

2006-2007 Standardized Tests Comparison

| | PSAT/NMSQT www.collegeboard.com | SAT Reasoning www.collegeboard.com | ACT www.actstudent.org | SAT Subject www.collegeboard.com | AP www.collegeboard.com |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Who takes it? | sophomores & juniors | juniors & seniors | juniors & seniors | juniors, & other grades when appropriate | sophomores – seniors (after an AP course) |
| What is it for? | Measures critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills. Scores in junior year determine eligibility for National Merit recognition. | Measures writing, critical reading, and mathematical reasoning skills. | Measures content knowledge. | Measures a student's knowledge and skills in a particular subject and their ability to apply that knowledge. | Measures college-level knowledge in AP class. |
| What is it like? | 2 hours, 10 minutes CRITICAL READING 48 questions, 50 minutes, including sentence completion, short and long critical reading passages. MATH 38 questions, 50 minutes, including 28 regular multiple-choice and 10 grid-in responses. WRITING 39 questions, 30 minutes, including identifying sentence errors, improving sentences, and improving paragraphs. All writing skills questions are multiple-choice. | 3.5 hours CRITICAL READING 67 questions, 70 minutes MATH 54 questions, 70 minutes WRITING 49 questions, 35 minutes 1 essay, 25 minutes | 3 hours, all multiple-choice ENGLISH (grammar): 75 questions, 45 minutes MATH: 60 questions, 60 minutes READING: 40 questions, 35 minutes SCIENCE: 40 questions, 35 minutes WRITING (optional) | Each test: 1 hour, multiple-choice, chosen from the following subjects: LITERATURE, US HISTORY, WORLD HISTORY, MATH LEVEL 1, MATH LEVEL 2, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, FRENCH, GERMAN, LATIN, SPANISH Maximum of 3 tests per testing day. | Depends on subject area: combination of multiple-choice questions; essays; taped responses (languages & music theory). |
| When is the test? | October 18 | Oct 14, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 27, March 10, May 5, June 2 | Sept 16, Oct 28, Dec 9, Feb 10, April 14, June 9 | Oct 14, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 27, May 5, June 2 | May 7-18, 2007 |
| What is the fee? | \$12 | \$ 41.50 | \$ 29.00 (+ \$ 14 for optional WR test which is recommended) | \$ 18.00 basic fee, then \$8 per test. \$19 for Language Test with Listening | \$ 83.00 per test |
| What is the scoring scale? | 20-80 for each of 3 sections | 200-800 per section | 1-36 for each of 4 sections & for composite | 200-800 | 1-5 |