



SAT Facts and Tips

1. The SAT includes three sections, Math, Critical Reading, and Writing, each worth 800 points.
2. The SAT is given 7 times per year: January, March/April, May, June, October, November, and December.
3. Take the SAT 2-3 times. The most common plan is to take the PSAT in October of your junior year and then the SAT either once or twice in the spring of your junior year and then once or twice in the fall of your senior year.
4. It is smart to take both the ACT and SAT since every college in the country will take either score. You can use the score of whichever test you score higher on.
5. Order the "question and answer service" for the SAT if it is offered. This means they will send the entire test back to you so you can analyze which questions you got wrong. The College Board typically offers this service on the January, May, and October exams.
6. Most sections of the SAT go from easiest to hardest. This means that it is smarter to omit the questions at the end of the section if you have to omit any questions at all. The only sections that do not go in order of difficulty are the reading passage sections and the grammar passage sections.
7. You should do at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of a practice test per week as you prepare for your exam. You should increase this to at least one practice test per week in each of the four weeks leading up to your exam. This means you should spend $\frac{1}{2}$ hour per night preparing.
8. Spend about 1 minute per question on the math sections, 30 seconds per question on the sentence completion sections, and 1 minute per question on the reading comprehension sections.
9. If you can eliminate at least one answer choice, guess. If you can't eliminate, omit. Try to omit as few questions as possible because omitting doesn't help your score.
10. Ace the easy and medium questions. This is the key to a good score.
11. Go into the SAT with confidence, competitiveness, and try to relax as much as possible.
12. Proper planning and preparation are the keys to success!



ACT Facts and Tips

1. The ACT includes four sections, English, Math, Reading, and Science, totaling 215 questions, and an optional writing section.
2. The ACT is given 6 times per year: January, September, October, December, February, April, and June
3. Order the “test information release” for the ACT if it is offered. This means they will send the entire test back to you so you can analyze which questions you got wrong. The ACT typically offers this service on the December, April, and June exams.
4. Take the ACT at least once; however, research shows that of students who took the ACT more than once, 55% increased their composite score on retest.
5. Approximately 25% of students taking both the ACT and SAT do markedly better on the ACT.
6. The ACT is scored on scale from 1 to 36 based on a composite score derived from each of the testing sections.
7. The ACT testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes meaning students should spend about 50 seconds on each question.
8. The Science portion of this test deals mostly with graph interpretation and analysis of viewpoints so don't worry about studying any specific science course materials.
9. You should do at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of a practice test per week as you prepare for your exam. You should increase this to at least one practice test per week in each of the four weeks leading up to your exam. This means you should spend $\frac{1}{2}$ hour per night preparing.
10. Answer every question. Your scores on the multiple-choice tests are based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing.
11. The ACT is universally accepted for college admission in the U.S. The ACT is accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S., including the Ivy League schools.
12. Go into the ACT with confidence, competitiveness, and try to relax as much as possible.
13. Proper planning and preparation are the keys to success!