

***What you need to know now
about the
SAT and ACT.***

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For a Copy of Today's PPT

Hold your
phone's
camera in
front of the
image

Which test does this statement represent?

- Content-based test

Both

Which test does this statement represent?

- Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section (optional)

SAT

Which test does this statement represent?

- Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)

ACT

Which test does this statement represent?

- Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving

SAT

Which test does this statement represent?

- Yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges. However, some colleges require or recommend that students submit all scores. Students should review the score-reporting policy of each college to which they plan to apply.

BOTH

Which test does this statement represent?

- Arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided

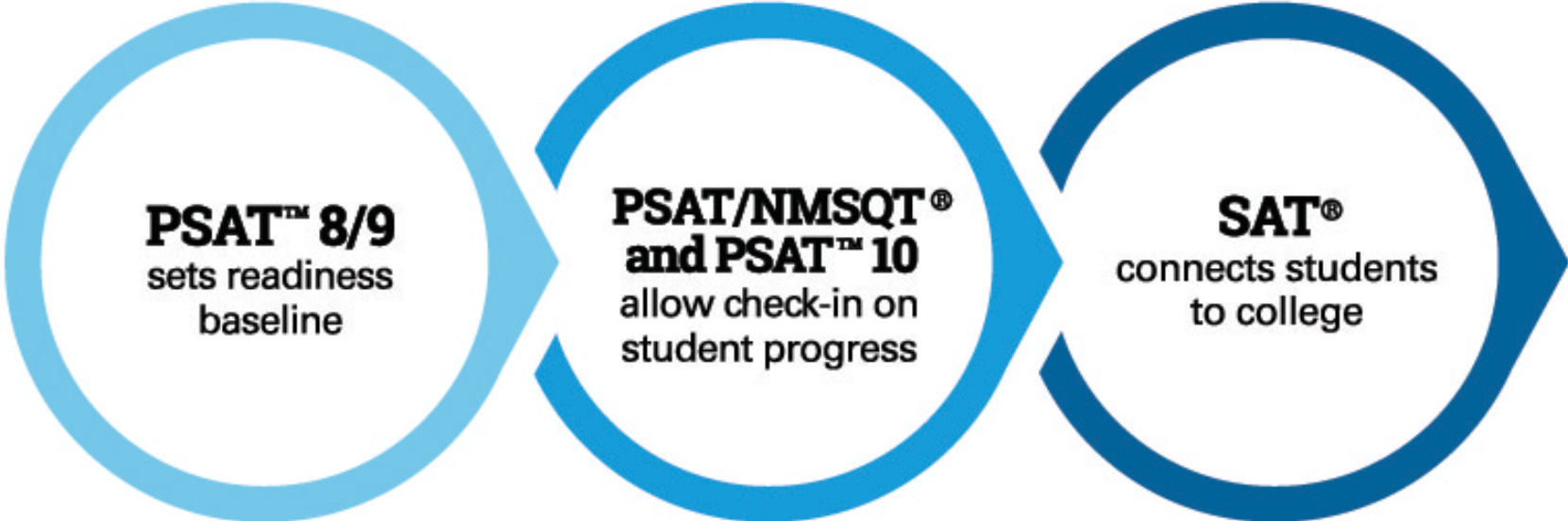
ACT

Which test does this statement represent?

- No – you do not lose points for incorrect answer

BOTH

The SAT Suite....



