

SAT

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SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills you learned in school that you'll need in college. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200—800, with two writing subscores for multiple-choice and the essay. It is administered seven times a year in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories, and six times a year overseas.

For more online sample questions and preparation materials, visit the [SAT Preparation Center](#).

SAT Question Types

The SAT includes several different question types, including: a student-produced essay, multiple-choice questions, and student-produced responses (grid-ins). Select any section below to learn more about specific question types.

[Critical Reading](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Writing](#)

The Unscored Section

In addition, there is one 25-minute section that is utilized to ensure that the SAT continues to be a fair and valid test. This is a common test development practice, but don't worry—this does not count towards your score. This may be a critical reading, mathematics, or writing multiple-choice section. This unscored section is used to try out new questions for future editions of the SAT. It also ensures that scores on new editions of the SAT are comparable to scores on earlier editions of the test. This helps to ensure the fairness of the SAT, which is one of our primary objectives.

Test Order

The SAT is comprised of 10 total testing sections. The first section is always a 25-minute essay and last section is always a 10-minute multiple-choice writing section. Sections two through seven are 25-minute sections. Sections eight and nine are 20-minute sections. Test-takers sitting next to each other in the same session may have test books with entirely different content orders for sections two through nine (math, critical reading, and writing).

About the SAT Subject Tests

Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are designed to measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as your ability to apply that knowledge.

Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language. The tests are independent of any particular textbook or method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year.

Many colleges use the Subject Tests for admissions, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Used in combination with other background information (your high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a dependable measure of your academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance.

Some colleges specify the Subject Tests they require for admissions or placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take.

Subject Tests fall into five general subject areas:

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| ▪ English | ▪ Languages |
| ▪ Literature | ▪ Chinese with Listening |
| ▪ History and Social Studies | ▪ French |
| ▪ U.S. History (formerly American History and Social Studies) | ▪ French with Listening |
| ▪ World History | ▪ German |
| | ▪ German with Listening |

- **Mathematics**
- [Mathematics Level 1](#) (formerly Mathematics IC)
- [Mathematics Level 2](#) (formerly Mathematics IIC)
- **Science**
- [Biology E/M](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Spanish with Listening](#)
- [Modern Hebrew](#)
- [Italian](#)
- [Latin](#)
- [Japanese with Listening](#)
- [Korean with Listening](#)

All Subject Tests are one-hour, multiple-choice tests.

For more detailed information, including recommended preparation, anticipated skills, test format, sample questions, and more, visit the [Subject Tests Preparation Center](#).

Which Subject Tests should you take?

Before deciding which tests to take, make a list of the colleges you're considering. Then review school catalogs, [College Search Engines](#), or [College Handbooks](#) to find out whether the schools require scores for admission and, if so, how many tests and in which subjects.

Use your list of colleges and their admissions requirements to help plan your high school course schedule. You may want to adjust your schedule in light of colleges' requirements. For example, a college may require a score from a Subject Test in a language for admission, or the college might exempt you from a freshman course requirement if you do well on a language Subject Test.

Many colleges that don't require Subject Test scores will still review them since they can give a fuller picture of your academic background.

If you're not sure which Subject Test to take from a subject area, talk to your teacher or school counselor and visit the [Subject Tests Preparation Center](#).

When should you take Subject Tests?

Most students take Subject Tests toward the end of their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year.

Take tests such as World History, Biology E/M, Chemistry, or Physics as soon as possible after completing the course in the subject, while the material is still fresh in your mind. For foreign language tests, you'll do better after at least two years of study.