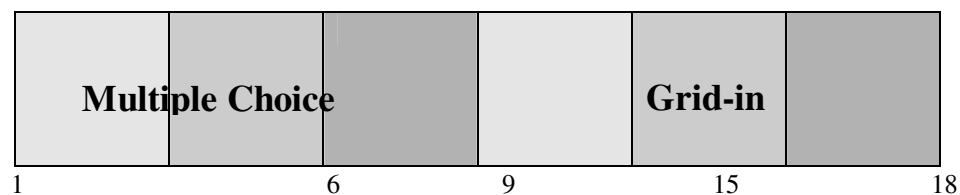
SAT I Math Breakdown

Problems within each question type on the SAT I are in approximate order of difficulty. This means, for example, that the hardest multiple choice questions come before the easiest grid-ins.

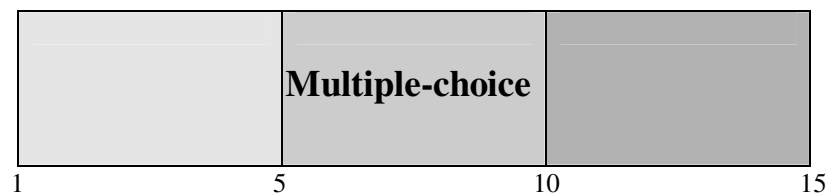
25-minute Multiple-choice Section



25-minute Multiple-choice and Grid-in

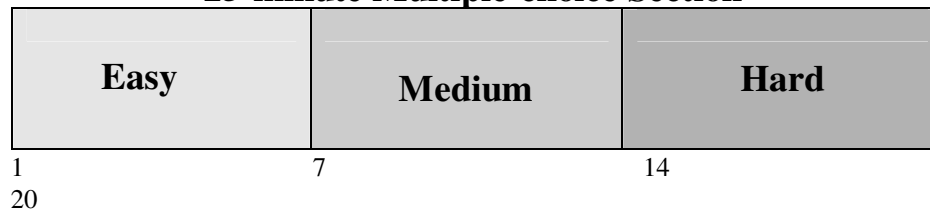


20 Minute Section

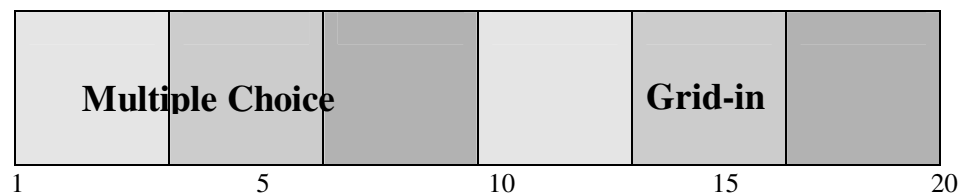


PSAT Math Breakdown

25-minute Multiple-choice Section



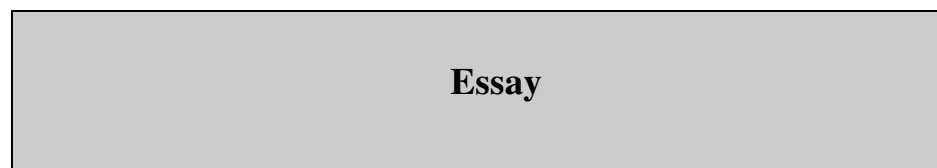
25-minute Multiple-choice and Grid-in



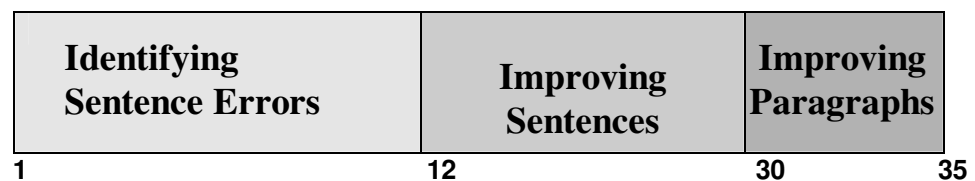
SAT I Writing Breakdown

The multiple choice questions within the Writing section are not placed in order of difficulty, but are just randomly grouped by form: Identifying Sentence Errors, Improving Sentences, and Improving Paragraphs. The Essay will always be the first section taken.

