UCPS
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UCPS COLLEGE READINESS PARENT SERIES:

In partnership with Huntington Learning Center-Weddington and UCPS

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS 101

This presentation was created for the purpose of the UCPS College Readiness Parent Series and is solely owned by JLAB Resources, Inc. dba Huntington Learning Center - Weddington

The million-dollar question(s)

Should my child take these tests? And when?

Which test is right for my child?

What do colleges expect?

- www.collegeboard.org

- These scores adjust every fall based on the scores of the freshmen class

- *increase in requirements over class of 2023

College	ACT	SAT
UNC Chapel Hill	28-33	1350-1510
UNC Wilmington	24-29*	1220-1370*
Auburn University	24-30	1240-1370*
Appalachian State University	21-27	1100-1270
NC State University	24-31	1260-1420
Clemson University	26-31	1230-1310
University of South Carolina	26-31	1150-1340
University of Georgia	26-32	1220-1400
University of Tennessee	25-31	1180-1320*
University of Alabama	22-31	1090-1370
East Carolina University	18-24	1040-1240*

First, when are the tests? 23-24 Test Dates

SAT www.collegeboard.org	ACT www.act.org
October 7, 2023	October 28, 2023
November 4, 2023	December 9, 2023
December 2, 2023 *(last test date in current format)*	February 10, 2024
March 9, 2024 *(1st digital)*	NC Test: February/March 2024 (11th grade students)
May 4, 2024	April 13, 2024
June 1, 2024	June 8, 2024
August 2024	July 2024
October 2024	September 2024
November 2024	October 2024
December 2024	December 2024

Test Optional? Is it really optional?

Test optional is divided into two categories:

➤ Optional for some: Score submission is not required if other admissions requirements are met.

Sample 'other requirements':

- Academic: Applicant must meet minimum GPA and/or class rank requirements

- Residency: Applicant must live in-state

- Major or program: Applicant must select a qualifying course of study

- Prerequisites: Applicant must have completed select Advance Placement or college-level courses during high school

➤ Optional for all: Any applicant can choose to omit test scores from their application.

Test Optional? Is it really optional?

Student A

- **GPA: 3.9**
- **Honors + AP courses**
- **Extracurriculars:**
  - **3 clubs**
  - **1 sport**
- **Work Experience**
  - **1 year of job experience**

SAT Score 1270

Student B

- **GPA: 4.1**
- **AP courses**
- **Extracurriculars:**
  - **2 clubs**
  - **2 sports**
- **Work Experience:**
  - **None**

NO SCORES

Think of it as two different piles for application!

The new SAT...Attention classes of 2024 and beyond...

What stays the same?

- 1600 scale

- Scores will be linked to admissions and scholarship opportunities

- Tests will be administered at a school or designated test center

- Test accommodations are still available.

What is changing?

- Digital & Adaptive – questions presented to students will adapt based on previous performance

- Shorter in length – from 3 hours to approximately 2 hours

- 2 sections: Reading & Writing + Math

- More Reading passages, but shorter. Students will answer one question per passage

- Math problems will be less wordy – WOOHOO!!!

- All Calculator

- Less wait time for scores

	NEW DIGITAL SAT	PAPER SAT
FORMAT	Computer-based Students must download an app from College Board prior to taking the exam	Paper-and-pencil
STRUCTURE	Multistage adaptive – the test changes based on student's performance	Linear – the test does not change based on student's performance
SECTION LAYOUT AND TIMING	**2 SECTIONS:** Each with 2 modules **READING/WRITING:** **MODULE 1:** 32 minutes 27 questions **MODULE 2:** 32 minutes 27 questions **MATH:** **MODULE 1:** 35 minutes 22 questions **MODULE 2:** 35 minutes 22 questions	**4 TOTAL SECTIONS:** **EVIDENCE-BASED READING:** 65 minutes 52 questions **WRITING:** 35 minutes 44 questions **MATH, NO CALCULATOR:** 25 minutes 20 questions **MATH, CALCULATOR:** 55 minutes 38 questions
ESSAY	None	Only available during SAT School Day, as decided by state requirements
TOTAL TIME	2 hours, 14 minutes	3 hours
QUESTION TYPES	**READING/WRITING:** All multiple choice **MATH:** 33 multiple choice, 11 student-produced response	**READING/WRITING:** All multiple choice **MATH:** 45 multiple choice, 13 student-produced response

