Now, What?
SAT,® ACT® Now, What?

AGENDA

1 SAT & ACT
2 Admissions Factors
3 Test Prep Timeline

PRESENTED BY:
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## WHAT DO THESE TESTS MEASURE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission tests..</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... measure intelligence?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... can be used to award aid?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... reflect your GPA in high school?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... predict your college GPA?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... can be prepared for?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... should be prepared for?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... test what you’ve learned in HS?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STANDARDIZED TESTS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL TESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL TESTS</th>
<th>STANDARDIZED TESTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited Subject Matter</td>
<td>Years of Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Knowledge</td>
<td>Memorization and Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenty of Time</td>
<td>Rigorously Timed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Credit or Extra Credit</td>
<td>Right or Wrong Answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Graded</td>
<td>Machine Graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Element of Overall Grade</td>
<td>Only Your Final Score Matters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DID YOU KNOW:
Colleges have no preference whether you take the ACT or SAT, but tests are used to grant scholarships - *almost 200 merit scholarships are tied to ACT and SAT scores!*
BIG QUESTION: SAT or ACT?

REAL QUESTION: Why not both?
BOTH THE ACT AND SAT HAVE:

• Over 3 hours of testing time
• Limited time per question
• Multiple Choice Questions (mostly)
• Math, Reading, Grammar, and Science Questions
WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MISTAKES?

✓ Answering questions too quickly
✓ Careless answers
✓ Doing work in your head
✓ Misreading the problem
✓ Don’t understand what to do
WHAT IS A GOOD SCORE?

A good score is the score that gets you into your dream college.
WHERE YOUR SCORES CAN TAKE YOU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>SAT 25%</th>
<th>SAT 75%*</th>
<th>ACT 25%</th>
<th>ACT 75%*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>1460</td>
<td>1580</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola Marymount</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue University</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>1380</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>1540</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC, Berkeley</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>1480</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GUIDING YOU ON YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY

Visit princetonreview.com/journey to: Maximize your score potential, find your dream college, and more!

* SAT scores are reflective of the Critical reading and Math scores. The data is self-reported from the schools and represents data during the 2018-2019 school year. * ACT scores are self-reported from the schools and represent data during the 2018-2019 school year.
ADMISSIONS FACTORS
ADMISSION FACTORS

Most Important:
• High School Transcript
• Test scores

Important:
• Essay/writing samples
• Teacher & counselor recommendations
• Class rank

Smaller institutions are more likely to rank subject tests, portfolios, interviews, and work experience as important.
ACADEMIC VERSUS NON ACADEMIC FACTORS

Academic:
- GPA
- Class Rank
- Test Scores (ACT/SAT 1, SAT II, AP/IB)
- Course Rigor (AP/Honors Coursework)

Non-Academic:
- Extracurricular Activities
- Legacy
- Leadership Positions
- Letters of Recommendation
- Awards/ Honors
- Personal Statement/ Essay
WHAT ABOUT THE ESSAY?

• Fewer than 20 schools require the essay
• The University of California system contains nine of those schools.
• We recommend you take the essay, *but don’t sweat it!*

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THE BIG THREE
Rules for Writing a College Essay

1. Be UNIQUE
2. Be DETAILED
3. Be PERSONAL
THE BIG THREE – Be UNIQUE

...During my junior year, I was fortunate enough to be given the unique opportunity to perform over 50 hours of volunteer work at the hospital. I sought out the internship because of my interest in becoming a doctor, and I believed the hospital would allow me to broaden my knowledge about medicine. The experience has been extremely rewarding, because I feel that I am truly making a difference in the lives of the children that I work with...
THE BIG THREE – Be UNIQUE

…White coats. Facemask. Green scrubs. A doctor sees the results of heroism on a daily basis in the lives he saves. He overcomes at times impossible odds—gunshots, bodies mauled in car crashes, and other horrors, at all costs. It is his duty to protect the people that enter his care, and his honor is dependent on whether or not he can save them. No longer will I merely be utilizing one aspect of heroism at a time, instead, as a trauma surgeon, I will go to work everyday wearing a uniform I will be prideful of wearing...

FROM JOHNS HOPKINS' Essays That Worked
THE BIG THREE – Be DETAILED

…My junior year I volunteered to play piano at a nursing home along with some of my classmates. It was a difficult audience to play to. Before I began to play, it seemed as if many of the people in the audience were tired, bored, or uninterested in what I was about to play…
THE BIG THREE – Be DETAILED

…Over half of the audience had fallen asleep. Drowsiness had enveloped the remaining residents, who looked bleary-eyed and disoriented in their wheelchairs. One man succumbed to a grotesque yawn, and the sight of his spit-soaked, mangled gums caused me to wince. I had volunteered to play piano at Riverwoods Nursing Home along with some of my classmates, and was next in line to perform…

from TPR’s College Essays that Made a Difference
THE BIG THREE – Be PERSONAL

…One of the most significant achievements that I have made so far in my life is conquering my lisp. As a small child, I somehow learned to say “S’s” incorrectly. Pronouncing words incorrectly leads to quite a lot of teasing and frustration….
THE BIG THREE – Be PERSONAL

…Erx, the word rings clearly in my ears today. In 6th grade some of my peers decided it would be funny to make fun of the lisp that Eric Osborne had. They took my first name and added a lisp sound to the end of it, finally arriving with a new nickname for me, Erx…

From TPR’s College Essays That Made a Difference
MISTAKES TO AVOID

▪ Referring to one campus

▪ Inappropriate use of humor
  ▪ Creative Writing
    ▪ Quotations
    ▪ Generalities
    ▪ Repetition
    ▪ Acronyms
REMEMBER!

• You should have a full rough draft at least a month before any deadline, so you can revise it and get feedback on it!

• You also have to write (and revise, edit, and perfect) any supplemental essays before you submit your application
CREATING A TEST PREP TIMELINE
CREATING YOUR PREP PLAN

Step One: Take a Practice Test
Learn What You Need to Do

Step Two: Prep For Your First Test
Buy a Book  Self-Prep Online  Take a Class  Work With a Tutor

Step Three: Take Your First Test
Get an Official Score

Step Four: Prep For Your Second Test
Take a Different Test or the Same Test  Readjust Your Plan

Step Five: Take Your Second Test
WHEN SHOULD I TAKE THE TEST?

- August
  - SAT

- October
  - PSAT

- November
  - SAT

- December
  - SAT

- March
  - SAT

- May
  - SAT

- June
  - SAT

- September
  - ACT

- October
  - ACT

- December
  - ACT

- February
  - ACT

- April
  - ACT

- June
  - ACT

The Princeton Review
Important Dates & Deadlines

• **August 1** – Common Application and University of California Application Opens

• **October 15-November 15** – Early Action and Early Decision Deadlines

• **November 1-November 30** – University of California Application Submission Window

• **January 1-15** – Regular Decision Deadlines
IT’S ABOUT FINDING THE BEST FIT SCHOOL FOR YOU
Get More Information

• Contact your choice schools
• Ask Questions
• Visit the Campus
• Ask students who attend there
• Compare the schools