25-minute Section



25-minute Multiple-choice

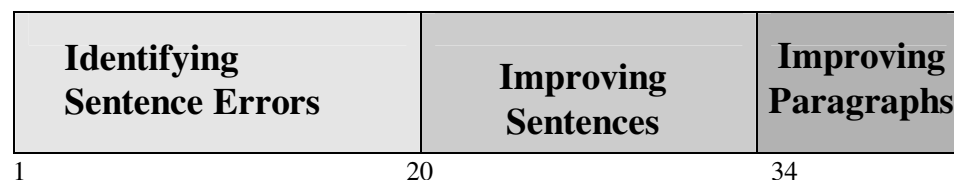


10-minute Section



PSAT Writing Breakdown

30-minute Multiple-choice



SAT Scoring and Guessing Strategies

How is the Verbal SAT scored?

- You receive one point for each correct answer.
- You lose a quarter of a point for each incorrect answer.
- Point are neither added nor subtracted when leaving a question blank.
- Once your raw score is computed, it is converted to a scaled score between 200 and 800 points.
- Scaling ensures that every SAT has the same overall degree of difficulty.

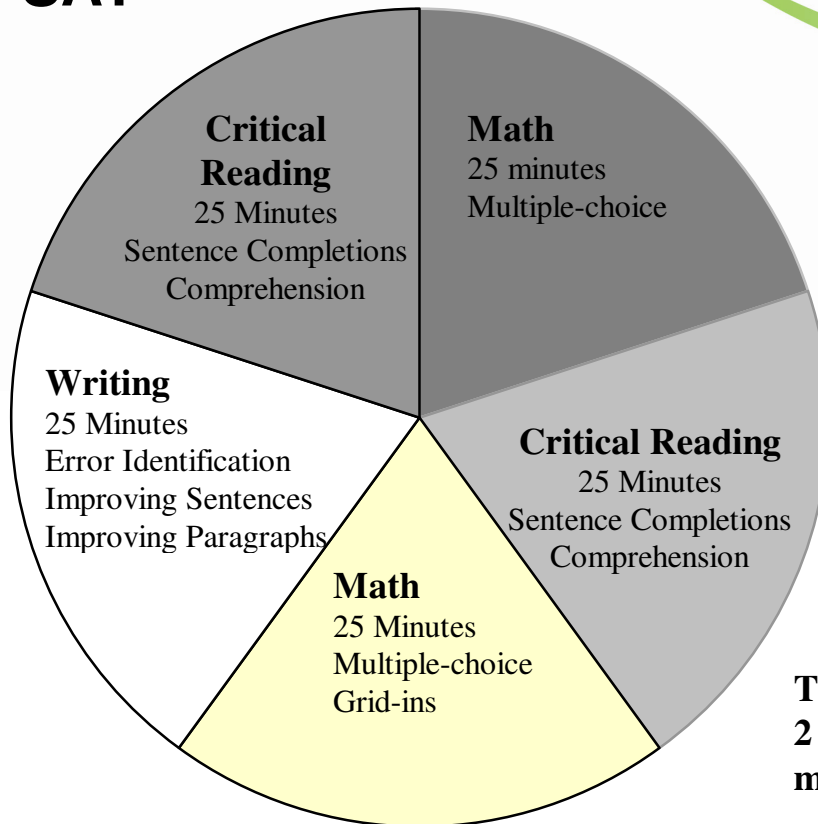
What about guessing?

By eliminating at least two incorrect answers for every question about which you are unsure, you will mathematically beat the odds of the test and raise your score.

Let's See The Math!

	LEAVING THEM BLANK 30 Questions	GUESSING RANDOMLY 30 Questions	USING PROCESS OF ELIMINATION 30 Questions
# QUESTIONS CORRECT	0	6	10
# QUESTIONS INCORRECT	0	24	20
POSITIVE RAW POINTS	0	6	10
NEGATIVE RAW POINTS	0	6	5
TOTAL RAW POINTS	0	0	5
TOTAL SCALED POINTS	0	0	30-50

The PSAT



Structure and Content

The PSAT includes five sections. The two 25-minute critical reading sections and two 25-minute math sections contain the same question types as the *New SAT I*. These sections measure critical reading, verbal reasoning, and math problem-solving skills.