Current SAT vs. ACT

SAT

- Composite Scale: 400-1600
- National Average: 1050*
- State Average: 1089 (19/20)
- 2 Sections split→
  - EBRW = Reading and Writing & Language
  - Math = No Calculator & Calculator (more on this later)

ACT

- Composite Scale: 1-36
- National Average: 20
- Optional Essay
- 4 Domains
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science

2 Basic Differences

Content

Timing

Time Management

SAT

- **Reading Test: 52 questions in 65 minutes (75 seconds per question)**
- **Writing & Language Test: 44 questions in 35 minutes (47.7 seconds per question)**
- **Math – No calculator: 20 questions in 25 minutes (75 seconds per question)**
- **Math – Calculator: 38 questions in 55 minutes (86.8 seconds per question)**

ACT

- **English Test: 75 questions in 45 minutes (36 seconds/question)**
- **Math Test: 60 questions in 60 minutes (1 minute/question)**
- **Reading & Science Test: 40 questions in 35 minutes (52.5 seconds/question)**

Tick Tock, Tick Tock

SAT vs. ACT – Reporting Categories

SAT

- **Writing & Language**
  - **Expression**
  - **Standard English Conventions**
  - **Command of Evidence**
  - **Words in Context**

- **Reading**
  - **Information & Ideas**
  - **Summarizing**
  - **Rhetoric**
  - **Synthesis**

ACT

- **English**
  - **Production of Writing**
  - **Knowledge of Language**
  - **Conventions of Standard English**

- **Reading**
  - **Key Ideas & Details*****
  - **Craft & Structure**
  - **Integration of Knowledge & Ideas**

Math and Science – Most significant content differences!

SAT Math

➢ **Heart of Algebra**

➢ **Passport to Advanced Math**

• **Prob. Solving & Data Analysis**

• **Additional Topics in Math**

ACT Math

• **Integration Essential Skills**

• **Preparing for Higher Math**

• **Modeling*****

• **ACT Science**

• **Interpretation of Data**

• **Scientific Investigation**

• **Evaluation of Models Inferences, & Experimental Results**

SAT Writing and Language vs. ACT English

Content much the same

Level of difficulty differences - passage and question level

Timing

English/Writing and Language Examples

Le Snoot serves a magnificent salad made with

spinach, <u>mandarin orange, slices, and</u> crushed

         1

walnuts.

A. NO CHANGE
B. mandarin orange, slices and
C. mandarin orange slices, and
D. mandarin orange slices and,

The lizard, basking on a rock in the warm

<u>sun was frightened</u> off by the sound of racing

      3

ATVs.

