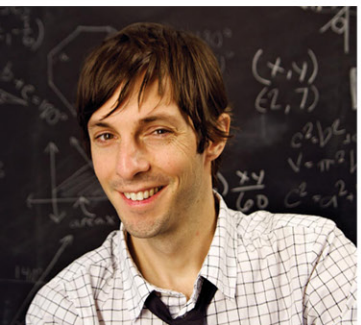


REVOLUTION

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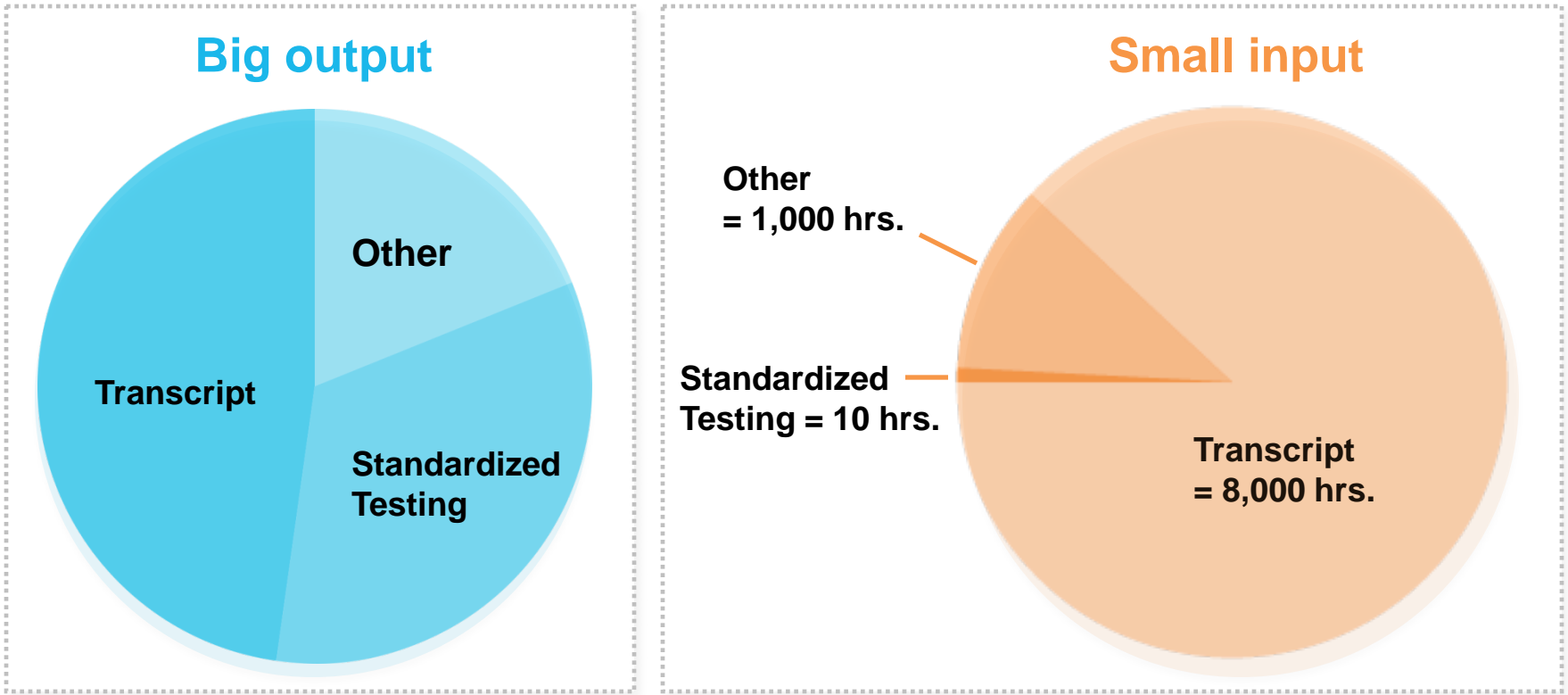
The PSAT and Beyond: What You Need to Know