The Writing Skills Section

The 25-minute writing skills section is designed to measure a student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning. PSAT writing skills questions are in multiple choice formats, and are the same type of questions that will be found on the *New SAT I* in March 2005. Unlike the *New SAT I* test, however, students are NOT required to write an essay for the PSAT.

Scoring and the National Merit Selection Index

The math, critical reading, and writing sections of the PSAT are scored separately, with each score ranging between 20 (lowest) and 80 (highest). The Selection Index used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation is the sum of these three scores. For example, a student who scores 60 in math, 52 in verbal, and 48 in writing would receive a National Merit Selection Index of $60 + 52 + 48 = 160$.

Test Dates

The PSAT is only given on *either* a Wednesday or a Saturday in the middle of October. Please check with your high school for your specific PSAT test date.

The SAT Critical Reading: What is it Really Testing?

Critical Reading: For the most part, Critical Reading passages are long, boring, and dense. They are typically not like any other reading to which you are accustomed. The most effective method for improving your Critical Reading score is as much practice and familiarization as possible on SAT-like passages and questions.

Excerpt: The pamphlet, plainly, is neither the statement of abstract doctrine nor mere prediction that industrial disturbances and revolutionary mass strikes will result spontaneously in inevitable evolution in the economic system. It advocates and urges, in fervent language, mass action which shall progressively cause industrial disturbances and through political mass strikes and revolutionary mass action overthrow and destroy organized government...

Sentence Completions: Simply put, the more SAT-type vocabulary words you learn, the more questions you'll get correct. However, by using process of elimination, you can get some difficult vocabulary questions correct without even knowing some of the words.

Example: Mother Theresa led an essentially ---- life; one devoted entirely to helping t
sick and ---- the condition of the poor.

- (A) beneficent..exploiting
- (B) neglectful..convalescing
- (C) deceitful..obfuscating
- (D) philanthropic.. aggravating
- (E) altruistic..ameliorating

The SAT Writing: What is it Really Testing?

IMPROVING SENTENCES

This type of question tests your ability to correct sentences that contain grammatical mistakes and to choose the most effective and grammatically proper way of expressing the idea presented.

EXAMPLE

My final paper, which focuses primarily on the birds of the dry desert region of the western United States, lacking clarity of ideas and consistency of voice, surely to receive a grade of “C” or lower.

- A) lacking clarity of ideas and consistency of voice, surely to receive a grade of “C” or lower
- B) lacking clarity of ideas and consistency of voice, receiving a grade of “C” or lower.
- C) lacks clear ideas and consistency of voice, and will only receive a “C”
- D) lacks clarity of ideas and consistency of voice, and is sure to receive a grade of “C” or lower
- E) lacking ideas and voice, surely to receive a low grade

The Essay: What They're Looking For

The first step in doing well on the Essay section is to know what the scorers are looking for. Essay graders read “holistically,” meaning that they will judge an essay on the immediate and overall impression that the essay makes.

Take a Strong Point of View

The important thing to remember is that you must find an angle and take a strong position on the assigned topic. **The best way to quickly improve your score is to take a strong point of view.**

Read the prompt and assignment below.

Example

“The man who most vividly realizes a difficulty is the man most likely to overcome it.”

Is it more beneficial to be aware of one’s problems, or are we better off not knowing the difficulties facing us? In an essay, support your position using an example (or examples) from literature, the arts, history, current events, politics, science and technology, or your experience and observation.

Tips

- Grammar mistakes and spelling mistakes will not be held against you, unless there are so many that it really interferes with your message.
- Do not worry as much about the conclusion as the introduction. The readers know there is a time crunch and will not mark down if there is no conclusion.
- It is better to have 2 well-developed ideas than 3 weakly supported ideas. Do not worry as much about structure as content.

