

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS at a Glance

1. PSAT/NMSQT – Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Given in **October** to high school juniors, The Preliminary SAT[®]/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test[™]. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs. The PSAT/NMSQT measures: critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, writing skills.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are: to receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study, to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college, to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11), to help prepare for the SAT and to receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

Interested **sophomores** may also take the test as a practice exercise. **When to take:** **sophomore and junior year in October.** **Registration takes place in the WHS café. Cash only.**

2. SAT Reasoning Test (formerly SAT I Scholastic Assessment Test)

The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills you learned in school that you'll need in college.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800, and the writing section will contain two subscores. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. It is administered seven times a year in the U.S. Many competitive colleges and universities require the SAT for admission.

When to take: **juniors usually take this test in May or June of junior year. Seniors usually take the test again in October or November of senior year. Registration packets are in College Career Resource Center and Guidance Office. Registration packet is mailed to the College Board not WHS. Please note: you may register online @ www.collegeboard.org**

3. SAT Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests)

One hour tests designed to measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as your ability to apply that knowledge. Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects. Many colleges use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Used in combination with other background information (your high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a dependable measure of your academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance.

Some colleges specify the Subject Tests they require for admission or placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take. Three tests possible on one test date. Offered on several dates during the year. English Literature, History and Social Studies, U.S. History (formerly American History and Social Studies), World History, Mathematic: Math Level 1 (formerly Math IC), Math Level 2 (formerly Math IIC), Science, Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics, Languages:

Chinese with Listening, French, French with Listening, German, German with Listening, Spanish, Spanish with Listening, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese with Listening, Korean with Listening. **When to take:** **If colleges of your choice require SAT Subject Tests, they should be taken at the end of the course in June. (Please consult with your counselor and colleges about SAT Subject Tests.)**

4. ACT – American College Testing Program

ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. Separate scores plus a composite score averaging the tests. Required by public colleges and some private colleges in the Midwest, West and South. Can replace SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests at some colleges. **When to take:** **junior/senior year; registration packets in the College Career Resource Center, in Guidance Office or online @ www.actstudent.org**

5. Advanced Placement Tests

Three-hour examinations based on full-year, college level courses in high school. Given annually in May. Tests are offered in United States History, Art (History and Studio), Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science (A & AB), English (Language or Literature), European History, French (Language or Literature), German Language, Government and Politics (United States or Comparative), Latin: Vergil & Literature, Mathematics/Calculus (AB or BC), Music Theory, Physics (B or C), and Spanish (Language or Literature), Economics (Microeconomics & Macroeconomics), Statistics, Psychology. Often used for college credit or placement. **When to take:** **at end of AP course in May.**