

# SAT AGT PSAT

## Test Dates

September '10						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

February '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

October '10						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

March '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November '10						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '10						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

June '11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

PSAT Test Date	
SAT Registration Deadline	
SAT Test Date	
ACT Registration Deadline	
ACT Test Date	

### 2010 / 2011 SAT

Register by	Test Date
9/10/2010	10/9/2010
10/8/2010	11/6/2010
11/5/2010	12/4/2010
12/23/2010	1/22/2011
2/11/2011	3/12/2011
4/8/2011	5/7/2011
5/6/2011	6/4/2011

### 2010 / 2011 ACT

Register by	Test Date
8/6/2010	9/11/2010
9/17/2010	10/23/2010
11/5/2010	12/11/2010
1/7/2011	2/12/2011
3/4/2011	4/9/2011
5/6/2011	6/11/2011

## SOPHOMORE--PSAT

**WHEN:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, and following Saturday in October. Ask your school about registration deadlines.

**HOW:** The school sends home notices to sign up, usually in September.

**COST:** \$13 (includes results online). Check to see if your school will pay or whether you qualify for a fee waiver. (Some schools also charge an administrative fee.)

**WHY:** You don't have to take the PSAT this year, but if you do, you'll get an idea of your test-taking strengths and weaknesses. Plus, it's the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship (if your scores are high enough, you'll be entered into the competition) and a first step for programs aimed at helping Hispanics and African-Americans attend college. Also, if you love getting mail, check the box to announce yourself to colleges across the land.

**DID YOU KNOW?** These scores will not go to any college admissions office.

## SAT SUBJECT TESTS

**WHEN:** Check Calendar—7 times per academic calendar year, on Saturdays.

## JUNIOR--PSAT

**WHEN:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, and following Saturday in October. Ask your school about registration deadlines.

**HOW:** The school sends home notices to sign up, usually in September.

**COST:** \$13 (includes results online). Check to see if your school will pay or whether you qualify for a fee waiver. (Some schools also charge an administrative fee.)

**WHY:** Maybe you took it in 10th grade; maybe not. Either way, your 11th-grade scores will reveal the current state of your test-taking prowess. And as we said above, it's the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship.

**PREP:** If you took the PSAT in the 10th grade and your sophomore scores suggest you're in the running for a National Merit Scholarship (ballpark: 90th percentile and up)—or you just need to improve them—you might consider a prep book, course, or tutor. If you haven't taken the test before, you should at least try the practice test in the registration packet you get from your high school counselor.

**NEXT STEP:** Results come in December. Look at your scores, and look at the schools you're thinking of applying to. Then, it's time to consider: more prep on your own, a prep class, or an individual tutor (warning: The best tutors book up—gulp—a year ahead).

**HOW:** Register online or by mail with the "SAT Registration Booklet." **COST:** \$20 registration fee, plus an additional \$9 for each subject test and \$20 for each language test. **WHY:** As with the PSAT, you do not have to take a subject test in your sophomore year. But many students are more comfortable taking a test while an academic subject is still fresh in their minds. And if you're taking AP courses and other standard tests in your junior year, you may run into test overload if you leave it till later.

**DID YOU KNOW?** ACT has its own 10th-grade assessment tool, called PLAN. It's available only through schools, but 1.2 million students took it last year.

## ACT

**WHEN:** Check Calendar—6 times per academic calendar year, on Saturdays.

**HOW:** Register online or by mail (details at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)).

**COST:** \$32 without writing, \$47 with.

**WHY:** It's a fact: The ACT is great for some kids. Most students describe the test as straightforward. There's no penalty for wrong answers, and you finish rather than start your test day with an essay.

Taking the ACT early lets you compare your results with your PSAT score (you can find a table to convert an ACT score into SAT—speak at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)). Do that, then decide which test to focus on.

