

# SAT/ACT OVERVIEW & STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER SCORES

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# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

1. Where is it located?

Nashville, Tennessee

2. When was it founded?

1873

3. What are the school's colors?

Black & Gold

4. What is the mascot?

Commodores

QUIZ!





# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



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



William F. Hagerty  
Former 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

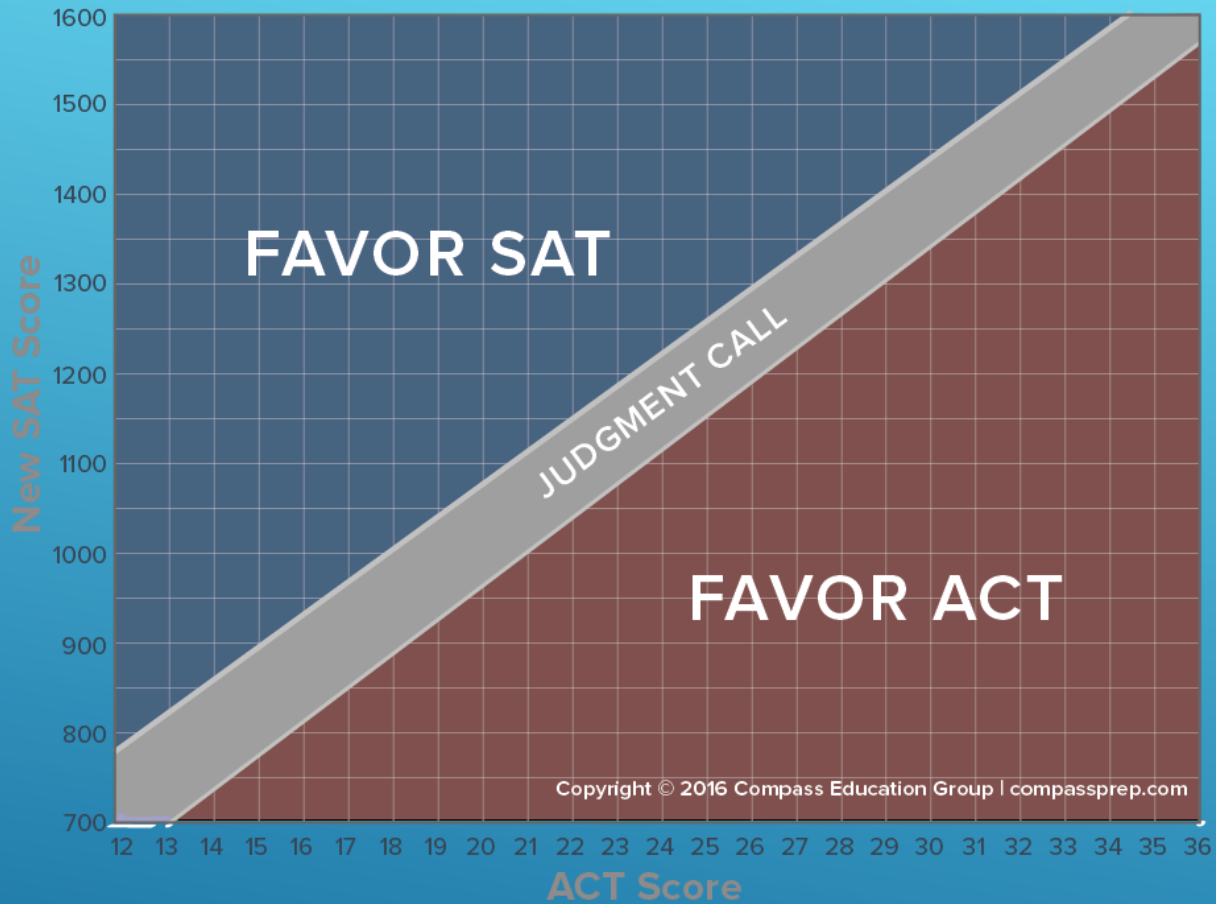
Section	Time Limit	Questions
English	45 minutes	75 questions
Math	60 minutes	60 questions
Reading	35 minutes	40 questions
Science	35 minutes	40 questions
Essay (optional)	40 minutes	

## SAT/ACT BREAKDOWN

SAT	ACT
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 Montana-Western	

But still recommended...

SAT/ACT ESSAY REQUIRED

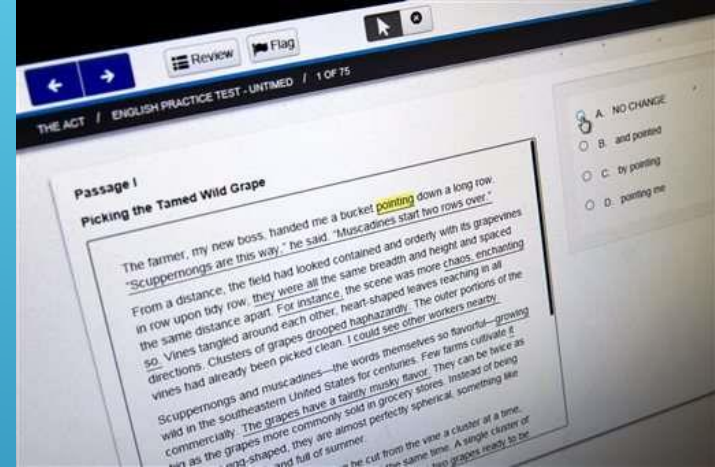


WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU TAKE?



