

2009/2010

TEST DATES AND DEADLINES



SEPTEMBER 2009						
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			

12: ACT test date.
Registration deadline:
August 7

NOTES:

FEBRUARY 2010						
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						

6: ACT test date (except in New York). Registration deadline: January 5

NOTES:

OCTOBER 2009						
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

10: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: September 9

14 & 17: High schools may administer the PSAT. (Ask about registration deadlines.)

24: ACT test date. Registration deadline: September 18

MARCH 2010						
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			

13: SAT test date. Registration deadline: February 4

NOTES:

NOVEMBER 2009						
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					

7: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: October 1

NOTES:

APRIL 2010						
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	

10: ACT test date. Registration deadline: March 5

NOTES:

DECEMBER 2009						
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		

5: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: October 30

12: ACT test date. Registration deadline: November 6

NOTES:

MAY 2010						
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					

1: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: March 25

NOTES:

JANUARY 2010						
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						

23: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: December 15

NOTES:

JUNE 2010						
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			

5: SAT and SAT subject test date. Registration deadline: April 29

12: ACT test date. Registration deadline: May 7

NOTES:

We took off July and August, and so should you!

SOPHOMORE YEAR

THINK ABOUT TAKING THE PSAT, AND CONSIDER TAKING SUBJECT TESTS

PSAT

WHEN: October 14 or 17. 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: October 10, November 7, December 5, January 23, May 1, and June 5 (register by September 9, October 1, October 30, December 15, March 25, and April 29, respectively).
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.

JUNIOR YEAR

ACT

WHEN: September 12, October 24, December 12, February 6 (except in New York), April 10, and June 12 (register by August 7, September 18, November 6, January 5, March 5, and May 7, respectively).
HOW: Register online or by mail (details at 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). 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, 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).

PSAT

WHEN: October 14 or 17. 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).

SAT

WHEN: Juniors typically take the test in the spring. The 2010 dates: January 23, March 13, May 1, or June 5 (register by December 15, February 4, March 25, and April 29, respectively). Students unable to take a Saturday test for religious reasons can take it on Sundays.
HOW: Register online at 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.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

WHEN: October 10, November 7, December 5, January 23, May 1, and June 5 (register by September 9, October 1, October 30, December 15, March 25, and April 29, respectively).
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 *nil* 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.

SENIOR YEAR

RETAKE SAT OR ACT IF NEED BE; RETAKE OR TAKE NEW SUBJECT TESTS

WHEN: Take the SAT or subject tests on October 10, November 7, or December 5 (register by September 9, October 1, or October 30, respectively), or take the ACT on September 12, October 24, or December 12 (register by August 7, September 18, and November 6, respectively).
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.
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 school has an early 2010 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....).