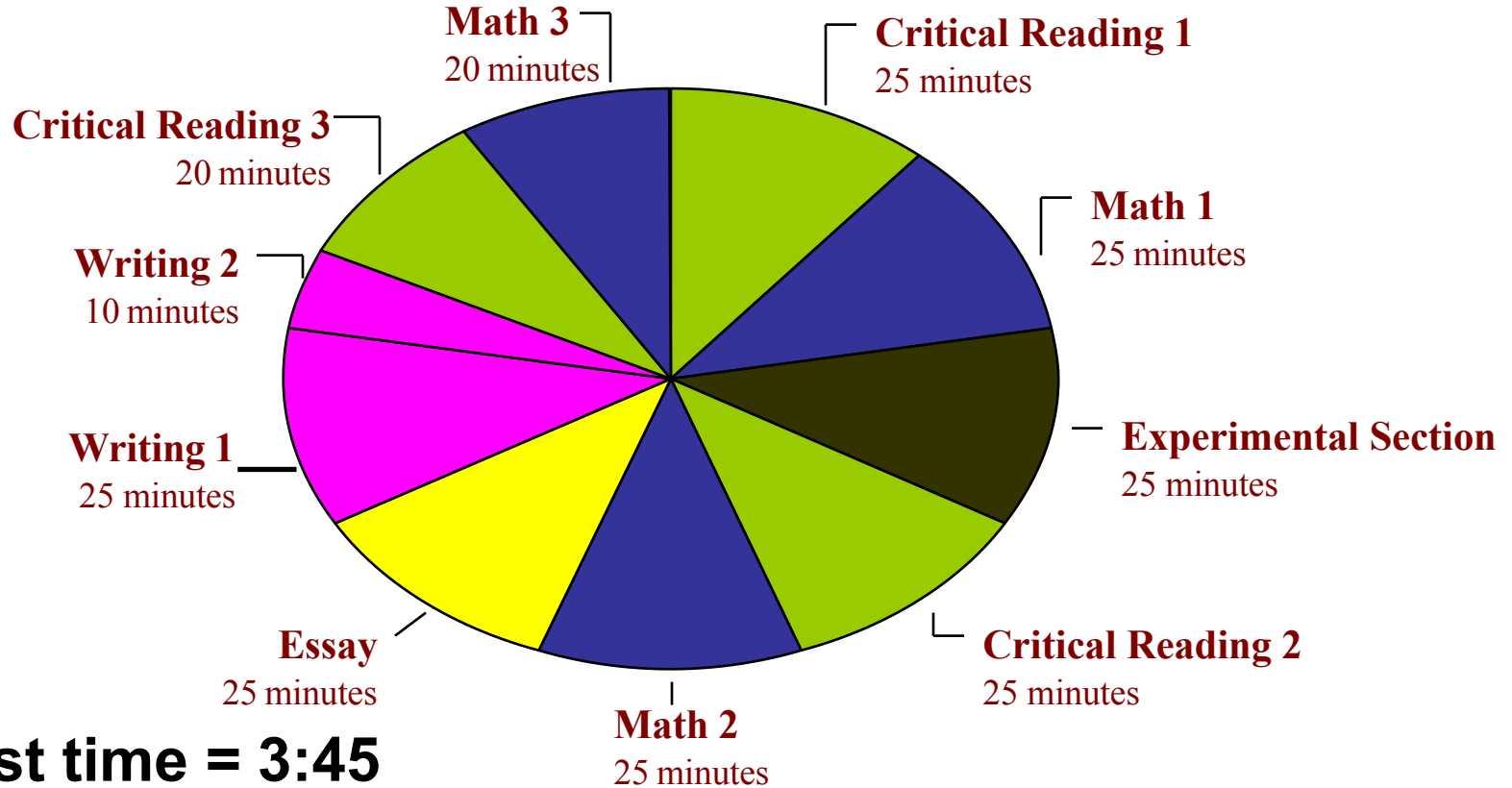
PSAT™ 8/9
sets readiness
baseline

**PSAT/NMSQT®
and PSAT™ 10**
allow check-in on
