

## COLLEGE PREP ASSESSMENT TERMINOLOGY – 2016/17

**ACT** The letters do not stand for anything anymore; the ACT was formerly known as the American College Testing program; this test has four components (English, math, reading and science) and an optional writing test. The score range is from 1 to 36, with 36 being the top score. There is no penalty for incorrect answers.

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2016	August 5, 2016	August 6-9, 2016
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016	September 17-30, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016	November 5-18, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 6, 2017	January 7-20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017

ACT Writing Test: 30 minute essay that provides two additional scores—Writing subscore (2-12 scale; two readers who rate the essay from 1 [low] to 6 [high] and English/Writing subscore (1-36 scale) which is calculated from two-thirds of the English test and one-third from the writing test.

Cost: \$42.50 (no writing)                      Late registration fee: \$27.50  
           \$58.50 (optional writing)                Standby testing: \$47.00

**ASPIRE** This is a new “next generation” assessment from ACT which launched in 2014. The assessment will be offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The assessment will be fully aligned to the *Common Core State Standards*. *It replaces the EXPLORE and PLAN.*

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**CollegeBoard** this is the not-for-profit association whose mission is to “connect students to college success and opportunity”; CollegeBoard manages the PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP, CLEP, and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE programs; they also have a partnership with **Khan Academy** to provide free test prep for the SAT and PSAT

**SAT** **SAT Reasoning Test** (formerly known as Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Assessment Test); the *new redesigned test in March 2016* consists of evidence-based reading and writing (reading test & writing and language test), a math test and an *optional* essay. The test is 3 hours, minus the optional 50 minute essay. There is no longer a penalty for incorrect answers. Scoring involves scale ranging from 400 to 1600; scale ranging from 200 to 800 for evidence-based reading and writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for essay; essay results reported separately; see: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-assessments/exam-changes>

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Registration Deadline)
October 1, 2016	September 1, 2016	September 20, 2016
November 5, 2016	October 7, 2016	October 25, 2016
December 3, 2016	November 3, 2016	November 22, 2016
January 21, 2017	December 21, 2016	January 10, 2017
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017	February 28, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017	April 25, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 24, 2017

SAT Cost: \$45.00                                      Change Fee: \$28.00  
 SAT with Essay: \$57.00                        Late registration fee: \$28.00  
 Subject Tests: \$26.00 each                    Waitlist fee: \$46.00

**SAT Subject Tests** (formerly called SAT II's); the subject tests are required by many top colleges; they are scored 200-800 per section, with 800 being the top score; there are several subjects available for the subject tests; many colleges ask for one math test and one humanities

Tests available (as of Fall, 2017; tests are offered 6 times a year):

Literature	Spanish
Biology E/M (Ecological/Molecular)	Modern Hebrew
Chemistry	Italian
Physics	Latin
U.S. History	French w/listening
World History	German w/listening
Mathematics Level 1	Spanish w/listening
Mathematics Level 2	Chinese w/listening
French	Japanese w/listening
German	Korean w/listening

The Subject Tests are generally offered six times a year although not all tests are available on all dates. Students should look at the schedule well in advance.

Fees are charged by test date rather than test. 2016-17: \$26 per test date

**PSAT/NMSQT** Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ; see **National Merit**

### **National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT)**

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT); the year that "counts" is 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The PSAT is being redesigned for the Fall of 2015. The test will take 2 hours and 45 minutes. The redesigned sections include: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Math. Some scores will be reported on the same scale used for the SAT: this scale ranges from 320 to 1520 for the total score, 160-760 for two section scores, and 8-38 for test scores; only 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders may take the PSAT/NMSQT, but only the 11<sup>th</sup> grade year counts for National Merit

There are various categories for students who perform at high levels on the PSAT test during their junior year:

*National Merit Commended:* these students did not qualify as semi-finalists, but performed at a high level on the PSAT; although the selection index varies annually, it is typically a combined total of around 202 or more on the three parts of the PSAT; the Commended cut-off is established nationwide rather than by state

*National Merit Semifinalist:* these students performed at the highest level on the PSAT and are then considered for Finalist status based on school recommendation, test scores, and academic record; the qualifying scores annually vary by state; students must complete an application for consideration for Finalist status and to be considered for Scholar awards; the cut-off is established by each state

*National Merit Finalist:* these students are the ones who have advanced from semifinalist status to finalist status based on their applications

*National Merit Scholar:* top finalists are considered for either \$2500 awards, or college/corporate awards; some awards are only available through the employment place of the parents or the schools to which an applicant has applied

*National Achievement:* this is a program for outstanding Black students

See: <http://www.nationalmerit.org/> [Also see: **Selection Index**]

Past Ohio selection indices:

2003	211	2008	211	2013	212
2004	212	2009	213	2014	215
2005	214	2010	211	2015	213
2006	215	2011	212	2016	215
2007	215	2012	214	2017	

Commended: 209 estimate for 2016-17

National Merit eligibility is based not on a student's total score, but is calculated using section scores for Math, Reading, and Writing and Language. Each section is scored between 8 and 38. National Merit will add each section score together and then multiply by 2. For example:

30 on Math  
31 on Reading  
32 on Writing/Language  
93 total x 2 = 186 Selection Index

*Many changes are expected with the National Merit system and those changes should be available in the Fall of 2016.*

**PSAT™ 8/9** can be administered in the *fall or spring of eighth and/or ninth grade*, depending on the goals of districts and schools. The test serves as a foundation for understanding student progress as they enter high school and ensuring that they are on target for being college and career ready by the time they leave high school. This assessment takes 2 hrs. and 25 minutes. It covers evidence-based reading and writing as well as math.

