

## **IDT College Testing Activity**

### **Objectives**

In this activity students will research and information regarding the PSAT, SAT, and ACT tests and complete a quiz to show understanding.

### **Standards**

IT-CSP-1.3 Exhibit critical thinking and problem solving skills to locate, analyze and apply information in career planning and employment situations.

### **Project Time**

This project will take about 1 hours to complete.

### **Ethics Statement**

Students will model work readiness traits required for success in the workplace including teamwork, multitasking, integrity, honesty, accountability, punctuality, time management, and respect for diversity.

### **Project Details**

Review the provided College Admissions and Standardized Tests PDF. Pay attention to the information the three different tests and how they differ. Complete the quiz to show understanding.

### **RUBRIC**

50 points – 5 question quiz

# College Admissions Quiz

Total points **50/50**

The respondent's email address (**mathompson@tcjackets.net**) was recorded on submission of this form.

Section score **50/50**

✓ Which of the following are Standardized College preparation exams? \* 10/10

PSAT ✓

SAT ✓

ASVAB

ACT ✓

✓ What is the purpose of the PSAT exam? \* 10/10

To familiarize students with the SAT and to tell you your strengths and weaknesses

✓ Who is responsible for signing up for a test? \* 10/10

School

Parent

College

Student ✓



✓ Who is responsible for sending test score reports to schools? \*

10/10

- School
- Parent
- College
- Student



✓ According to the ACT / SAT Score Comparison Chart, what is the SAT equivalent of a 29 on the ACT? \*

10/10

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**Individual feedback**

*Well Done, Nathan.*

This form was created inside of Thomas County Schools.

Google Forms



## Testing

### **Standardized Testing (Grades 9 - 10)**

Most ninth graders will not take standardized college tests, but some will. If you think you should, you must discuss your plan with a counselor.

As a tenth grader, it might make sense to try one of the “practice” standardized tests, such as the PSAT<sup>®</sup>. Again, you must discuss your plan with a counselor. Some ninth and tenth graders who are particularly advanced in an academic area might want to consider taking the SAT Subject Tests<sup>®</sup> in the relevant topic. Not every college requires these one-hour subject tests. Highly selective colleges, including MIT, Cornell, BU, Carnegie Mellon, and most programs at NYU require some SAT Subject Tests<sup>®</sup>; check individual college websites to see which places do. Those colleges that do require SAT Subject Tests<sup>®</sup> typically require two, a handful ask for three, and some may recommend specific subjects. You will need to plan ahead for this by discussing your intent with a counselor, and obtaining the guidance and support of the teacher in the appropriate class. You should take sample tests under simulated testing conditions to prepare for the test.

### **Standardized Testing (Grades 11 – 12)**

During junior year, you will take a number of standardized tests. Each person has different strengths, so each student’s testing plan might look a bit different. Here are some general guidelines, however, as far as what to expect:

#### ***PSAT<sup>®</sup>***

In October, juniors will take the PSAT<sup>®</sup> (Preliminary SAT<sup>®</sup>) at their high school. If it is not being offered, see a guidance counselor and find out where it is taking place. It is highly recommended that you prepare for the PSAT<sup>®</sup> by taking the sample test included in the student bulletin. This bulletin, available in a guidance office, also explains more about the format and content of the test and has helpful tips.

Online information is available at:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

This test has several purposes:

- To familiarize you with the SAT<sup>®</sup> Reasoning Test, which you will take later in the year;
- To expose you to the SAT<sup>®</sup> in a no-risk manner – colleges do not typically ask for PSAT<sup>®</sup> scores;
- To give you a simple analysis of your strengths and weaknesses in the various critical reading, verbal, and mathematical components of the test.

When you receive a score report in December, it will include your answer choices, the correct answers, and list the type of question asked. You will also receive your test booklet, so that you may go back and look at the questions again. This report may help you identify areas in which you need to improve. The PSAT<sup>®</sup> is also used in the National Merit and Achievement Scholarship programs<sup>®</sup>. Juniors who score in the top two percent of test-takers nationwide will be eligible to compete for scholarship funding from select colleges, companies, and organizations.

***SAT<sup>®</sup> Reasoning and Subject Tests, ACT<sup>®</sup>***

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Some students will take both the SAT<sup>®</sup> and ACT<sup>®</sup> standardized tests. Some may prefer one or the other, and some may perform better on one versus the other. Take full-length sample tests to grow more comfortable with each of the tests, and try each once to see if one is more in line with your style as a test-taker.



The **SAT<sup>®</sup> Reasoning Test** consists of three types of sections: critical reading, mathematics, and writing. The test length is 3 hours and 45 minutes; total testing administration time is close to five hours. The SAT<sup>®</sup> intends to measure critical thinking skills and provide an indication of how academically successful you might be in college.

The critical reading portion contains long and short reading passages and related questions which test comprehension. There are also sentence completions which test vocabulary and understanding of sentence structure.

The mathematics section consists of multiple choice questions and student-generated responses. Topics include number theory and operations, algebra and functions, geometry and measurement, data analysis, probability and statistics.

The writing portion includes a 35 minute multiple choice section and a 25 minute student written essay section. Students receive separate scores for each and a composite score for the entire writing section. If they request it, colleges will be able to see a student's essay.