student progress

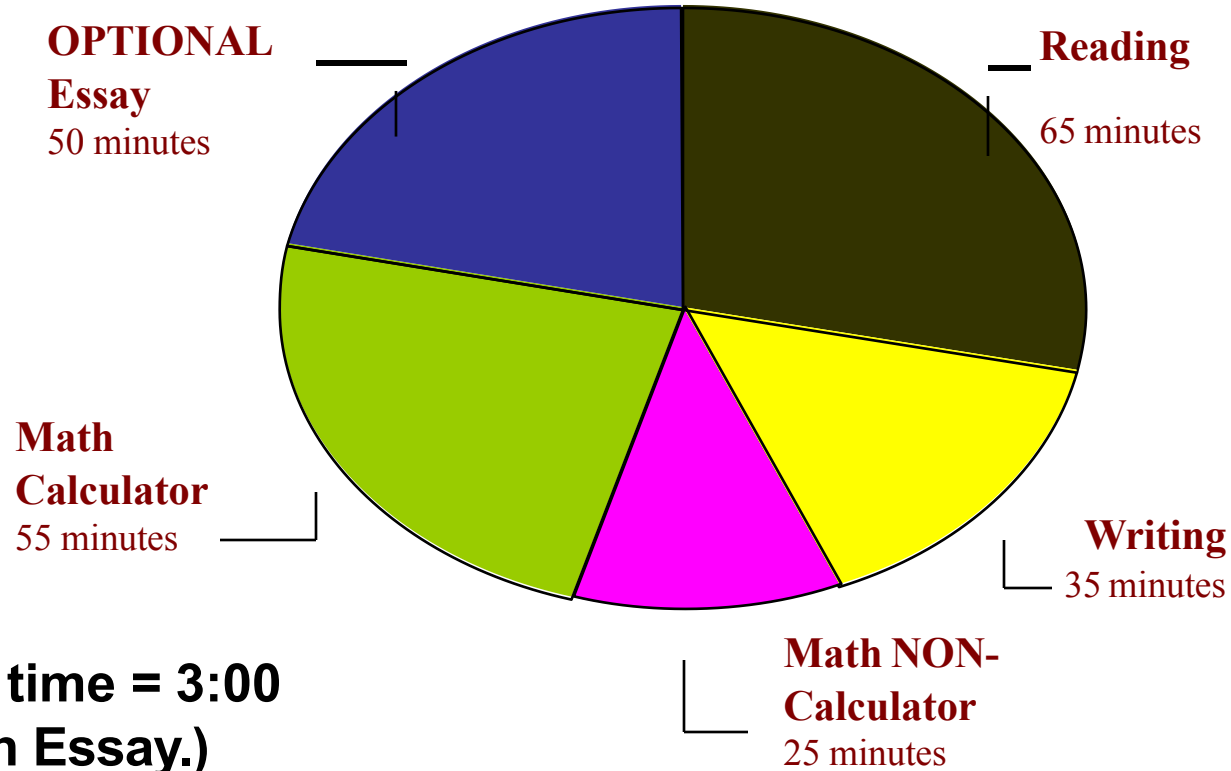
SAT®
connects students
to college

"Old" SAT

2005-2015.