The SAT Math: What is it Really Testing?

Math Topics on the SAT

The SAT tests basic math concepts. There will not be any questions involving logarithms, trigonometry, or calculus. Arithmetic, applied arithmetic concepts such as averages and rates, elementary algebra, and basic geometry are all tested on the SAT.

There is little difficult math on the SAT, but the test itself can be difficult.

If you are getting lost in complicated formulas or bogged down with computations, look for a simpler approach. The problems may be difficult, but the math shouldn't be.

25. Jim has a stack of cards numbered with consecutive integers from 1 to 25, inclusive. Nancy has a set of cards numbered from 26 to 50, inclusive. The sum of Nancy's cards is how much greater than the sum of Jim's cards?
- (A) 25
 - (B) 26
 - (C) 500
 - (D) 525
 - (E) 625

Math Guessing Strategies

Using test awareness to avoid math traps

One way that knowledge of the test's structure can come in handy is by helping students avoid "trap-door" answers. **Hard problems have hard answers.** If an answer pops into your head immediately on a difficult problem, then you are vulnerable to a trap-door answer. Trap-doors are answers that seem right to students who have not fully solved the problem. Hard problems are classified as hard because many students missed them on previous tests -- it's unlikely that the obvious answer is the correct answer. Be careful.

Use the structure of the test to your advantage:

- Never leave an easy question blank
- Skip hard problems to work on easier questions
- Avoid "Trap-Door" on the most difficult problems. Answers that seem obvious are probably wrong

25. What is the maximum number of points that a triangle and circle can share?
- (A) 2
 - (B) 3
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 5
 - (E) 6

SAT II -- Subject Tests

- ◆ In contrast to the SAT Reasoning Test which is meant to test your reasoning skills, the SAT Subject Tests are designed to measure your knowledge in specific areas. (In May of 1994 the Achievement tests were renamed the SAT II: Subject Tests.)
- ◆ Only the most competitive colleges require SAT Subject tests. Some colleges require specific SAT Subject tests, while other colleges allow you to choose your strongest areas. Colleges that require the SAT Subject Tests generally require three subject areas.
- ◆ All of the SAT Subject tests are one hour long.
- ◆ You cannot take both the SAT Subject tests and the SAT Reasoning test on the same test date. You may take up to three SAT Subject Tests on the same test date.
- ◆ It is often best to take the test(s) as close as possible to the completion of the associated academic course. For example, if you are enrolled in a biology class in the spring, you should take the SAT Biology Test in June when you are finishing the course and studying for finals.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

<p><u>Mathematics</u> Math Level I Math Level II</p> <p><u>Science</u> Biology E/M Chemistry Physics</p> <p><u>History</u> U.S. History World History**</p>	<p>The Literature Test</p> <p><u>Foreign Language</u> French French with listening component* Spanish Spanish with listening component* German* German with listening component* Italian* Latin** Modern Hebrew* Korean with listening component* Japanese with listening component* Chinese with listening component*</p>
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* This test is only given on one date during the year.

** This test is only given on two dates during the year.

Comparing the Math on the SAT Reasoning Test to the SAT Subject Tests

Math

Content	<u>SAT Reasoning Test</u>	<u>SAT Subject Tests</u>	
		Math Level I	Math Level II
	Arithmetic	Same as SAT I but with	Same as Math Level I but with
	Applied Arithmetic	additional topics:	additional topics:
	Elementary Algebra	Imaginary Numbers	Advanced Functions
	Algebra II	Absolute Value	Factorials
	Basic Geometry	Logarithms	Synthetic Division
		Inverse Functions	Inverse Trig Functions
		Trigonometry	Graphing Trig Functions
		Intercepts	Polar Coordinates
		Quadratic Formulas	Conic Sections

Due to the fact that the SAT Reasoning has added some higher-level math, some schools have changed their SAT Subject Test Math policies to only accepting Math Level II. Always check with the admissions department of the schools to which you are interested in applying to find out their exact policy.