The **SAT<sup>®</sup> Subject Tests** are hour-long multiple choice tests on specific subjects. A handful of colleges require that student submit three, several dozen ask for or recommend two and many do not require Subject Tests. One hour tests are offered in the following areas: Literature, U.S. History and World History, Mathematics I and II, Biology -Ecological, Biology -Molecular, Chemistry, Physics, and a variety of foreign languages including Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese, and Korean. Some of the language tests have two versions – one with and one without listening components.

The **ACT<sup>®</sup>** is a multiple choice test, with an optional writing section. The test is four or four and a half hours long, depending on whether or not the writing section is included. The ACT<sup>®</sup> attempts to assess a student's general educational development and their potential to successfully complete college-level work. It is broken down into four subject areas: English, reading, mathematics, and science. The English section covers standard grammar and usage of the

English language, as well as rhetorical skills such as organization and style. The math section covers topics in pre-algebra through intermediate algebra, coordinate and plane geometry, and trigonometry. The reading section tests students' reading comprehension. The science section tests understanding, interpretation, and analysis of scientific data and hypotheses. The writing section consists of a 30-minute student-generated essay in response to a prompt.

### ***PSAT<sup>®</sup>, SAT<sup>®</sup> Reasoning and Subject Tests, ACT<sup>®</sup> Registration***

**It is a student's responsibility to sign up for test administrations.** You are urged to discuss your testing plans with a counseling office before you register. You register for the SAT<sup>®</sup> or ACT<sup>®</sup>, and at other times during the college process. **Juniors** should take the SAT<sup>®</sup> in January and/or May, and strongly consider taking the ACT<sup>®</sup> in April. **Seniors** take the SAT<sup>®</sup> in October, November and/or December, or the ACT<sup>®</sup> in December, if necessary. Keep in mind that some colleges have deadlines for testing if you are applying under an Early Decision/Action program; some colleges require that your testing is completed by the October or November test date. If you enroll in a prep class, it makes sense to take the test as soon as possible following the conclusion of the course.

**You will sign up and pay for all SAT<sup>®</sup> /SAT II<sup>®</sup> and ACT<sup>®</sup> exams on their respective Web Sites. Speak to your guidance counselor about the possibility of qualifying for a fee waiver as they can provide one to you. You will also choose a testing location and date. The sites are:**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Anytime you register for standardized tests, be consistent with the name you use; **you should use your name as it would appear on your passport.** You should also be consistent throughout the process, using this name on all applications, correspondence, etc. Using different versions of your name or nicknames can only complicate the situation. If you create an online account for the SAT<sup>®</sup> or ACT<sup>®</sup>, hang onto your password, as you will use this account to register, receive and send scores. You can also view your scores online.

**Save your SAT<sup>®</sup> and ACT<sup>®</sup> testing admission tickets. These include a registration number to use as a reference if you have a problem with your scores.**

### ***Getting Your Scores to Colleges***

**It is the student's responsibility to send official test scores.** High Schools will not send a student's SAT<sup>®</sup> or ACT<sup>®</sup> scores. Keep in mind that sending scores does not happen automatically, and can take several weeks. Plan ahead! Use the four free score reports you get every time you take the SAT<sup>®</sup>; remember that subsequent scores will not be sent unless you initiate the process.

Parents, please note: To register and send scores, it is helpful for students to have a credit card to use online.

### ***Getting Your Scores to the NCAA***

Student athletes must submit official test scores to the NCAA through the appropriate testing agency. The test code to use for the NCAA is 9999.

### **ACT<sup>®</sup> and SAT<sup>®</sup> Comparison Chart**

	ACT	SAT
<b>Length</b>	3 hours, 25 minutes (including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)	3 hours, 45 minutes
<b>Sections</b>	4 test sections (5 with the optional Essay, known as the Writing Test)	10 Sections
<b>Areas Tested</b>	English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (optional)	Critical Reading, Math, Writing (includes the Essay), Experimental (unscored)
<b>Reading (ACT) / Critical Reading (SAT)</b>	4 Reading Comprehension passages, 10 questions per passage	Mix of Reading Comprehension and Sentence Completion questions that require vocabulary expertise
<b>Science</b>	Science Reasoning (analysis, interpretation, evaluation, problem solving) covered	Science not included
<b>Math</b>	Math accounts for 1/4 of overall score  <b>Topics Covered:</b> Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry (4 questions)	Math accounts for 1/3 of overall score  <b>Topics Covered:</b> Basic Geometry and Algebra II
<b>Essay</b>	Last thing you do (optional); 30 minutes  Not included in composite score	First thing you do; 25 minutes  Factored into overall score
<b>Scoring</b>	Total composite score of 1-36 (based on average of 4 tests)  4 scores of 1-36 for each test  Score of 0-12 for the optional Essay	Total score out of 2400  3 scores of 200-800 for each section  2 sub-scores of 20-80 for writing multiple choice and 0-12 for the Essay
<b>Wrong Answer Penalty</b>	No wrong answer penalty	Yes, 1/4 point per wrong answer (except for Math Grid-in questions)
<b>Sending Score History</b>	You decide which score is sent	Your entire score history will be sent automatically

**ACT<sup>®</sup> and SAT<sup>®</sup> Score Comparison Chart**

ACT	Current SAT
If you scored a....	It's about the same as a...
36	2400
35	2340
34	2260
33	2190
32	2130
31	2040
30	1980
29	1920
28	1860
27	1820
26	1760
25	1700
24	1650
23	1590
22	1530
21	1500
20	1410
19	1350
18	1290
17	1210
16	1140
15	1060
14	1000
13	900
12	780
11	750