

UNDERSTANDING THE (P)SAT & (P)ACT



presented by

PJ Test Prep

SAT Prep Classes, and Test/Academic Tutoring

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What do my scores mean?

<u>SAT</u> (out of 1600 (1520 for the PSAT))	<u>ACT</u> (out of 36)	
820	17	Colleges! (NCAA Min.)
1060	21	More Colleges! (Nat. Avg.)
1200	25	Lots of Colleges!
1350	29	Most Colleges!
1500+	33+	All the Colleges!

When to test?

Recommended Plan of Attack

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
Freshman Year	Take advanced classes when possible Strive for A's and B's			
Sophomore Year	Take the PSAT (offered at your school in Oct.)		Take SAT 2 Subject Tests for any AP courses you're in	Start thinking about what you're looking for in a college
Junior Year	Take the PSAT again (offered at your school in Oct.) Take AP classes if possible	Prep for the SAT/ACT	Take the SAT/ACT Start college visits Take SAT 2 Subject Tests for any AP courses you're in	Summer college visits Write your College Essays Further SAT/ACT prep, if needed
Senior Year	College visits SAT/ACT retakes, if needed Some early applications due	Applications due	<i>Make your choice!</i> Take AP exams for potential college credit	Relax... you've worked hard to get where you're going!

Which test?

<u>ACT</u> (the "Fast but Simple" Test)	<u>SAT</u> (the "Slow but Tricky" Test)
215 questions in 2 hours, 55 minutes (+ breaks & optional essay)	154 questions in 3 hours, 0 minutes (+ breaks & optional essay)
4 sections averaged → a 1-36 total; Mean ≈ 21 English + Math + Reading + Science	2 sub-scores added → a 400-1600 total; Mean ≈ 1000 Math + Reading/Writing
"Optional" 40-min. Essay - Analytical	"Optional" 50-min. Essay, A.P.-style
1/4th Math	1/2th Math

Many students try both tests - colleges will use your higher score!