

SAT/ACT OVERVIEW & STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER SCORES

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

1. Where is it?

Nashville, Tennessee

2. What is the Mascot?

Commodores

3. Who are some famous alumni?

QUIZ!





VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



Dr. Muhammad Yunus
Ph.D. Economics, 1969
Nobel Peace Prize 2006



William F. Hagerty
US Ambassador to Japan
Vanderbilt '81, Law '84



Al Gore
Divinity, Law School
Nobel Peace Prize 2007

FAMOUS ALUMNI

▶ Standard Metric to Distinguish Applicants from Diverse Backgrounds



VS

- Grades (Curriculum Strength)
- Extracurricular Activities
- Personal Essay
- Letters of Recommendation

ROLE OF SAT/ACT IN ADMISSIONS

Important Admissions Factors

HOW TO GET IN AND WHAT IS CONSIDERED



IMPORTANCE OF SAT/ACT IN
ADMISSIONS

SAT

Section	Time Limit	Questions
Reading	65 minutes	52 questions
Writing	35 minutes	44 questions
Math w/o Calculator	25 minutes	20 questions
Math w/ calculator	55 minutes	38 questions
Essay (optional)	50 minutes	1 prompt

ACT

Section	Time Limit	Questions
English	45 minutes	75 questions
Math	60 minutes	60 questions
Reading	35 minutes	40 questions
Science	35 minutes	40 questions
Essay (optional)	40 minutes	

SAT/ACT BREAKDOWN

SAT	ACT
Claremont McKenna	Claremont McKenna
Martin Luther College	Martin Luther College
Soka University of America	Soka University of America
US Military Academy	US Military Academy
UC Schools (All)	UC Schools (All)
University of Miami	University of Miami
University of North Texas	University of North Texas
University of Montana	Wellesley College

But still recommended...