The SAT Subject Tests: Comparing Math Level I and Math Level II

Math Level I versus Math Level II

A question that comes up frequently is which Math SAT II a student should take. The tests are scaled so that, in theory, scores on the two exams represent similar levels of achievement. In reality, unless a student has finished (or mostly finished) an Algebra II level math course with a B average or better, he or she is probably better suited for the Math Level I. Most students applying to math or engineering programs should take the Math Level II.

Percentage Breakdown of the SAT Subject Math Tests		
TOPIC	MATH Level I	MATH Level II
Algebra	30	18
Plane Geometry	20	0
Solid Geometry	12	12
Coordinate Geometry	6	8
Trigonometry	8	20
Functions	12	24
Statistics/Probability	6	6
Miscellaneous	6	12

Geometry: The Math LEVEL II does not directly test plane geometry. Instead, it emphasizes coordinate geometry, transformations, and three-dimensional geometry.

Trigonometry: Almost all of the trig on the Math Level I relates to SOHCAHTOA or $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$. Students taking the Math Level II will be expected to show more in-depth knowledge of the properties and graphs of trig functions, inverse trig functions, trig equations and identities, and the laws of sines and cosines.

Functions: Whereas the Math Level I concerns itself mainly with algebraic functions, both logarithmic and exponential functions appear on the Math LEVEL II.

Statistics: Math Level I statistics coverage is similar to the SAT I -- mean, median, mode, counting, and basic probability. The Math Level II gets more into combinations, permutations, and standard deviation.

Timing

Most students scoring below 700 will have a difficult time finishing all 50 questions in one hour. Students need to learn to figure out which questions to attempt and, perhaps most important, when to cut their losses. Some difficult SAT II problems can easily consume 5 or more minutes if students don't find an easy solution. That kind of time loss can dramatically lower a student's score.

Calculator

Scientific calculators are NECESSARY on the SAT II.

ACT

The ACT assessment is a three-hour multiple-choice examination designed to measure academic achievement in four major curriculum areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The ACT is divided into four tests which are always given in the following order: English, Math, Reading, and Science. With breaks, the test will last about three and a half hours.

The 4 Tests	Number of Questions	Time Limit
English	75	45 minutes
Math	60	60 minutes
Reading	40	35 minutes
Science	40	35 minutes
Writing (Optional)	Essay	30 minutes
TOTALS:	215	2:55 – 3:25

On certain test dates, the ACT will consist of an additional fifth test which consists of questions that are being tried out for possible use on future ACTs. This fifth section is used for experimental reasons only, and will affect the student’s score.

The ACT & SAT I Compared

	ACT	SAT I
Content Covered:	Grammar Reading Comprehension Math through Trigonometry Science Reasoning Writing (optional)	Vocabulary Reading Comprehension Math through Geometry Writing
Scoring Method:	Scores based upon the total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.) English, Math, Reading, and Science scores converted to scaled scores between 1-36, with an average of all subtests being between 1-36. Optional Writing section receives independent score of 2-12.	Scores based upon the total number of correct answers minus a guessing penalty for incorrect answers. Math, Reading, and Writing raw scores converted to scaled scores between 200-800, with a combined score of up to 2400.
Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculators allowed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> “Score Choice” (Choice of which test date to send)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculators allowed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Score Choice as of March 2009

Concordance Between ACT Composite Score and SAT Math and Critical Reading

SAT CR+M (Score Range)	ACT Composite Score	SAT CR+M (Single Score)
1600	36	1600
1540–1590	35	1560
1490–1530	34	1510
1440–1480	33	1460
1400–1430	32	1420
1360–1390	31	1380
1330–1350	30	1340
1290–1320	29	1300
1250–1280	28	1260
1210–1240	27	1220
1170–1200	26	1190
1130–1160	25	1150
1090–1120	24	1110
1050–1080	23	1070
1020–1040	22	1030
980–1010	21	990
940–970	20	950
900–930	19	910
860–890	18	870
820–850	17	830
770–810	16	790
720–760	15	740
670–710	14	690
620–660	13	640
560–610	12	590
510–550	11	530

Source: ACT.org. Created in partnership between ACT and College Board using data for over 300,000 students.

