

ACT & SAT TESTING



SAT



- Critical Reading, Math & Writing sections
- Writing section includes mandatory essay
- Grading scale 200-800 per subtest
- Nearly all colleges take *either* ACT or SAT
- Not just for east or west coast colleges
- Some competitive college may prefer SAT
- *Some* students find SAT more difficult
- Timing not as rushed—but 50 min longer than ACT

TO REGISTER FOR SAT



- Go to www.collegeboard.com
- Seven test dates per year
- Do not pick colleges at time of registration
- Pick closest test center—St. Francis does not administer the SAT
- Use our high school code when registering: 144-383 (on Student Services page)

Critical Reading



- 70 minutes
- 2-25 min sections and 1-20 min section
- 19 sentence completion questions
- 48 reading comprehension questions
- Tests vocabulary knowledge and meaning in context, literal and inferential reading

Mathematics



- 70 minutes
- 2-25 min sections and 1-20 min section
- 44 multiple choice questions and 10 student produced responses
- Tests numbers and operations, algebra and functions, plane and coordinate geometry, statistics, probability, and data analysis

Writing



- **Mandatory 25 minute essay**
- **1-25 minute multiple choice and 1-10 minute multiple choice sections**
- **49 multiple choice questions**
- **Tests ability to organize, develop ideas, grammar, usage, diction, & sentence structure**

Penalty for random guessing on SAT



- Students lose $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point for each wrong answer
- Can significantly affect score if there are too many wrong answers
- Eliminate some wrong answers
- Use educated guessing
- Do not randomly fill in ovals
- If no idea, leave answer blank

SAT Subject Tests



- Required or recommended by highly selective colleges
- If required, take 2 or 3
- Examples: Literature, World History, US History, Biology, Chemistry, Math 1, Math 2, Spanish, French, etc.
- Same grading scale as SAT 200-800
- Got to www.collegeboard.com for content and practice questions

SAT Score Choice



- Students choose test dates to send or not send
- Go to www.collegeboard.com & go to Send Score Reports
- Select colleges to receive your scores
- The site indicates each college's score reporting policy and which "super score"
- A few schools require all test dates be sent
- If you don't select "Choose Scores" all scores will be sent to the college
- All sub-scores sent for SAT—for Subject Tests you pick which Subject scores are sent

ACT



- Four required tests—English, Math, Reading, & Science
- Writing is optional but **ALWAYS TAKE IT**
- ACT w/Writing is required by *many* colleges
- No penalty for guessing—fill in every oval
- Scoring scale 1-36
- More students prefer ACT

TO REGISTER FOR THE ACT



- Go to www.act.org
- Six test dates per year
- Do not select colleges at time of registration
- Background questions only for first registration
- Pick closest test center
- St. Francis administers only in April
- Use high school code 144-383 to identify that student attends SFHS & we receive scores
- May re-register by phone

ENGLISH



- 45 minutes, 75 questions, 5 passages
- Tests punctuation, usage, sentence structure, word choice, tone, organization, topic development, etc.

MATH



- 60 minutes, 60 questions that become more difficult throughout the test
- Tests basic operations, probability, statistics, number concepts, properties, algebraic expressions and inequalities, plane figures, etc.

READING



- 35 minutes, 40 questions, 4 passages
- Tests main ideas, details, sequences, cause and effect, word meanings, author's voice, etc.

SCIENCE



- 35 minutes, 40 questions, 7 passages
- Tests interpretation of data through tables, graphs and charts, & evaluation of experiments.
- Does not test specific subject content
- Must be able to interpret scientific information

WRITING



- **Emphasis on ability to formulate ideas in response to the prompt**
- **Topic will be something to which all students can respond**
- **Organization and supporting details important**
- **Grammar and usage not emphasized in grading**
- **Scoring scale 1-12; 8+ best goal**
- **Not included in Composite**

SENDING SCORES



- Go to www.act.org and click on Send Scores
- Pick test date & colleges to send to
- ACT site lists colleges require Writing test
- Does not indicate which schools super score
- Costs \$10 per test date per college
- ACT/SAT Scores are no longer put on transcripts
- Student must always send scores through testing company

WHAT TO DO ON TEST DAY



- Get a good night's sleep the night before
- Have printed directions to test site
- Get up early
- Dress in layers
- Eat some breakfast
- Get to test site early
- Bring admission ticket, photo ID, watch, pencils, approved calculator, extra batteries for calculator, drink and light snack for break

TEST TAKING STRATEGIES



- Underline main ideas when reading
- Cross out answers as you eliminate them
- Write down math work in booklet
- Have a watch on your desk
- Practice pacing yourself
- Skip very hard questions—go back if time

PLANNING TIPS



- All test dates on Student Services webpage
- Plan ahead—check with coaches for conflicts
- Recommend first ACT Feb and SAT March
- Take ACT or SAT or both *at least two times* by end of junior year
- Higher score may = more scholarship dollars
- Can re-take fall of senior year
- If you miss deadline can test Standby
- See ACT/SAT website for standby directions

CONCORDANCE TABLE



- Use to compare SAT & ACT
- Two tables—one with SAT writing and one without
- Posted on the St. Francis Student Services webpage

WHAT IS A GOOD SCORE? (mid 50%)



- NW 1360--1530 31—33
- ND 1320--1510 31--34
- Yale 1400--1580 31—35
- U of I 1210—1430 26—31
- Indiana 1090—1280 24--29
- Marquette 1085—1300 26--29
- DePaul 1030—1250 22--27
- Consult Naviance Admission tab & Graphs
- Consult guide books & college profiles

TEST PREP



- List in PSAT packet
- List on Student Services webpage
- Decide—large class, small class or tutorial
- Compare philosophy, price, practice tests, schedules, parent communication, & extras
- Revolution Prep course after school at SFHS during Fall, Winter & Spring
- Kaplan offers free online course—see flyer

WWW.FAIRTEST.ORG



- **Lists colleges that do not require either ACT or SAT**

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS



- See Student Services page for requirements
- Requires professional evaluation in last 3 years
- Full testing report needed
- Not all students with disabilities are approved
- Begin process in grade 10
- Contact Ms. Sullivan for assistance