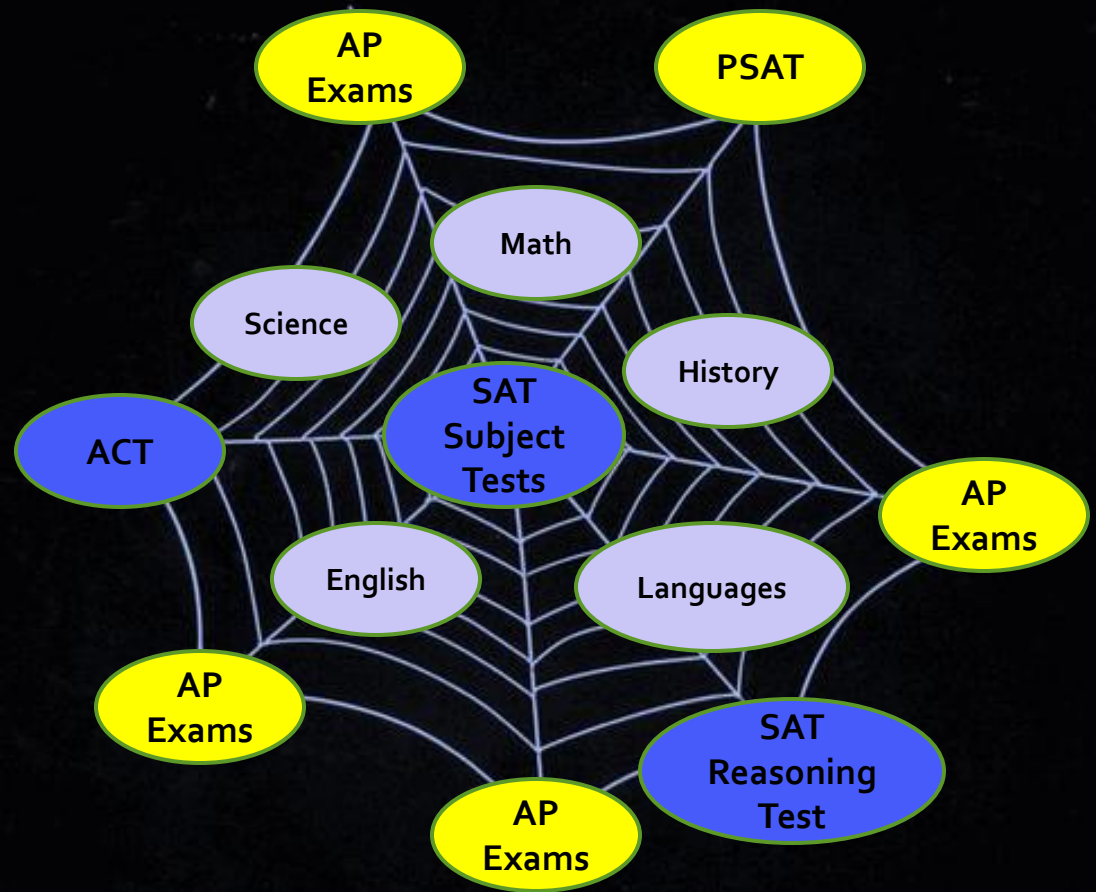


NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST “WEB”



Sherman Snyder
Fox Chapel Tutoring

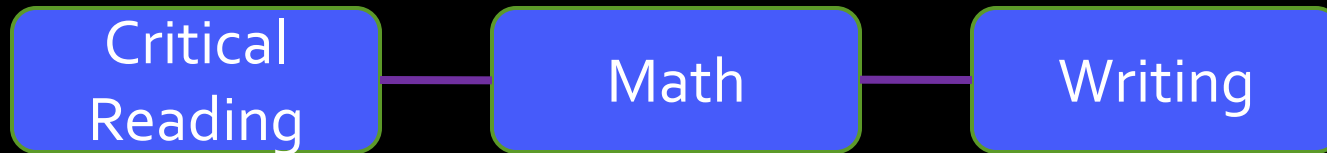
Important Questions



- What are the college admissions test options?
- PSAT and AP Exams not part of admissions requirements - need to be considered when developing test plan
- What do the test options measure?
- Which tests should be taken and when?
- How should your child prepare?