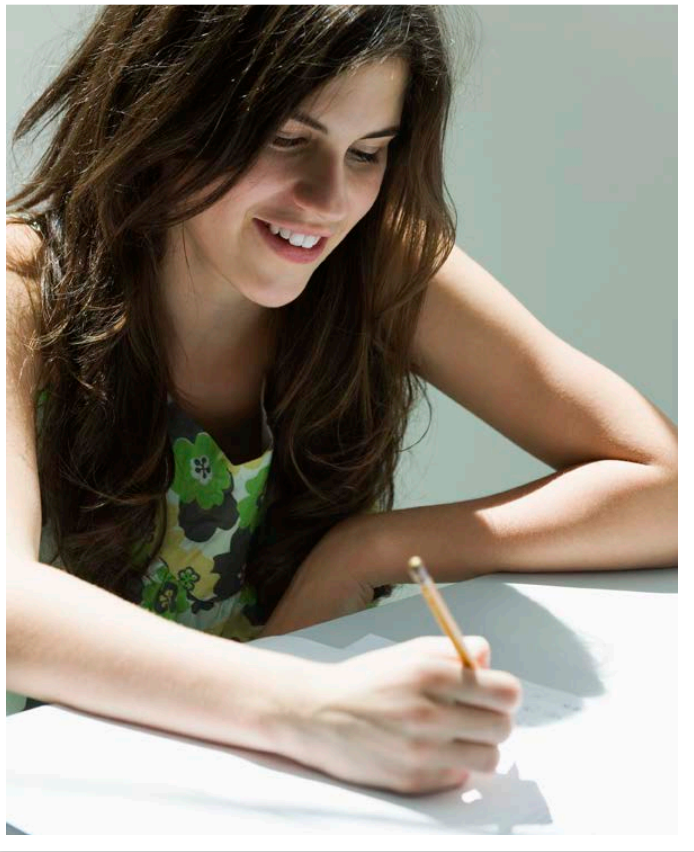
What we'll cover tonight

1. Why does testing matter?
2. Interpreting your PSAT results
3. Going from the PSAT to the SAT
4. More tests: The ACT and SAT Subject Tests
5. Next steps: Testing timeline and prep options

Why does testing matter?



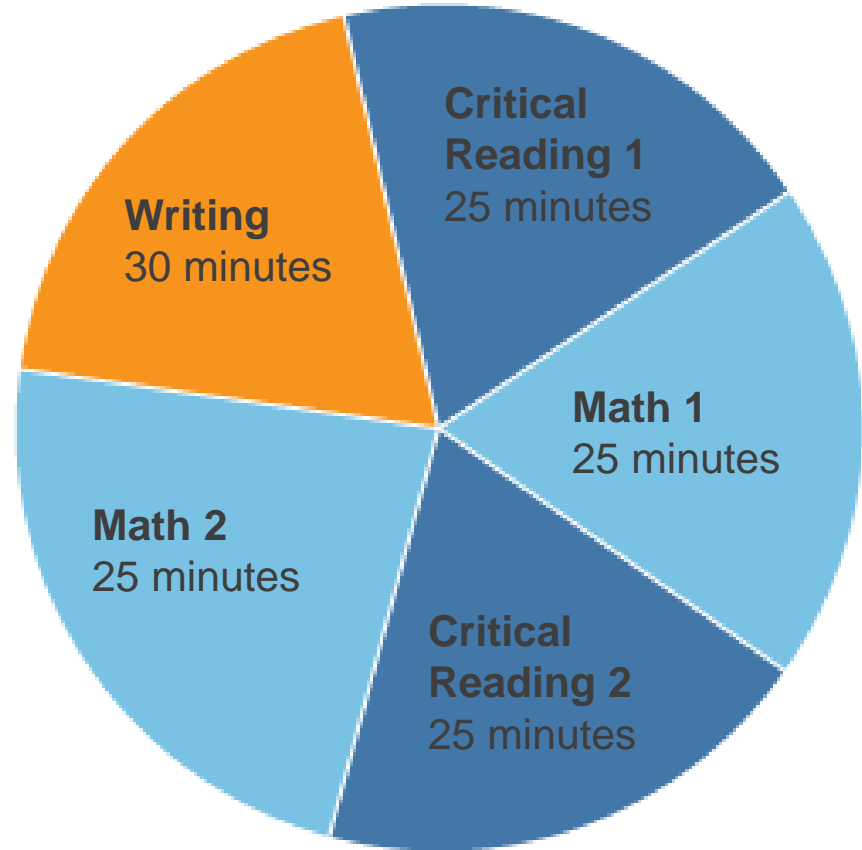
What is the PSAT?



