

Student Test Preparation Tools: If you're looking for some good, online test preparation resources - here are two. The Indiana Virtual Library now offers free Access to AP, SAT, ACT, GED and many other electronic test prep materials from Petersons at <http://www.petersons.com/terc/>. Also, the Army has a website called March2Success (www.march2success.com) which offers a myriad of test prep materials (students don't have to share their information with the Army).

Free ACT practice questions. This site has study tips and ACT questions with detailed answer explanations.
<http://www.actexampracticetests.com>

ACT Test Dates

Registration Deadline

August 7, 2009

Sept. 18, 2009

Nov. 6, 2009

Jan. 5, 2010

March 5, 2010

May 7, 2010

Test Date

September 12, 2009

October 24, 2009

December 12, 2009

February 6, 2010

April 10, 2010

June 12, 2010

SAT Test Dates

Registration Deadline

Sept. 9, 2009

Oct. 1, 2009

Oct. 30, 2009

Dec. 15, 2009

Feb. 4, 2010

April 29, 2010

Test Date

Oct. 10, 2009

Nov. 7, 2009

Dec. 5, 2009

Jan. 23, 2010

March 13, 2010

June 5, 2010

Why Take the ACT and SAT

Almost all four-year colleges require scores for either the ACT or the SAT. Most colleges accept scores from either test; however, to determine if a college requires or prefers the ACT or the SAT, check the college's catalog or go to their Web site. If you are hoping to get into a competitive college or program, or if you're planning to apply for a scholarship, you should take the test by the spring of your junior year. If you want to try to improve your score, you'll then have time to retake the test in the fall of your senior year. You can take the ACT and/or the SAT as many times as you want, and in most cases, colleges will use your highest scores.

How do you Sign up for the ACT and the SAT

Students can register for the ACT at www.act.org, and for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com. You can also pick up study guides and registration packets for the ACT and SAT in the Guidance Office. Since registration deadlines are about five weeks prior to each test date, you should register a couple of months before you plan to take the test.

Before the test date, you will receive a "ticket" to enter the test, along with test day instructions. Both the ACT and the SAT are given on Saturday mornings, and both tests take about four hours. You will receive your scores three to six weeks after the test date.

How is the ACT Scored?

The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Reading, Math, and Science.

Students are given a score (1-36) for each of these four tests, along with an overall Composite score. You can also choose to take the optional Writing Test.

If you take the Writing Test, you will receive an additional English/Writing score. This score will not affect your Composite score. Since there is no penalty for guessing, you should answer every question.

How is the SAT Scored?

The new SAT has three sections: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing.

Scores range from 200 to 800 for each section.

Since there is a slight penalty for guessing, if you have no idea what the answer is, leave it blank. If you can eliminate one or more answer choices, make an "educated" guess.