

# SAT, ACT & TSI

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**BRACE YOURSELF**

**TEST SEASON IS COMING**



# SAT

- Sections
  - Reading
  - Math
  - Writing (may be optional)
- Scoring
  - Each section is worth 800 point
  - Reading + Math = Composite score
- If you like...
  - Vocabulary
  - Logical reasoning and puzzles
  - More time and complex questions

## New vs. Old

	Current SAT	New SAT (2016)
Scoring	600-2400	400-1600
Timing	3 Hours 45 Min.	3 Hours (+50 min. optional essay)
Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critical Reading: 200-800</li><li>• Math: 200-800</li><li>• Writing: 200-800</li><li>• Essay (included in writing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800</li><li>• Math: 200-800</li><li>• Optional Essay (scored separately)</li></ul>
Guessing Penalty	$\frac{1}{4}$ Guessing Penalty	No Guessing Penalty

# Subject Tests

- Please refer to your intended institution's admissions policies to determine if you need to take subject tests

# ACT

- Sections
  - Reading
  - Math
  - Social Studies
  - Science
  - Writing (may be optional)
- Scoring
  - Each section is worth 36 points
  - Composite score - Average of first 4 sections
- If you like...
  - Slightly more complex math
  - Straightforward information
  - Less time and direct questions

# Test Dates

## SAT Test Dates

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 3	September 3
November 7	October 9
December 5	November 5
January 23	December 28
March 5 (New)	February 5

## ACT Test Dates

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline
September 12	August 7
October 24	September 18
December 12	November 6
February 6	January 8
April 9	March 4

# Fee Waivers

- What they do
  - Helps low income students pay for SAT/ACT testing
  - Potentially help pay for college application fees
- Where you get them
  - Your high school counselor



# Sending Official Scores

- During the test
  - Send them to 4 schools of your choice for FREE
- After the test
  - SAT
    - <https://sat.collegeboard.org/home>
    - Fees may apply
  - ACT
    - <http://www.actstudent.org/>
    - Fees may apply

# SAT and ACT Test Prep

- The College Board – Phone App
  - SAT Question of the Day
- Khan Academy (free)
  - <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>
- Kaplan
  - <http://www.kaptest.com/>
- Princeton Review
  - <http://www.princetonreview.com/>

# Re-Testing & Super Scores

- Why re-test?
  - Improve your scores for admissions
    - And possibly placement testing exemptions
  - Improve your scores for scholarships
- Super-scoring (for participating institutions)
  - Taking the best scores from different sections of the SAT or ACT from different test dates to determine the score they will use for admissions and/or scholarships

# Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

- Placement testing for all Texas public institutions
  - Community college
  - AND 4 year institution
- Does not affect your admission decision
  - Cannot take the place of an SAT or ACT
  - Determines the need for remediation/placement courses

# TSI Exemptions

- Exemption eligibility based on
  - SAT
  - ACT
  - TAKS
  - And STARRS scores
- It IS possible to be partially exempt
- The state of Texas sets the minimum that must be achieved to take college level courses, but the school may expect higher
- **Look to your school to determine exemptions**

# How To Take The TSI?

- When
  - During your senior year
  - In the summer between high school and college
  - Prior to orientation/registration for most schools
- Where
  - Locally
    - At a community college
    - Area university
    - At your school district (if they administer the test)
    - At the institution you will be attending
  - Just be sure your scores will be released to you/your college
- **Note:** If you're taking dual credit, you many have already tested (double check before registering)

# FAQ

- Does it matter which test I take?
- Should I test early?
- If I'm top 10%...
  - Do I have to take the test?
  - Does it matter what I score?
- What if I get a lower score after retesting?