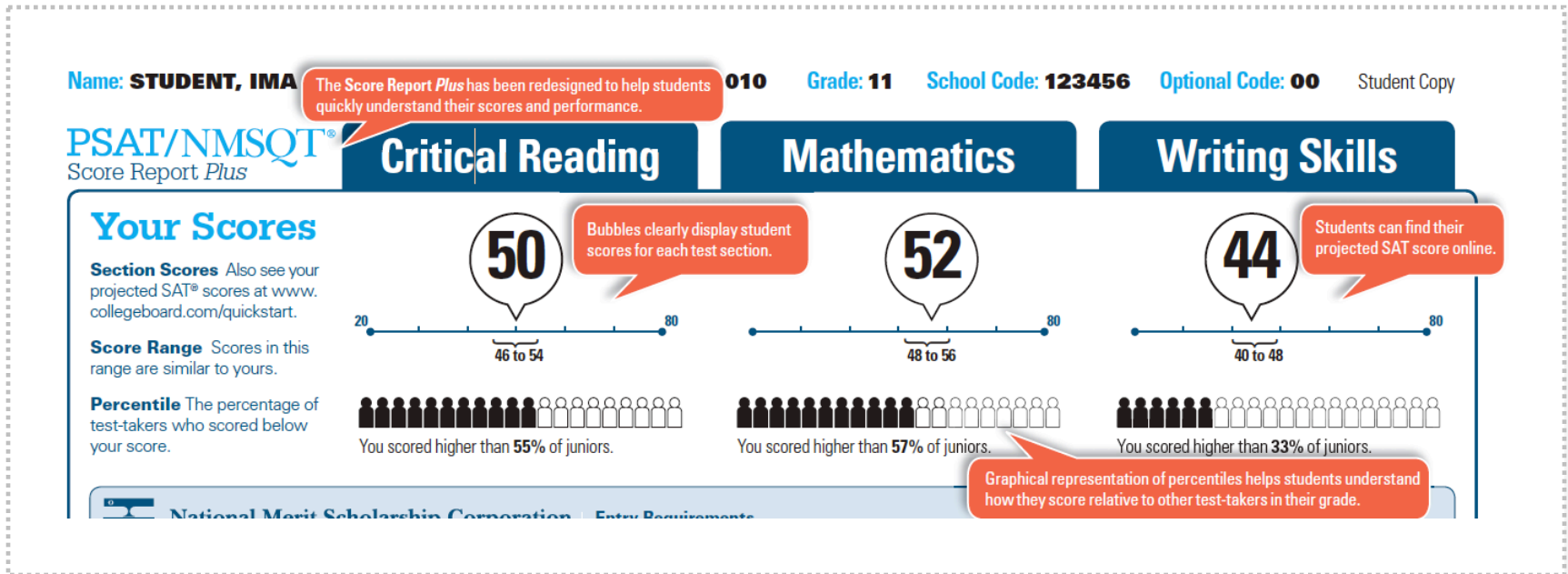
- Practice version of the SAT
- For sophomores: The first exposure to college admissions testing
- For juniors: A chance to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program
- For everyone: A chance to find out “where you stand” so that you can prepare effectively for the real SAT

The PSAT

Total Time:
2 hours, 10 minutes



Section Scores



- Each section is scored out of 80 points (240 total)
- For each section, you receive a score, a score range, and a percentile rank

Total Score (Selection Index)



National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses a Selection Index based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of over 1.5 million students who enter its scholarship programs. (See reverse for more information.)

Your Selection Index

Sum of scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills.

