

THE SAT AND ACT EXPLAINED

BDCHS

QUESTIONS WE WILL COVER

- How do colleges select students to accept?
- What are college entrance exams?
- How does the SAT compare to the ACT?
- How does the new SAT compare to the old SAT?
- What are good SAT / ACT scores?
- Which test should I take?
- When should I test?
- How do I register and, if eligible, receive fee waivers and/or testing accommodations?
- What resources are there for preparing?

HOW COLLEGES SELECT STUDENTS TO ACCEPT

- There are a variety of factors colleges will take in to account when deciding on applicants to accept
 - Academic rigor
 - G.P.A.
 - SAT and/or ACT scores
 - Community service
 - Involvement
 - And more!
- Although colleges may say they look “at the full student”, most receive tens of thousands of applications and must sort them easily
 - Test scores and GPA are an easy way to sort students

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- Colleges will use entrance exams to determine if a student is **prepared for college** and to determine **potential**
- The SAT and ACT are the most widely recognized college entrance exams
- The ACT is an **achievement** test (testing what one has already learned), while the SAT has been known as a **cognitive** test (testing one's reasoning and thinking abilities)
- Most colleges will accept either
- The SAT was recently redesigned and is referenced as the “New SAT”

THE SAT COMPARED TO THE ACT

Features	Redesigned SAT	ACT
Sections	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (includes a Reading section and a Writing and Language section), Math, Essay (optional)	Reading, English, Math, Science, Essay (optional)
Time	3 hrs (+Essay= +50 mins)	2 hrs 55 mins (+Essay= +40 mins)
Composite Score	400-1600 (Section scores combined)	1-36 (Average of section scores)
Section Score	200-800, Essay: 2-8	1-36 (Essay = 1-36 too)
Time per Question	1 min 10 sec	49 sec
Cost	~\$45 (w/ Essay = ~\$57)	~\$42.50 (w/ Essay = ~\$58.50)
Penalty for Guessing	No	No

Resources:

- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/compare-new-sat-act>
- <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/help.html>
- <http://www.kaptest.com/college-prep/test-information/sat-vs-act>
- <http://blog.prepscholar.com/the-new-sat-vs-the-act-a-full-breakdown>

THE NEW SAT COMPARED TO THE OLD SAT

- The main changes
 - Greater focus on knowing vocabulary *in context*
 - There is *no longer a penalty* for guessing
 - The Writing section is *optional*
 - *Greater emphasis* on Algebra and data analysis
 - Questions grounded in a *real-world context* (more evidence-based questions)
 - Texts may come from *historical documents*
 - More *focus on analysis* in the Writing section (no longer taking a position on an issue and defending it)
 - One section of Math with a calculator and *one without*
 - Like the ACT, Math *now includes some Trigonometry*
- A more detailed breakdown may be found at
 - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/compare-old-new-specifications>
 - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/key-changes>

WHAT ARE GOOD SCORES?

- It truly depends on where you are planning to go and scholarships you are applying for; the mid-range scores for the 2016 accepted class were:

College	SAT Reading	SAT Math	ACT		College	SAT Reading	SAT Math	ACT
UF	640-730	620-730	27-32		USF	550-620	590-690	26-30
FSU	640-710	600-690	26-31		UWF	560	547	24
FL Poly	640	670	26		UNF	580-660	560-630	24.5-29
New College	666	613	26-31		FAMU	501-600	501-600	21
FIU	590	590	23		FAU	550-640	530-610	21-25
UCF	620-700	610-700	25-29		FGCU	530-560	510-590	22-26

- More statistics (like GPA), may be found at http://www.flbog.edu/about/_doc/cod/asa/admission_2016/Campuses-Matrix.pdf
- Interested in another school? Search their website for admissions statistics or their freshman profile to see their GPA and test score averages.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

- Bright Futures ACT / SAT requirements (subject to change, most likely SAT scores increasing, based on legislation):
 - Florida Academic Scholars: 29 ACT / 1290 SAT
 - Florida Medallion Scholars: 26 ACT / 1170 SAT
- Certain colleges and Bright Futures will **superscore** your results
 - They will use the best section score if you take a particular assessment multiple times (your best Math score, your best Reading, etc.)

WHICH TEST SHOULD I TAKE?

- It truly depends on each student
 - Look through and take sample tests to see which format, question types, and content fits you better
 - Take the test that you believe you would do better on
 - When you get your scores:
 - If you have what you want, you may decide if you want to take another test
 - If you are close to what you want, you may then study more and take that test again
 - If you are far away from what you want, most students then take the other test to see how they do
 - Some students like taking both tests anyway to see how they compare
- Most students end up taking the tests 2-3 times, so plan appropriately so they are finished early senior year

WHEN SHOULD I TEST?