### **PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT**

Both exams cover the same content domain and serve as a “check-in” on student progress and pinpoint areas for focused practice. Students can take the PSAT/NMSQT in the *fall of tenth and/or eleventh grade* (though only eleventh graders are eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program). Instead of delivering the PSAT/NMSQT to tenth graders in the fall, some schools may instead deliver the PSAT™ 10 in the spring. The exam time is 2 hrs. and 45 mins.

Schools can administer the PSAT/NMSQT to 10th- and 11th-graders on Oct. 19 or Nov. 2, 2016. They can also give 10th-graders the PSAT 10 between Feb. 21 and April 14, 2017.

### **AP**

Advanced Placement tests offered by *CollegeBoard*; students do not have to take the courses in order to register for the tests; see <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

Tests are scored 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. Some colleges accept all AP scores for credit while other may accept none. Always check what your potential colleges will accept.

## **AP Courses & Exams as of Fall, 2017:**

**Arts:** Art History  
Music Theory  
Studio Art: 2-D Design  
Studio Art: 3-D Design  
Studio Art: Drawing

**English:** English Language & Composition  
English Literature & Composition

**History & Social Science:**  
Comparative Government & Politics  
European History  
Human Geography  
Macroeconomics  
Microeconomics  
Psychology  
U.S. Government & Politics  
U.S. History  
World History

**Math & Computer Science:**  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Computer Science A  
Computer Science Principles  
Statistics

**Sciences:** Biology  
Chemistry  
Environmental Science  
Physics C (Electricity & Magnetism)  
Physics C (Mechanics)  
Physics 1: Algebra-Based  
Physics 2: Algebra-Based

**World Languages & Cultures:**  
Chinese Language & Culture  
French Language & Culture  
German Language & Culture  
Italian Language & Culture  
Japanese Language & Culture  
Latin  
Spanish Language & Culture  
Spanish Literature & Culture

**AP Awards:** There are various categories of the AP awards given by *CollegeBoard*:

### **AP Scholar**

Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

**AP Scholar with Honor**

Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

**AP Scholar with Distinction**

Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

**State AP Scholar**

Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

**National AP Scholar**

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ASVAB** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students. The ASVAB tests are designed to measure aptitudes in four domains: Verbal, Math, Science and Technical, and Spatial. The ASVAB is scored based on percentiles, 1-99%.

**CEEB** College Entrance Examination Board (code numbers are used when registering for SAT/ACT tests); codes are used to insure that records are sent to the correct high school See: "Test Dates > Code Search" on CollegeBoard's website or ACT's website under "Registration > High School Codes"; it is a six-digit number

**BEREA-MIDPARK HS: 360435**

**CLEP** College-Level Examination Program; a series of exams offered by CollegeBoard that may count for credit at some colleges

**College Credit Plus** Ohio's new rules for obtaining college credit while still in high school

**Credit by Examination** The awarding of college credit based on exams offered either at the college on-site or via AP or CLEP programs.

**Equating** The process of putting two or more essentially parallel tests on a common scale. Equating is a process used to make test scores across **different forms of the same test** interchangeable. When test forms are created to be similar in content and difficulty, *equating* adjusts for differences in difficulty. For example, the raw score on the PSAT is converted to a score on the PSAT/NMQT scale of 20 to 80. This statistical procedure, called equating, adjusts for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Equating makes it possible to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test. The goal of equating is to produce scores that are exchangeable. A June SAT I should be exchangeable with a January SAT I. An ACT is not exchangeable with a SAT since they are measuring different constructs.

**IB** International Baccalaureate; college-level exams and full-diploma program offered by many high schools across the country

**Percentile** The percentage of other test-takers with lower scores, plus half the percent with exactly that score. For example, a junior who earns a score of 65 on the PSAT writing test did better than 95% of the other test-takers.

Percentiles are based on the most recent scores earned by students in the previous year's graduating class who took the SAT during high school. For the SAT, you will see percentiles both for the total group of test-takers and for your state. Your percentile changes depending on the group with which your scores are compared. Because the total group is larger and more diverse than the state group, your total and state percentiles may differ.

**PSEO** Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (some colleges grant credit while others do not); Ohio now uses the term *College Credit Plus*

**Raw Score** The total number of correct responses.

**Reliability** Reliability refers to the consistency of a measure. A test is considered reliable if we get the same result repeatedly. For example, if a test is designed to measure a trait (such as introversion), then each time the test is administered to a subject, the results should be approximately the same. Synonym: Precision.

**Scaled Score** A score to which raw scores are converted by numerical transformation. A score is computed from the raw score; it usually includes an adjustment for difficulty. It is usually expressed on a different scale to avoid confusion with the raw score.

**Score Choice** The practice of allowing students to choose the best score set from multiple testings (i.e., SAT/ACT) rather than requiring that all test scores be submitted. Score Choice is a trademark term that CollegeBoard uses. ACT has always allowed students to submit one set of scores from multiple test sessions.

**Superscore** The practice of taking the best scores from multiple tests (ACT/SAT) and using the best scores for consideration on the application. For example:

ACT 2/2011: E 29, M 36, R 36, Sci 36 Comp. 34

ACT 6/2011 E 35, M 34, R 34, Sci 35 Comp. 35

Superscore: E 35, M 36, R 36, Sci 36

**Validity** Validity is the extent to which a test measures what it claims to measure. It is vital for a test to be valid in order for the results to be accurately applied and interpreted. Validity isn't determined by a single statistic, but by a body of research that demonstrates the relationship between the test and the behavior it is intended to measure. There are three types of validity: content, criterion-related and construct.

*Note: the information contained in this list has been gathered from several sources (some primary, some secondary); all information is being shared for educational purposes only; list compiled by Karen Rohde, Coordinator for Gifted Services, Testing & ESL at the Berea City School District; Berea, Ohio. Updated August 3, 2016*