Freshman / Sophomore / Junior / Senior Checklist

Freshman Year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with Guidance Counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college tracking courses
- Establish goals for the year, including;
 - academic
 - social
 - extra-curricular
 - outside school
 - new interests
 - “mastering” existing interests
- Emphasize strengthening Language Arts and Algebra I-II success
- Prioritize how you want to become involved in the school (clubs, student council, sports, music, etc.)
- Volunteer for local activities to become a part of your community
- Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area to begin learning the process

Winter/Spring

- Keep focused on doing well in classes and seek extra help when needed
- Meet with Guidance Counselor to select courses and to establish goals for Sophomore year
- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed (if applicable)
- Create broad college search plan and list
- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed (if applicable)
- Establish summer plan including;
 - a summer enrichment program at a local college
 - a paying job
 - an internship or apprenticeship
- Talk with parents on college goals and funding options, including;
 - assessing assets and savings
 - 529 plans
 - research loans, grants and scholarships

Sophomore Year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with Guidance Counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college tracking courses
- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed
- Establish goals for the year, including;
 - academic
 - social
 - extra-curricular
 - outside school
 - new interests
 - “mastering” existing interests
- Continue to re-evaluate your engagement in school activities
- Consider taking the PSAT in October for practice
- Prepare/practice for the PSAT
- Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area and become more specific on likes/dislikes of certain colleges
- Talk to friends, relatives, etc. who are in college and ask them about their experiences. Be sure to ask about both positive and negative aspects of their school

Winter/Spring

- Keep focused on doing well in classes and seek extra help when needed
- Expand your extra-curricular activities or focus more on areas of interest
- Meet with Guidance Counselor to select courses and to establish goals for Junior year
- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed (if applicable)
- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed (if applicable)
- Establish summer plan including;
 - a summer enrichment program at a local college
 - a paying job
 - an internship or apprenticeship
- More aggressively research scholarship opportunities and re-evaluate college and college financing options
 - learn EFC
 - perform need/merit based eligibility analysis
- Create a more focused target college list
- Plan spring break or summer visits to local colleges to experience the different types of college settings. Note your preferences for campus size and location.

Junior Year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with Guidance Counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college tracking courses
- Establish goals for the year, including;
 - academic
 - social
 - extra-curricular
 - outside school
 - new interests
 - “mastering” existing interests
- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed
- Take a leadership role within your sports teams, clubs, or volunteer organization
- Consider hiring a college coach or advisor
- Register to take the PSAT/PLAN/NMSQT offered in October
- Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area
- Analyze what you want in a college by answering the following questions;
 - Do I prefer a small, medium, or large school?
 - Do I prefer an urban, suburban, or rural campus?
 - How far from home? How often do I want to be able to visit home?
 - What am I looking for in a student body?
 - Is graduate school part of my plan?
 - Do I want a school with a widely recognized name? Or a “hidden gem”?
 - Are there rigorous admission requirements (test scores, GPA, class rank, etc.)?
 - What academic programs do I want to pursue? Does the school offer the programs?
 - What special programs are important (language, science, music, etc.)?
 - How important are the social aspects of the college (Greek, community service, organizations, sports, etc.)?
 - What kind of financial aid/assistance is provided?
- Create a more targeted list of schools that meet the criteria established by your requirements.

Winter/Spring

- Keep focused on doing well in courses and seek extra help when needed
- Prepare to take the SAT or ACT by reviewing the test components and taking a practice tests or choose to study via SAT/ACT prep books, online courses, or to enroll in a SAT/ACT prep course
- In Jan/Feb register for the SAT or ACT March-May test dates
- Meet with Guidance Counselor to select courses and to establish goals for Senior year
- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed (if applicable)
- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed (if applicable)
- Plan Spring/Summer visits to colleges that are high on your interest list. Schedule tours of the campus and meetings with college staff who can answer your questions concerning campus life and program offerings
- Review college application format/content (individual vs. common application)
- Strategize on college essay themes
- Create a draft resume
- Establish application timeline & task list
- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help evaluate potential schools and create a list of schools to investigate in more detail
- Establish summer plan including;
 - a summer enrichment program at a local college
 - a paying job
 - an internship or apprenticeship
- Work with parents to track college financing plan
- EFC Reduction Plan
- Utilize financial calculator to establish and adjust financial plan