A. NO CHANGE
B. sun; was frightened
C. sun was, frightened
D. sun, was frightened

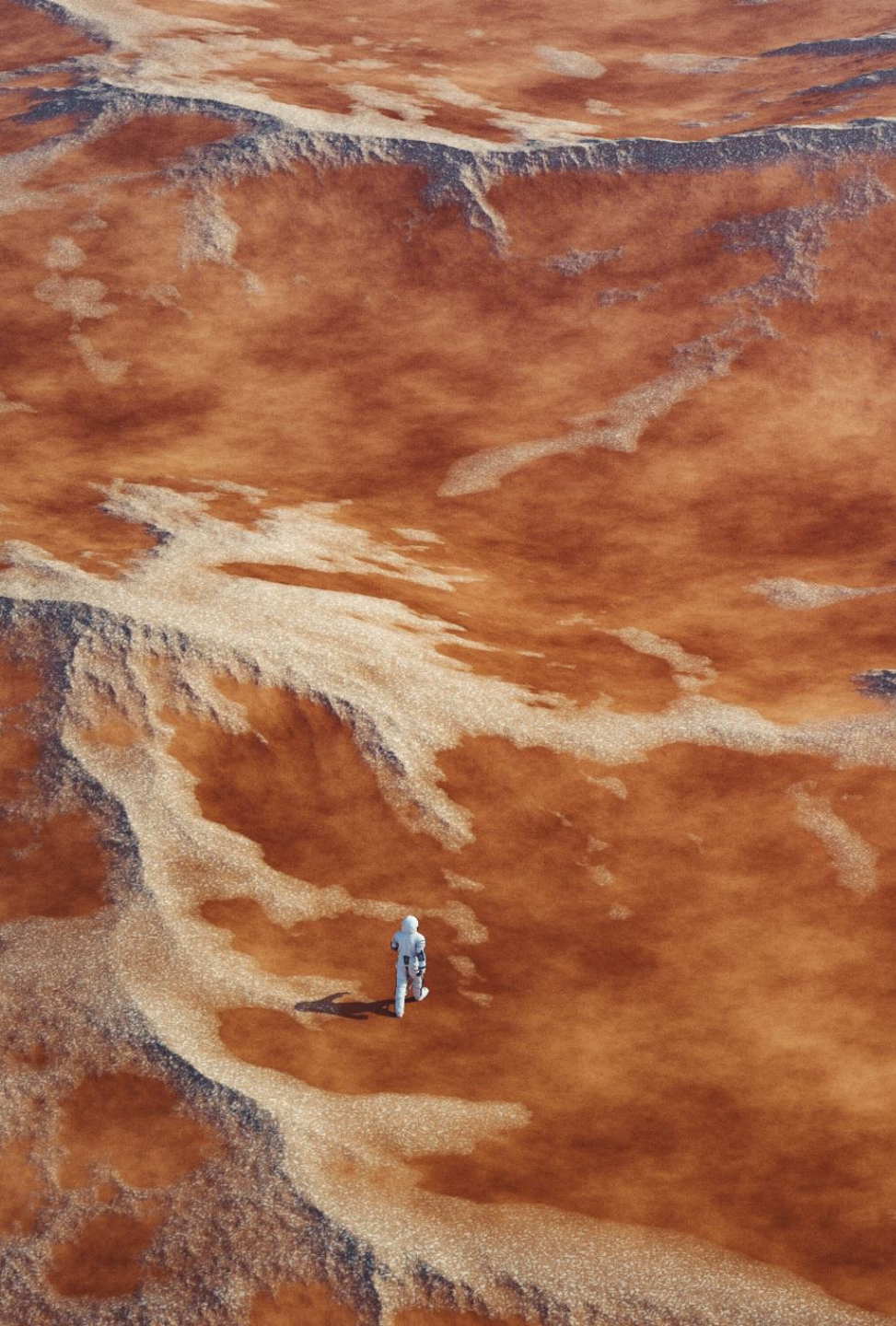| SAT – 6 Question Types	ACT – "5" Question Types
Main Concept	Main Concept
Fact	Fact
Vocabulary in Context	Vocabulary In Context
Inference	Inference
Point of View	(Sequence)
Evidence	(Relationships)

SAT/ACT Reading

- SAT 5 passages
- ACT 4 passages
- Remember timing

Reading Practice

• The woman slowly made her way across the hot desert. She had been traveling through the baking sand for 3 days now. On the first day of her trip, she was confident. She had enough food and water for the four day journey through the desert. She had planned carefully, and she felt certain her trip *(Line 5)* would be a successful one.

• On the second day of her journey, the woman grew slightly concerned. She realized that her water supply was being depleted more quickly that she'd initially calculated. "How could I be so selfish and drink more than allowed?" she muttered to herself.

• *(Line 10)* She calculated, cautiously, and determined she could only allow herself a small mouthful of water each hour for the remainder of her trip. Then, and only then, would she have enough water to make it to her destination deep within the desert. She knew it could be done. She just had to stick to her plan.

• When the sun was high above her head on the third day, the woman *(Line 15)* dropped her empty canteen and left it in the sand. It was useless. The sun was strong. The days were beginning to blend together.

Reading Practice

1. According to the passage the woman is
A. carrying multiple water canteens on the second day.
B. lost in the desert by the second day.
C. recalculating her water rations on the second day.
D. contemplating turning around on the second day.

2. Which answer choice provides the best evidence for the correct answer to the previous question?
A. Lines 1-4 ("She had… desert.")
B. Lines 4-5 ("She had… one.")
C. Lines 6-11 ("On the… trip.")
D. Lines 14-15 ("When the… useless.")