PSAT

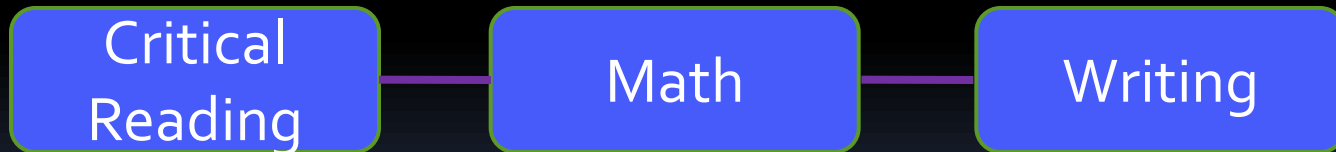
- Helps prepare students for the SAT
- Three subject areas tested



- Used to determine eligibility for scholarships
- Also known as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT)
- Usually taken by students in October of Grade 10 and Grade 11

SAT Reasoning

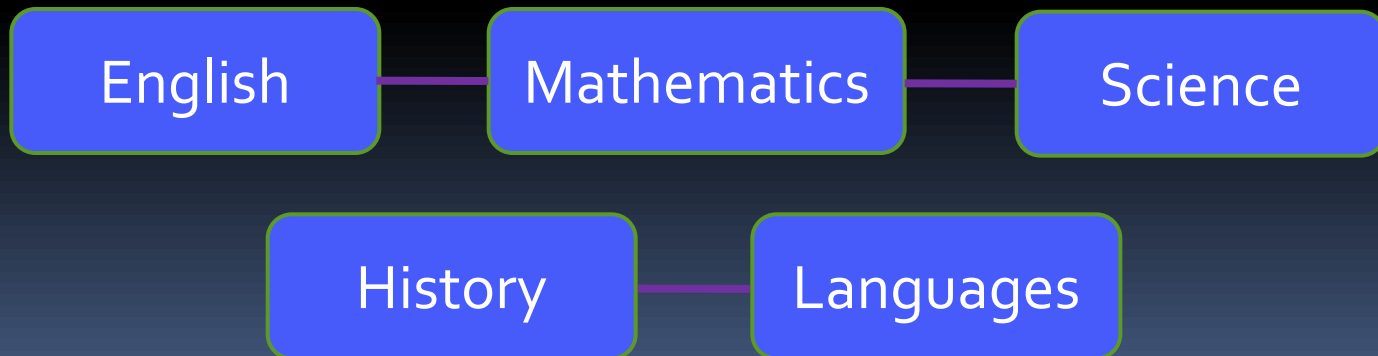
- A measure of the critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college
- Helps college admissions representatives make acceptance decisions
- Three subject areas tested



- Taken by most students applying to four year college

SAT Subject Tests

- Measures how well a student knows a particular subject area and their ability to apply knowledge
- Content of each test reflects the latest trends in teaching and in learning
- Fall into five general subject areas:



SAT Subject Tests

English

- Literature

Math

- Level 1
- Level 2

Languages

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Modern Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Spanish