Senior Year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with Guidance Counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college tracking courses
- Senior year plan is set
- Create a college calendar of all admissions deadlines
- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed
- Update resume
- Take a leadership role within your sports teams, clubs, or volunteer organization
- Start applications in September
- Create personal recommendation plan in September
- Start essays in September
- Prepare to take another SAT or ACT by reviewing the test components and taking a practice test. You may also choose to study using SAT/ACT prep books, online courses, or by enrolling in a SAT/ACT prep course
- Register to take the SAT or ACT in the fall
- Attend any college fairs or college open houses in your area
- Design early action/early decision strategy (if applicable)
- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help evaluate potential schools and select the schools where you will apply
- Secure letters of recommendation in October
- Remember to send transcripts to college
- Submit early decision/early applications in November
- Mail applications as early as possible for colleges with rolling deadlines

Winter/Spring

- Have all applications submitted by December 15th
- Have parents fill out FAFSA (or CSS Profile) by March
- Compare financial aid offers from colleges
- Consider negotiating tuition options with colleges
- Keep focused on doing well in courses and seek extra help when needed
- Meet with Guidance Counselor to discuss college course options and goals for college
- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed (if applicable)
- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed (if applicable)
- Schedule an extended visit to schools where you have been accepted. Meet with students and faculty members in your program of choice
- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help you determine which school you will attend
- Before leaving for college, create a list of everything you will need and be sure you have it all

Congratulations! You are college bound!!!

College Application Checklist

APPLICATIONS

- Finalize target list of colleges to submit applications
- Request information and application - common vs. individualized, etc.
- Be clear on regular vs. early application deadline
- Organize applications by Safety - Match - Reach

GRADES

- Work with guidance counselor to secure high school transcript: ensure it is sent on time
- Request midyear grade reports to be sent

TEST SCORES

- ACT/SAT required?
- SAT subject tests required?
- Release SAT subject test scores
- Send ACT/SAT scores
- Send AP grades

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Request recommendations from teachers, personal mentors and coaches
- Send thank you notes

ESSAYS

- Write essays
- Proof essays for spelling and grammar & application instructions
- Have 3 people read/edit/advise on your essays

INTERVIEWS

- Arrange interviews at college with admissions officers and students
- Set up alumni interviews (if applicable)
- Send thank you notes to interviewers

SEND AND TRACK YOUR APPLICATION

- Make copies of all application materials and file safely
- Apply online and save in web file
- Include application fee
- Sign your application
- Confirm receipt of application materials
- Send supplemental material, if needed

FINANCIAL AID FORMS

- Be clear on priority and regular financial aid deadlines
- Mail FAFSA
- Mail PROFILE, if needed
- Mail institutional aid form, if needed
- Mail state aid form, if needed

AFTER YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION

- Receive letter from office of admissions
- Receive financial aid award letter - consider negotiating aid/tuition package
- Send deposit

Campus Visit Checklist

- Take a campus tour
- Have an interview with an admissions officer
- "Interview" students or arrange informal lunch or dinner meetings with students - ask why they chose the school or what would they improve about the school
- Pick up financial aid forms - meet with financial aid officer if possible
- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office
- Speak with a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you
- Attend a class that interests you
- Meet with coaches of sports in which you might participate
- Seek out student newspaper and other student publications - department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews and so on.
- Spend the night in a dorm
- Participate in campus social events
- Checkout bulletin boards at on-campus restaurants/cafés
- Eat at on-campus restaurant/café
- Observe the student body in their daily campus life
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus
- Ask students what they do on weekends and during winter and summer breaks
- Checkout alternative living arrangements; Greek life, off-campus housing
- If interested, attend the college's music, theater, film or other arts events
- Take a walk around the campus by yourself
- Meet with the career office
- Check out the library and other facilities (sports, music, etc.)
- Imagine yourself attending the college for four years
- Remember to send thank you notes to the appropriate contacts