- Typically, students begin testing in their Junior year, with most starting in semester 2
 - This is when most of the coursework covered on the test has been learned in school
 - 9-11th grade students take the PSAT in October and receive scores typically in December/January; testing semester 2 allows you to use these scores to better prepare
 - Taking it Junior year allows you time to retest (if you want) into the Summer and the beginning of Senior year
 - You will have test scores in the Summer to help inform your college search
- **All BDCHS students are expected to take at least one SAT or ACT test by the beginning of Senior year**

REMAINING 2017 TEST DATES

Test	Date	Deadline	Late Deadline (late fee applies)
ACT	Apr 8	Mar 3	Mar 24
SAT	May 6	Apr 7	Apr 25
SAT	June 3	May 9	May 24
ACT	June 10	May 5	May 19
SAT	Aug 26	Jul 28	Aug 21
ACT	<i>Sept 9</i>		
SAT	<i>Oct 7</i>	Note: Plan accordingly as some dates are near to BDCHS final exams and EOC and AP assessments!	
ACT	<i>Oct 28</i>		
SAT	<i>Nov 4</i>		
SAT	<i>Dec 2</i>		
ACT	<i>Dec 9</i>		

*Blank boxes indicate the information is not yet available and italicized test dates are anticipated

REGISTERING AND FEE WAIVERS

- Registering
 - SAT: Navigate to <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
 - ACT: Navigate to <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/register.html>
 - Register by the deadline!
- Fee waivers: Grade 11 and 12 students on free or reduced lunch can receive up to two fee waivers for the SAT and up to two fee waivers for the ACT
 - Fee waivers are obtained by seeing your school counselor
 - An SAT fee waiver will also waive the late registration fee (if applying late)
 - ACT does **NOT**
 - If an SAT fee waiver is used, College Board will then provide 4 college application fee waivers to the student via his/her online College Board portal (once the scores for that test are in their system)
 - College fee waivers may only be used at participating colleges: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-fee-waivers/participating-colleges>

REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

- If you have an IEP or 504 Plan (you would know if you do), you may be eligible for SAT and/or ACT testing accommodations
 - **Please note: Even though you may have certain accommodations at BDCHS, you will not automatically have them on the SAT and ACT**
 - **For these tests, you must apply and request them by going through the College Board (SAT) and ACT process**
- For more information, please use the following links:
 - SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/special-circumstances/students-with-disabilities>
 - ACT: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test/services-for-examinees-with-disabilities.html>

RESOURCES FOR PREPARING

- Please use the Student Services Portal for a listing of resources:
<http://bdchsstudentservices.weebly.com/studying--test-taking-resources.html>

SAT has now partnered with Khan Academy for **FREE** SAT practice! If you link your accounts, Khan can get your PSAT and past SAT information and provide you specific lessons on how to improve, along with practice tests.

BDCHS Office of Student Services 813-971-5600

Home Academic Career College Mental Health Service more...

Study Skills Resources

General Resources for Content Area Help and Practice

- **Study Island:** All BDCHS students have access to this resource which includes study help for many classes and assessments (including EOCs and the SAT / ACT)
- **ck12.org:** An excellent resource for online textbooks and videos as for various subject areas
- **Khan Academy:** An excellent site for practice in all content areas and test-taking skills
- **Florida Students:** Subject area assistance in a variety of formats
- **Purple Math.com:** A variety of resources for helping with math skill building and inquiry
- **How to Study.com** - Study skill tools, articles, self assessments, and more

Test Taking Resources

[Click here to access the Study Island website.](#)

ACT

- **ACT Website**
- **ACT Online Prep** (available for free for students)

Florida Standards Assessments Resources

- **Florida Standards Assessments Training Tests and Resources**

WHERE DO I FIND THIS POWERPOINT?

- Go to the Student Services Portal!

BDCHS Office of Student Services 813-977-...

Home Academic Career **College** Mental Health Service more...

Applications

College Search

College Visits

Financial Literacy/Financial Aid >

Making the Decision

State University Admissions Matrix

SAT / ACT >

Senior Checklist SAT/College Board Information

Senior Newsletters > ACT Information

Transcript Request

The SAT and ACT Explained

Please view the following PowerPoint to better understand:

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The SAT and ACT Explained
Download File

1

2

3