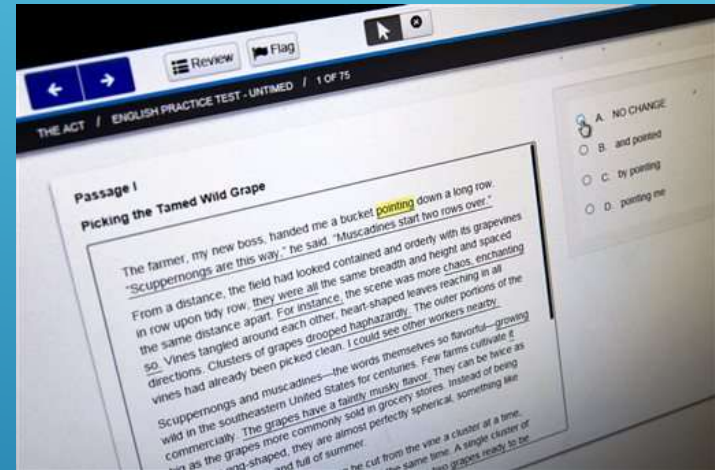
SAT/ACT ESSAY REQUIRED

SAT

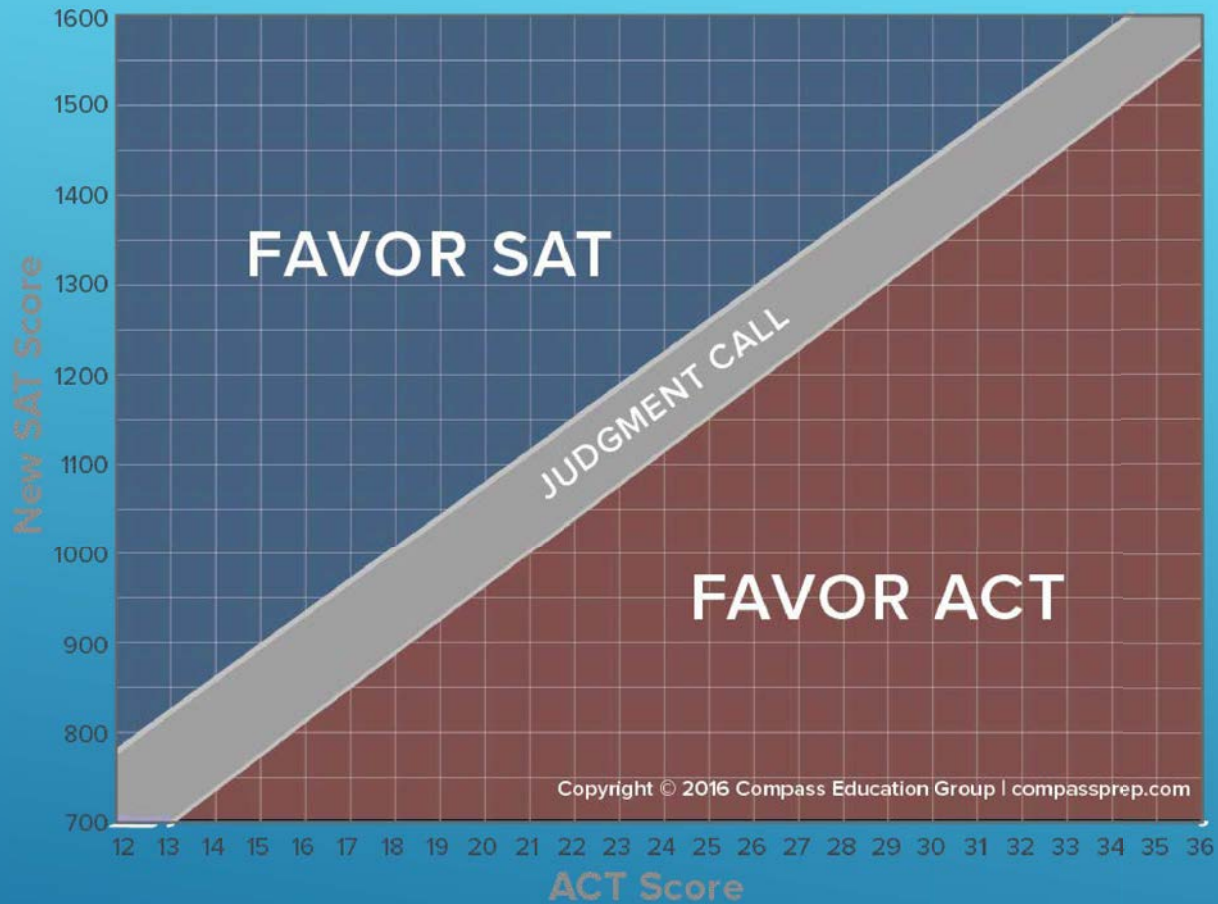
ACT



VS



SAT/ACT BREAKDOWN



WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU TAKE?

▶ Reading Section Overview

- Hardest to Improve
- Aside from problems, reading for fun
- Multitude of Topics
 - Politics, Economics, Science, Philosophy, Fiction, Psychology
- US-themed passages
- Progressive Topics
 - Human Rights, Peace Studies, Diversity, UN-supported Causes

▶ Reading Section Strategies

Multiple approaches

- Read entire passage
- Skim parts of passage
- Straight to the questions

Best approach?

Depends on you

In my experience, reading entire passage is best (if you have speed and retention)

► Overview

1. Classic Method
 - a. Make lists
2. Contextual Vocabulary
 - a) Mark unfamiliar words directly in reading passage
 - b) Look up
 - c) Examine usage in context
 1. Make a note of prepositions (of, with, by, etc.)
 - d) Associate a charge: +, -, neutral

SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: VOCAB

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

► Overview

3 Types of Questions

1. Grammar and Punctuation
 - a. Grammar Rules, Technical Aspects
2. Word Choice and Style
 - a. Vocabulary, Flow
3. Passage Structure, Clarity of Ideas
 - a. Transitions & Linkages, Editing

SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: WRITING/ENGLISH



► Overview

Look up “SAT Grammar Rules” online.

Example:

Subject-Verb Agreement

My math teacher, who is extremely demanding and yells at all the students, give too much homework.



My math teacher, ~~who is extremely demanding and yells at all the students,~~ give too much homework.



My math teacher, who is extremely demanding and yells at all the students, **gives** too much homework.

► Math

- SAT Concepts
 - Heart of Algebra (33%)
 - Linear Equations
 - Problem Solving and Data Analysis (33%)
 - Proportions, rates, percentages, probability, data/graphs
 - Passport to Advanced Math (33%)
 - Quadratic Equations, Trigonometry
- ACT Concepts
 - Pre-Algebra (20-25%), Elementary Algebra (15-20%), Intermediate Algebra (15-20%), Coordinate Geometry (15-20%), Plane Geometry (20-25%), Trigonometry (5-10%)

SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: MATH

▶ ACT Science

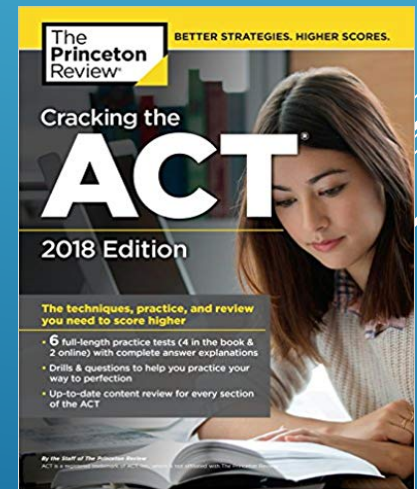
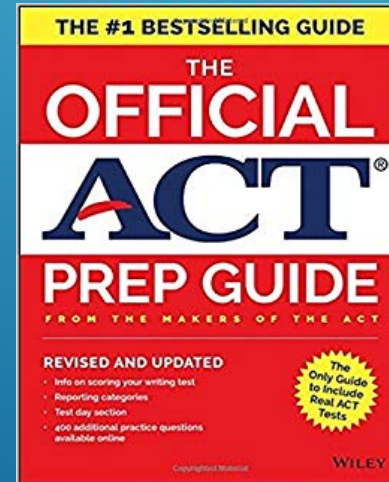
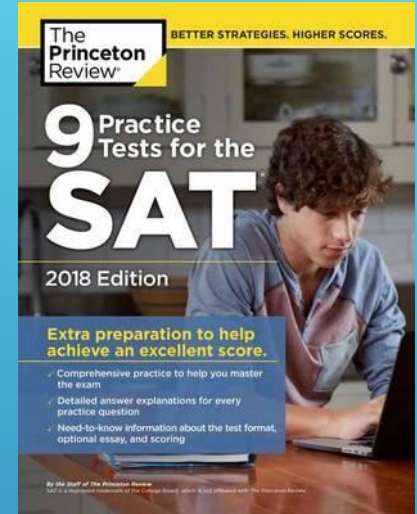
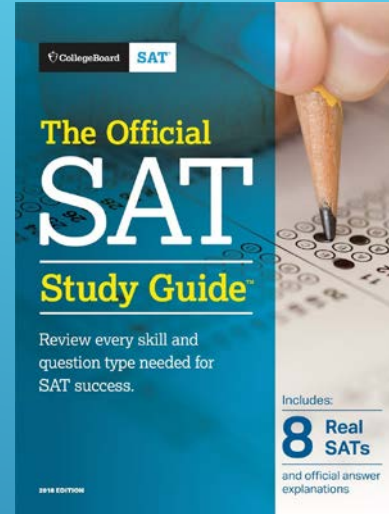
- No expertise necessary!
 - But background knowledge helps
- Mainly charts, data, experiments
- Considered hardest section for timing
- Best methods to prepare
 - Brush up on Science Terms
 - Practice with Time Limits

SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: ACT SCIENCE



▶ Best Methods to Improve Your Score

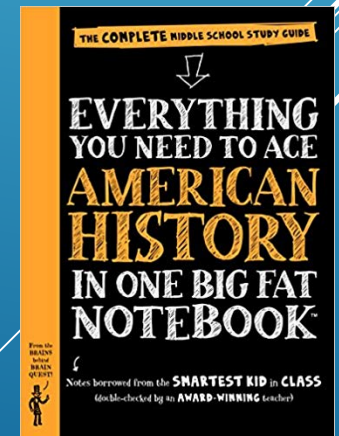
1. Practice, Practice, Practice! (Consistent)
2. Save Official SAT/ACT Practice Tests
3. Quantity AND Quality
4. Khan Academy Online
5. Recreate the Testing Environment
6. Time Management Training
7. Contextual Vocabulary
8. Read, Read, Read!
9. Review Grammar Rules
10. Review Math Terms
11. (Optional) Historical Background



SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: SUMMARY

► Resources

- Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>)
- ACT Academy (<https://academy.act.org/>)
- Prep Books
 - SAT Official (DON'T BUY, Free here: (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests>))
 - Princeton Review (Solid, all-around resource)
 - Kaplan (Reading/Writing-Language sections great, math not)
 - Barron's (Questions more difficult than real SAT, good practice)
 - McGraw Hill, Ivy Global, SAT Prep Black Book
- Brief Review of US History
 - *Everything You Need to Ace American History...*
- SAT/ACT Classes
- Private Tutoring wright@th.seikei.ac.jp



SAT/ACT RESOURCES

Thank you for
listening!