146

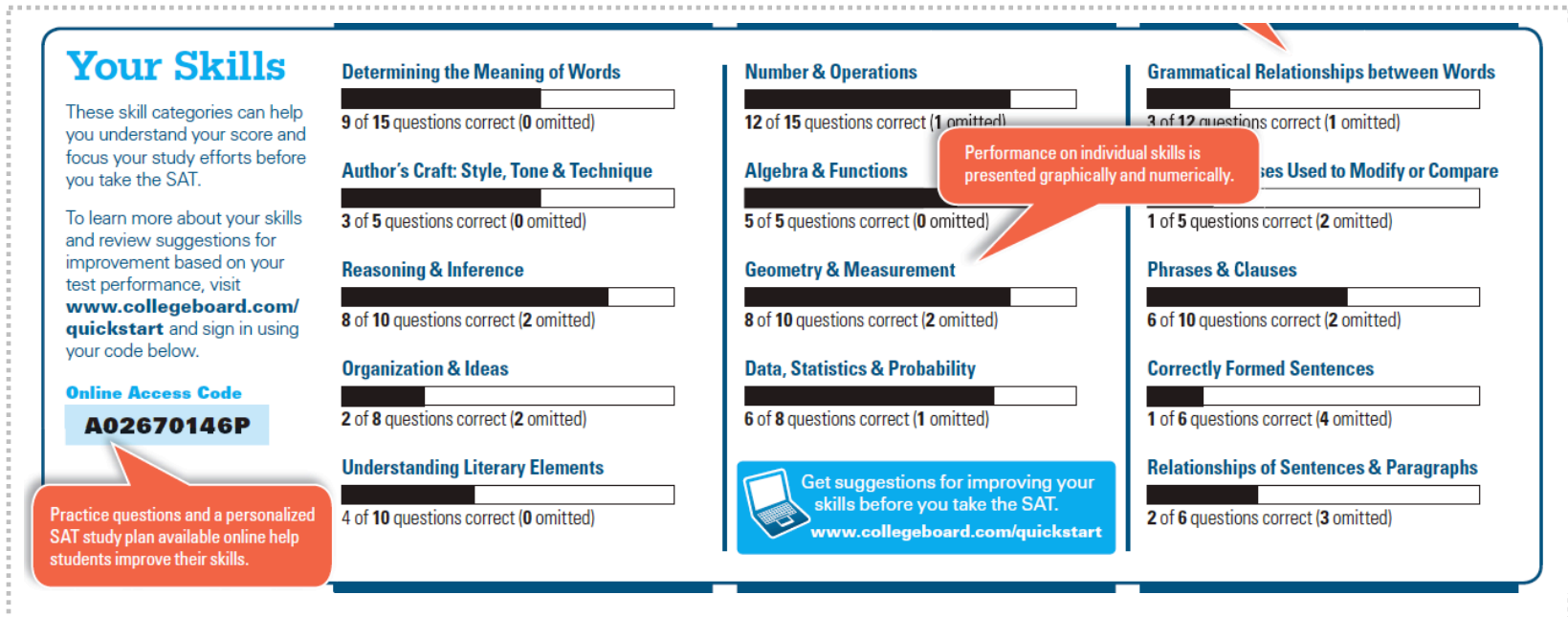
Percentile

Compares your performance with college-bound juniors.

47

- Selection index = sum of section scores = out of 240
- Percentile = What percent of college-bound juniors in your state did you score higher than?
- PSAT index → SAT score: Add a zero
 - 146 PSAT = 1460 SAT