3. The passage strongly suggests that the woman
A. has traveled through the desert before.
B. had to journey through the desert by foot because no other form of transportation was available.
C. slept during the day and traveled by night.
D. drank more than a mouthful of water each hour

MATH: What to expect on the math sections?

SAT: Math has 2 sections

Calculator section – 38 questions, 55 minutes

No Calculator section – 20 questions, 25 minutes

ACT: Math has 1 section

Calculator – 60 questions, 60 minutes

Directions are Important - The directions on the ACT *AND* the SAT will explain some very vital information to you that should be kept in mind when taking the test:

It's a bad idea to take too long to solve a problem.

Some problems are best solved without a calculator.

Diagrams are not drawn to scale.

Math Examples

SAT Math Example

$$9+2(x-4)+3 = 8-3(x+1)$$

1. In the equation above, what is the value of x? (No Calc; SPR)

ACT Math Example

2. To increase the mean of 4 numbers by 2, by how much would the sum of the 4 numbers have to increase?

A. 2
B. 4
C. 6
D. 8
E. 16

1.) $9 + 2(x-4) + 3 = 8 - 3(x+1)$

$9 + 2x - 8 + 3 = 8 - 3x - 3$ ✳ DISTRIBUTE ✳

$2x + 4 = 5 - 3x$ ✳ COMBINE LIKE TERMS ✳

$+3x \qquad\qquad +3x$ ✳ BRING X TO ONE SIDE ✳

$5x + 4 = 5$ ✳ BRING THE CONSTANT TO THE OTHER ✳

$\qquad -4 \quad -4$

$\dfrac{5x}{5} = \dfrac{1}{5}$ ✳ DIVIDE TO ISOLATE THE VARIABLE ✳

$\boxed{x = 1/5}$

2.) Let's say our $\overset{\text{orig.}}{\text{mean}}$ is 2.5

Our #s are: 1, 2, 3, 4

How we obtain the orig. mean

Therefore, mean $= \dfrac{1+2+3+4}{4} = \boxed{2.5}$

$\boxed{\text{NEW}}$ mean is 4.5

* NEW mean is increased by 2 *

Therefore, $4.5 = \dfrac{10+x}{4}$

* Re-write the mean formula to solve

for X - which represents how much the

$4(4.5) = 10 + x$

Sum of 1, 2, 3, 4 (10) will need to be

$18 = 10 + x$

inc. by to get the NEW mean *

$\underline{-10 \quad -10}$

$\boxed{8 = x}$

ACT Science:

There are 7 passages with 40 questions total.

You do not need advanced knowledge of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Science to do well.

General scientific knowledge and a little bit of math is all you need.

This test is designed to test your ability to **interpret**, **evaluate**, and **analyze** scientific data across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science.

The "harder" the Science topic in the passage the easier the questions will be – use the information given!

Science example

Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and a host of other emissions, known collectively as greenhouse gases, contribute to the greenhouse effect and increase global warming. Data was collected to estimate U.S. greenhouse gas emissions allocated to economic sectors over a six-year span. Greenhouse gas emissions are recorded in teragrams* of carbon dioxide equivalents.

Sector/Source	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Electricity Generation	2,059.6	2,123.9	2,200.7	2,290.5	2,307	2,414.9
Transportation	1,652.4	1,695.2	1,708.5	1,737.4	1,813.3	1,877
Industrial	1,400.9	1,447.6	1,442.7	1,385.9	1,341.1	1,314
Agricultural	533.3	533.3	544.2	545.1	544.9	535.5
Residential	522.7	549	531.1	494.3	516	531.6
Commercial	13	320.8	320.9	302.9	307.1	327.6
Total	6,181.9	6,669.8	6,748.1	6,756.1	6,827.4	7,001.2

Given the information in Table 1, greenhouse gas emissions increased the most in terms of total teragrams* during which span?

A. 1995-1996
B. 1996-1997
C. 1998-1999
D. 1999-2000

*one teragram = one trillion grams

Additional Resources

Huntington Learning Center –Weddington ☺

Khan Academy

ACT Academy

Collegeboard.org

ALBERT!!! - UCPS