Science

- Biology E/M
- Chemistry
- Physics

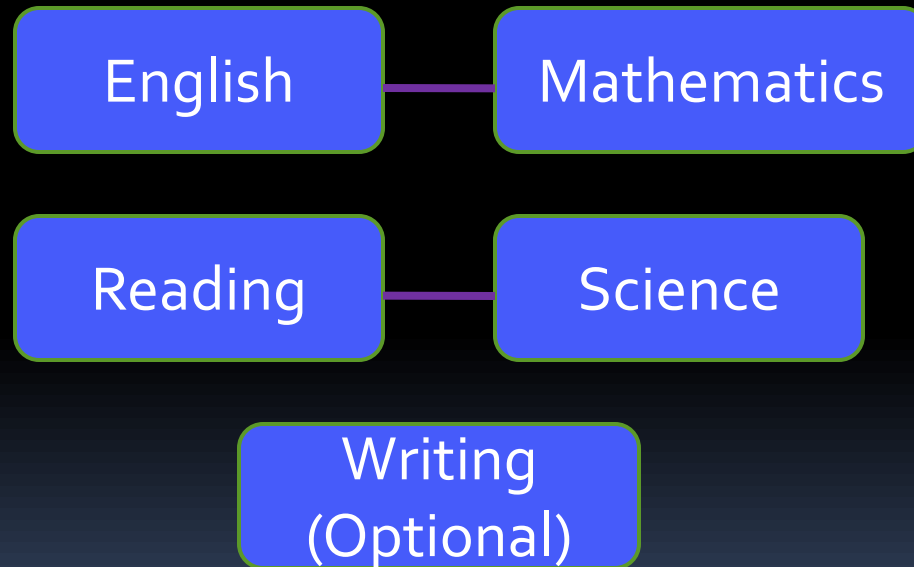
History

- US History
- World History

- Decision to take SAT subject tests often driven by college choice requirements
- If not required by college, no need to take

ACT

- Measures academic achievement
- Four curriculum-based, multiple-choice tests



- Alternative to SAT → accepted by all schools

Tests at a Glance

	PSAT	SAT Reasoning Test	SAT Subject Test	ACT
Length	2 hours and 10 minutes	3 hours and 45 minutes	1 hour	2 hours and 55 minutes; 3 hours and 25 minutes (with writing Test)
Test Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oct. 14, 2009 •Oct. 17, 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oct. 10, 2009 •Nov. 7, 2009 •Dec. 5, 2009 •Jan. 23, 2010 •Mar. 13, 2010 •May 1, 2010 •June 5, 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oct. 10, 2009 •Nov. 7, 2009 •Dec. 5, 2009 •Jan. 23, 2010 •May 1, 2010 •June 5, 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sept. 12, 2009 •Oct. 24, 2009 •Dec. 12, 2009 •Feb. 6, 2010 •April 10, 2010 •June 12, 2010
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reading: 20 - 80 •Math: 20 - 80 •Writing: 20 - 80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reading: 200 - 800 •Math: 200 - 800 •Writing: 200 - 800 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Score: 200 - 800 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •English: 1 - 36 •Math: 1 - 36 •Reading: 1 - 36 •Science: 1 - 36 •Composite: 1 - 36

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Sample Test Prep Plan

Sophomore Year

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	
SEP <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pick challenging classes•Plan to take the PSAT							APR <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Register for SAT Subject Tests that apply to you•Begin prep for Subject Test					
	OCT <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Take PSAT for first time							MAY /JUN <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Take SAT Subject Tests				
									JUN/JUL/AUG <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Prep for PSAT•Begin prep for SAT			

Sample Test Prep Plan

Junior Year

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
<p>SEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Decide whether to take SAT,ACT, or both •Set preliminary schedule for taking tests 											
				<p>MAR or MAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take SAT for second time •Prep for SAT Subject Tests •Prep for ACT •<i>Take AP exams in May</i> 							
<p>OCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take PSAT to qualify for National Merit Scholarships •Continue or begin prep for SAT or ACT 											
<p>NOV/DEC/JAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take SAT for first time 											
										<p>JUN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take SAT Subject Tests •Take ACT 	

Test Preparation Options

- College admissions very competitive
- Test prep provides opportunity to maximize child's performance
- Preparation options
 - Self-directed preparation using study guides
 - Group preparation (10-15 students)
 - One-on-one private tutoring
- Choice often driven by cost and student schedule
- One-on-one tutoring usually most efficient and effective method of test preparation