Skills Breakdown

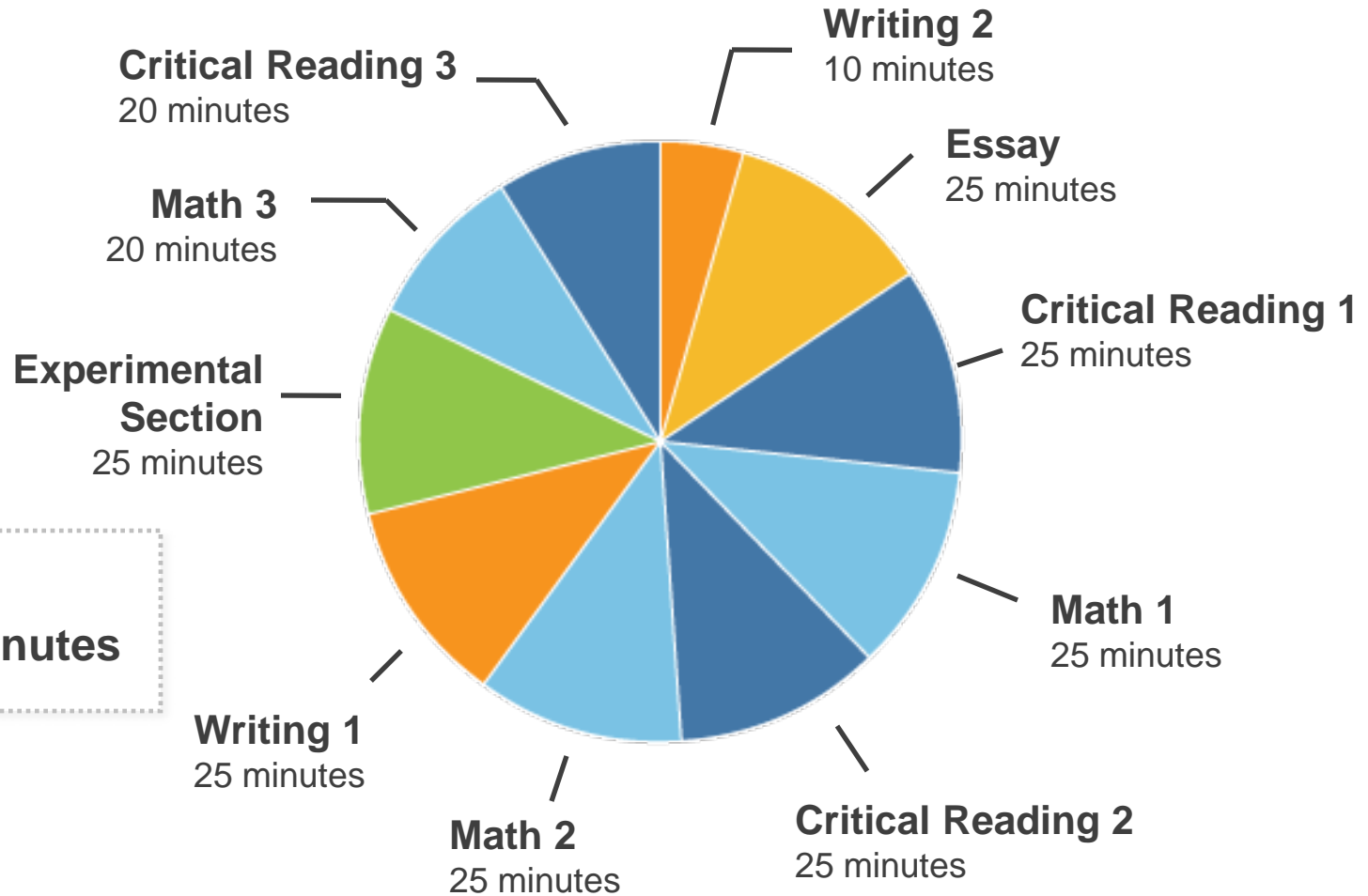


- Assess your strengths and weaknesses to determine where you need to prep
- Use your online access code to get more details at collegeboard.com

Going from the PSAT to the SAT

- 95+ percent of the same type of content
- There are only three differences between the PSAT and SAT:
 1. The SAT is *slightly* harder
 2. The SAT has a 25-minute essay
 3. The SAT is *much* longer (~4 hrs.)!

The SAT Reasoning Test



Total Time:
3 hours, 45 minutes

SAT Scoring

- Three sub-scores: Math, Critical Reading, and Writing
- Each sub-section is scaled from 200-800
- The national average for each section is roughly 500 (1500 total)

SAT Scoring

- One raw score point gained for each correct answer
- $\frac{1}{4}$ raw point taken away for each incorrect multiple choice answer
- No penalty or gain for omitted questions or incorrect answers on grid-ins

