

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS

College entrance tests include the SAT, ACT, and SAT II Subject Tests. Since no single test satisfies the requirements for all colleges, it is important to research which specific test or combination of tests the colleges to which you may apply require for admissions consideration.

PSAT/NMSQT (description taken directly from www.collegeboard.com)

The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](http://www.nmsc.org). PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides first-hand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- critical reading skills
- math problem solving skills
- writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are:

- to receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- to help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- to receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

Students can take the PSAT as early as ninth grade, again in tenth grade, and in eleventh grade. The eleventh grade administration is the only PSAT score that can be used for National Merit consideration. The PSAT scores are not reported to colleges.

THE SAT (description taken directly from www.collegeboard.com)

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. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800, and the writing section will contain two sub scores. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. It is administered seven times a year in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories, and six times a year overseas.

SAT Question Types

Each edition of the SAT includes a [Critical Reading](#), [Math](#), and [Writing](#) section, with a specific number of questions related to content.

Test Order

The 25 minute essay will always be the first section of the SAT, and the 10 minute multiple-choice writing section will always be the final section. The remaining six 25 minute sections can appear in any order, as can the two 20 minute sections. Test takers sitting next to each other in the same testing session may have test books with entirely different sections.

Students can take the SAT in any grade, but because every score will appear on the Collegeboard testing record (which you will have to send to colleges), it is recommended that you do not take it until you are well prepared.

THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS (description taken directly from www.collegeboard.com)

Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are designed to measure students' knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as their 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. Many colleges use Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Some colleges specify the Subject Tests they require for admission or placement; others allow applicants to choose which test to take. Subject Tests fall in to give general subject areas:

English:

Literature

History and Social Studies

United States History (formerly American History and Social Studies)

World History

Mathematics

Math Level 1 (formerly Math IC)

Math Level 2 (formerly Math IIC)

Science

Biology E/M

Chemistry

Physics

Languages

French

French with Listening

German

German with Listening

Modern Hebrew

Italian

Japanese with Listening

Korean with Listening

Latin

Spanish

Spanish with Listening