**DID YOU KNOW?** You can opt to keep any of your scores private, so you can start taking the test as early as you like.

**PREP:** Your guidance counselor should have a sample test, and the ACT offers many resources online. You can also use a good prep book or see whether there's a local class or tutor.

**NEXT STEP:** Scores are available early online. If the ACT is the test for you and you'd like to boost your score, look at the straightforward and helpful *Real ACT Prep Guide* (\$25, including shipping, at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), or check with your school's guidance center). But if you're happy with the scores, send them to the schools you're applying to—fill out an online request or send a letter. Reports to the first four schools are free if you make your request when you register; each additional report costs \$9 (regular processing) or \$13 (priority—plus \$12 extra if the request is made by phone).

## SAT

**WHEN:** Juniors typically take the test in the spring. Check Calendar—7 times per academic calendar year, on Saturdays. Students unable to take a Saturday test for religious reasons can take it on Sundays.

**HOW:** Register online at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) or by mail with the "SAT Registration Booklet" from your guidance counselor. Online registration opens in June for the coming school year. Early birds have a better chance of nailing the testing locale of their choice; dawdlers must pay a \$23 late fee. You can also show up on test day and try for standby. Be there before 7:45 a.m. Bring a registration form and its envelope, plus credit card info or checks to cover the regular fees and \$38 in standby fees. **COST:** \$45.

**WHY:** Need you ask?

**DID YOU KNOW?** It's perfectly normal to take the test more than once, and you can pick which of your scores you want colleges to see. Make sure you select that option if that's what you want to do. **PREP:** If your PSAT score showed weaknesses, try to correct them with a prep book, class, or private tutor. The College Board has resources online. Just as important: Sleep well the week of the test.

**NEXT STEP:** You have nothing to lose (except \$45 a shot) by taking the test over. Decide where you need to improve and whether you would benefit from fine-tuning or a major overhaul.

**WHY:** It's your last chance to push up those scores.

**DID YOU KNOW?** When you've reached your senior year, timing is crucial. If you're applying early, you need to take the October tests. The reason? November is often too late for scores to reach your early-decision or early-action school in time. But for all of those students who are applying regular decision, the November test should be fine, and even December should work. As a last-minute measure, you might go for January, but only if the

## SAT SUBJECT TESTS

**WHEN:** Check Calendar—7 times per academic calendar year, on Saturdays.

**HOW:** Register online or by mail with the SAT registration booklet.

**COST:** \$20 registration fee, plus an additional \$9 for each subject test and \$20 for each language test.

**WHY:** Because many schools require two and a few very selective ones (including Harvard, Georgetown, and Princeton) may want three.

**PREP:** Several weeks beforehand, try a diagnostic test in the College Board's book *Real SAT Subject Tests*, sold via Amazon and other vendors. If you've got big gaps, try a prep book for the subject matter. You may even be able to find a prep class (but it would have to be in a popular subject, such as math. There will most likely be *nhilil* for Latin lovers). A tutor can help you organize yourself, but reteaching a whole year's worth of knowledge is hard in many subjects.

**NEXT STEP:** Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Problems? Were they a timing issue or a knowledge issue? Also, consider taking three tests in May—then focus by redoubling your efforts on two of them for the June test. Or try again in your senior year.

school has an early application deadline and you've checked with the admissions office first.

**PREP:** Study, sleep, study, study, sleep, study, sleep. And you thought your junior year was hard.

**NEXT STEP:** Recycle those No. 2 pencils into chopsticks or hair ornaments, for you will never have to take a standardized admissions test again (oh, wait, unless you decide to go to grad school...).

## Senior RETAKE if necessary

**WHEN:** Take the SAT or subject tests in the FALL only—see Calendar

**HOW:** Register online, by phone, or by mail.

**COST:** \$45 for the SAT, \$40 for SAT language with listening subject tests, \$29 for all other SAT subject tests (dropping to \$9 after the first test), \$32 for the ACT without writing, \$47 for the ACT with writing.