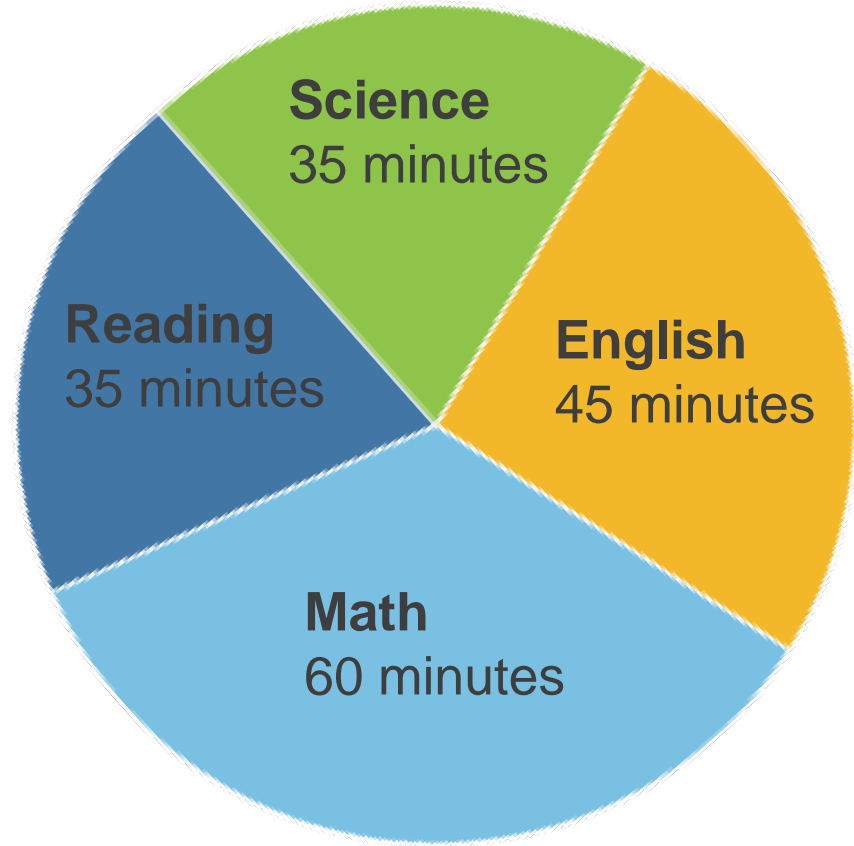
The ACT

- The ACT has four sections: English, Reading, Math, and Science, as well as an optional essay
- Each section is scored on a scale from 1 to 36
- The national average for each section is roughly 21

The ACT

Total Time:
2 hours, 55 minutes

Total Time with Essay:
3 hours, 25 minutes



PSAT vs SAT vs ACT

| PSAT | SAT | ACT |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 hours 15 minutes | 3 hours 45 minutes | 3 hours 25 minutes |
| no science section | no science section | includes science |
| no trigonometry | no trigonometry | includes trigonometry |
| multiple-choice only | includes essay | essay optional |
| guessing penalty | guessing penalty | no guessing penalty |
| math accounts for 33% of your score | math accounts for 33% of your score | math accounts for 25% of your score |
| questions follow order of difficulty | questions follow order of difficulty | random question order |
| “reasoning” based | “reasoning” based | content-based |
| big challenge: tricky questions | big challenge: tricky questions, length | big challenge: time crunch! |

SAT Subject Tests

- Each test is one hour in length
- Achievement-based tests, measuring knowledge gained from college-level courses in the following areas:
 - **ENGLISH:** Literature
 - **HISTORY:** U.S. History, World History
 - **MATH:** Mathematics Level 1, Mathematics Level 2
 - **SCIENCE:** Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics
 - **LANGUAGES:** Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese, Korean

Testing Timeline

Sophomore Year



Junior Year



Senior Year



Test Prep Options

Self-Study

Most cost efficient

Least time efficient:
Assume you'll spend 5x
more time for every point
of improvement

Best comparison:
Reinventing the
wheel

Group Course

Best value

Learn + practice +
test = a formula for
success

Not as much
personal attention

Private Tutoring

Most personalized

Ensure that you get
your maximum
score

Costs a bit more

Revolution Opportunities

Upcoming Practice Exams and Workshop

- Practice SAT: January 21st from 9am to 1pm
- Practice ACT: February 4th from 9am to 1pm
- SAT Workshop: March 3rd from 9am to 11am
- ACT Workshop: March 3rd from 11am to 1pm

*These events are fundraisers for the Maria Carrillo HS and MCHS Association.

Upcoming SAT Prep Courses at Maria Carrillo HS

- March 10th SAT prep course begins January 28th
- May 5th SAT prep course begins March 24th

Private Tutoring

- Based on your schedule

2400 36 5 2400
36 800 2400
2400 A+ 36 A+ 36
800 36 A+ 5 800 5 2400
800 36 2400 A+ 800
36 800 2400 800 5

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Questions?