# SAT

# ACT



# VS

## Testing Dates

# SAT/ACT BREAKDOWN

FOR ALL SAT  
SUBJECT  
TESTS™

SECOND EDITION

▶ 20 full-length,  
previously administered  
SAT Subject Tests

▶ Top choice for students  
preparing for multiple  
Subject Tests

▶ Exclusive test-taking  
approaches and tips  
from the test maker

SAT

- Overview
  - Timing/Mistakes/Dates
- Subjects
  - Math 1, Math 2
  - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
  - English (Literature)
  - World History, US History
  - Spanish, French, Italian, German, Modern Hebrew, Latin, Chinese, Japanese, Korean
- Trivia
  - Answer:
    - Portable CD Player!

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

# ▶ 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

## 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: Misplaced Modifier

Despite having finished her test, the teacher wouldn't let Jenna leave until the class was over.



**Who finished the test?**



Despite having finished her test, the teacher wouldn't let Jenna leave until the class was over.



Despite having finished her test, Jenna was not allowed to leave by her teacher until the class was over.

SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: GRAMMAR

# ► 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

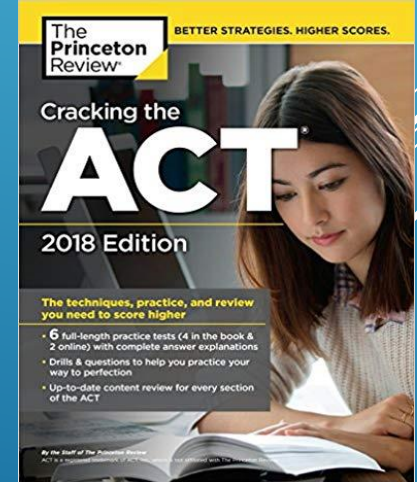
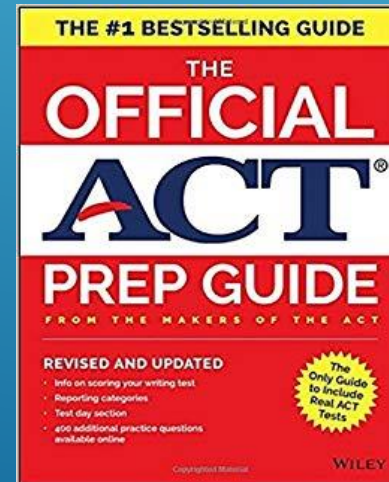
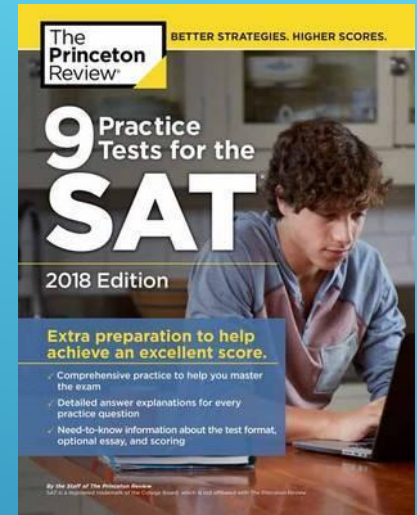
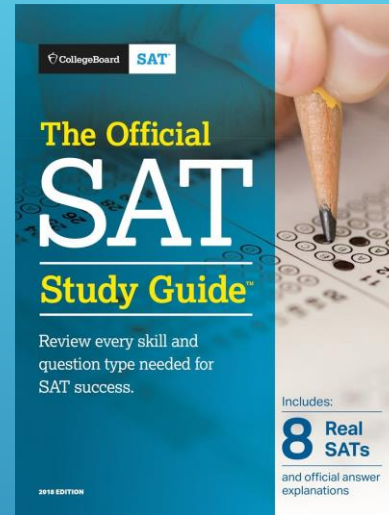
SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: ACT SCIENCE

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# ▶ Best Methods to Improve Your Score

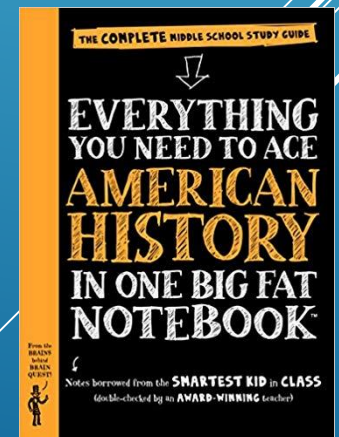
1. Practice, Practice, Practice! (Consistent)
2. Save Official SAT/ACT Practice Tests
3. Quantity AND Quality
4. Khan Academy Online
5. Recreate the Testing Environment
6. Time Management Training
7. Contextual Vocabulary
8. Read, Read, Read!
9. Review Grammar Rules
10. Review Math Terms
11. (Optional)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



## SAT/ACT STRATEGIES: SUMMARY

# ► Resources

- Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>)
- ACT Academy (<https://academy.act.org/>)
  - Practice Computer Sections:
    - (<https://pages.act.org/cbt-for-international.html>)
- 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



## SAT/ACT RESOURCES

Thank you for  
listening!