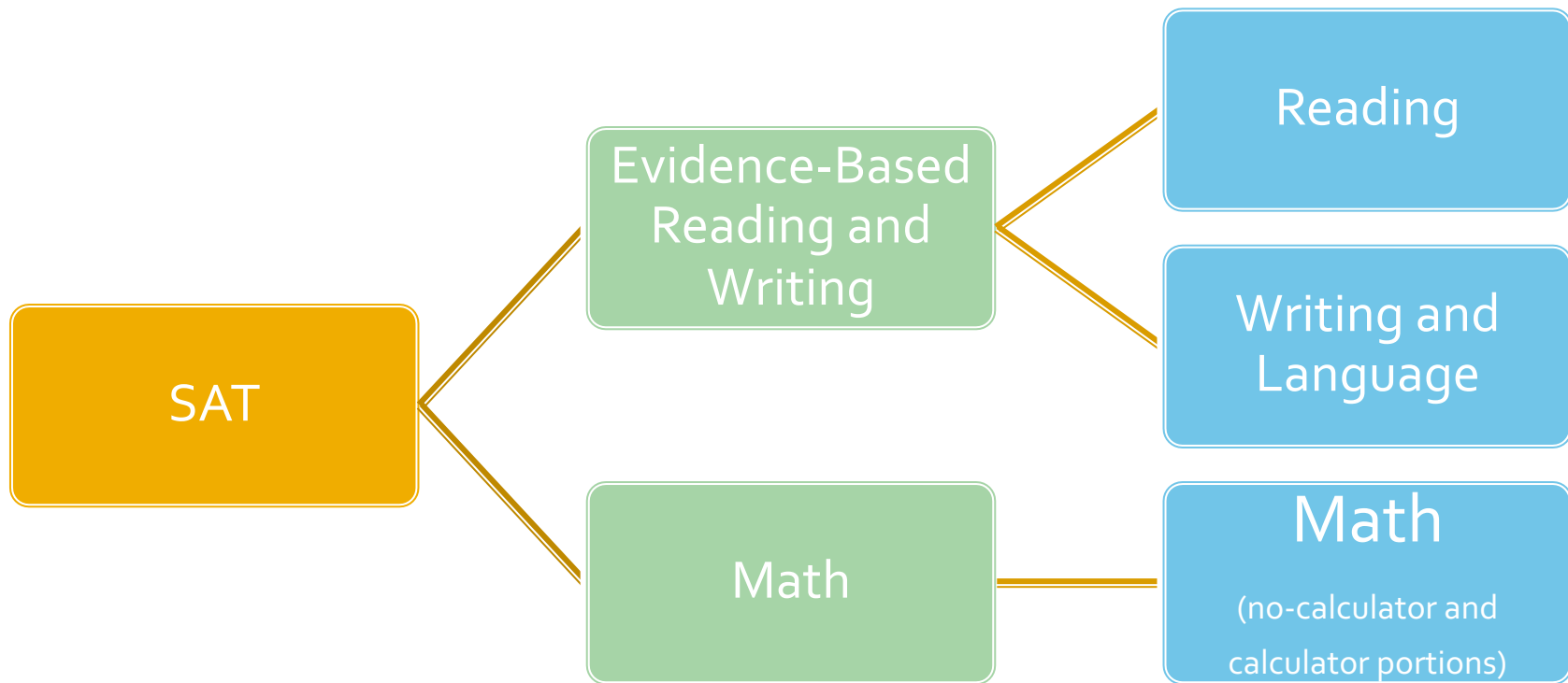


New SAT March, 2016-



**Total test time = 3:00
(3:50 With Essay.)**

Format of the SAT



New SAT Scoring

- Scaled score 200-800 per section.
- Overall score is the sum of reading/writing and math sections. A perfect score is 1600.
- One raw point for each correct answer.
- Scales to around 10 points on final score.
- Multiple choice questions have four answers.
- No penalty for incorrect answers.
- Essay is optional and is scored separately.

SAT Reading:

- Reading focuses on more contemporary speeches, passages, and texts, plus the addition of graphs and charts to interpret and analyze.
- Sentence Completion section is eliminated. Any vocabulary tested is in the context of a reading passage.
- Around 50-60 questions to answer in **65 minutes**.

SAT Writing and Language:

- Students read a short passage containing around a dozen underlined words and phrases to review.
- If students believes an underlined word or phrase is correct, “A) NO CHANGE” is an answer. The other three answers reflect a change or improvement over the underlined word/phrase.
- About four passages to read in total with 40-50 questions to answer in **35 minutes**.
- Tests students’ knowledge of grammar, punctuation, usage, and rhetorical skills.

SAT Writing - Essay

- Essay becomes optional and is offered at the end of the test.
- Students are given 50 minutes to read and review an historical document and then answer a prompt. (Similar to an AP exam.)
- Scores range from a 2 to a 12 and are reported from rest of SAT exam.

SAT Math

- Math
 - Two sections. A non-calculator section (35") and a calculator section (55")
 - Covers HS math through Algebra I & II, Geometry, and a little Pre-Calculus.
 - Problems range from simple calculations to multi-step word problems.
 - Multiple choice and grid-in questions.

SAT Math - Sample Word Problem

During a sale, Peter bought a smart phone from a store at **30% off** the displayed price, P .

The total amount Peter paid was d dollars, which included **6% sales tax** on the discounted price. Which of the following represents d in terms of P ?

- A.) $.76P$ B.) $.742P$ C.) $.74P$ D.) $.24P$

SAT Scores - Mean Scores in Recent Years.

Year	EBRW	Math	Total Score
2017	533	527	1060
2018	536	531	1068
2019	531	528	1059
Maryland -	535	523	1058

SOURCE:

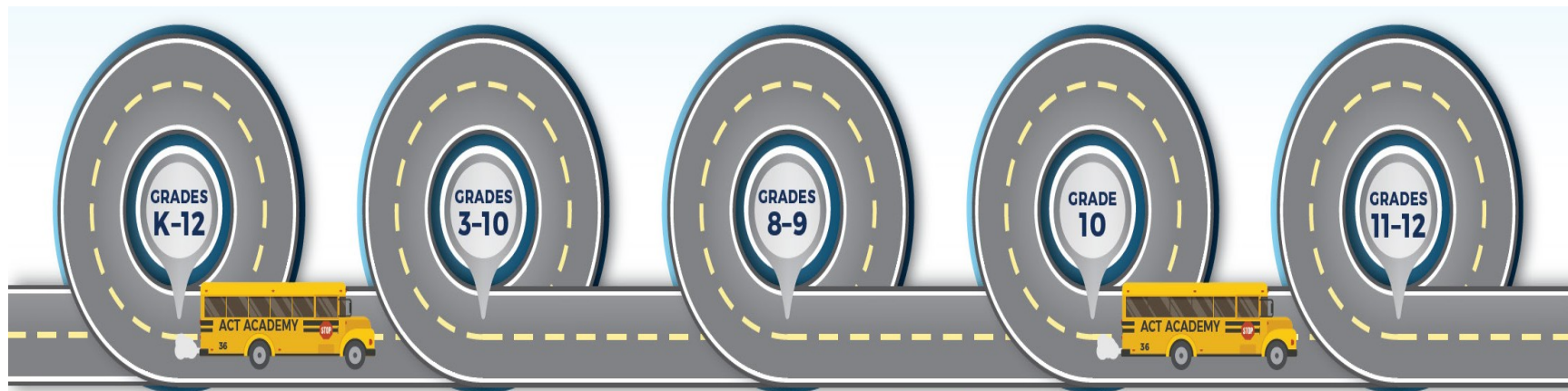
The College Board

SAT Score Conversion

New SAT	ACT
980	19
1080	21
1170	24
1270	26
1360	29

SOURCE: The College Board

The ACT System



ACT[®] Academy™

Use this blended learning solution to create lesson plans, assign homework, and give quizzes—driven by free resources personalized to student learning gaps at all points along the journey.

ACT[®] Aspire[®]

Assess students' academic skills before, during, and after instruction with a longitudinal assessment system that predicts scores for PreACT and the ACT.

Pre ACT[®] 8/9

Set a baseline for students before high school, provide early ACT test practice, and get predicted PreACT and ACT scores with just one test.



Pre ACT[®]

Provide a powerful simulated testing experience for the ACT test with a predicted ACT score and data to prepare students for life after high school.

The ACT[®]

Assess students' college readiness with a college reportable score and data to inform teaching and learning in your classrooms.

The ACT.

Subject	# of Questions	Time
English	75	45 min.
Mathematics	60	60 min.
Reading	40	35 min.
Science Reasoning	40	35 min.
Essay (optional)	1	30 min.

Total Test Time: 2:55 – 3:25

ACT Scoring

- 1 raw point for each correct answer
- No penalty for incorrect answers
- No penalty for omitted questions
- Scaled scores range from 1-36
- Composite score is the average of individual scores of 4 subtests
- The optional essay is scored separately and ranges from 2-12

Breaking Down the ACT

- ACT English
- ACT Math
- ACT Reading
- ACT Science
- ACT Writing-optional

ACT English:

What is it Really Testing?

- Usage/Mechanics – 40 Questions
 - Punctuation – 10 questions
 - Grammar and Usage – 12 questions
 - Sentence Structure – 18 questions

What is it Really Testing?

- Rhetorical Skills – 35 Questions
 - Style – 12 questions
 - Organization – 11 questions
 - Strategy – 12 questions

ACT Math: What is it Really Testing?

- Math
 - Math skills from Basic Math through Trigonometry
 - There is no order of difficulty within the Math section of the ACT

ACT Reading: What is it Really Testing?

- One passage from each area:
 - Prose fiction – short story or excerpt from longer fictional work
 - Humanities – art, music, literature, theatre
 - Social Studies – History, politics, sociology
 - Natural science – Biology, chemistry, astronomy
- Followed by 10 questions

ACT Science: What is it Really Testing?

- Science
 - 7 Science passages followed by 5-7 questions each
 - Topics include biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy, meteorology, physics
 - 3 types: Data Representation, Research Summary, Conflicting Hypotheses

ACT Writing: what is it really testing?

- There is no “right” or “wrong” answer
- Take a strong stand
- Developed essay to include: opening paragraph, body paragraphs, closing paragraph
- 3 “academic” examples
- Avoid hypothetical examples

ACT Scores: Mean Scores in Recent Years.

Year	Comp.	English	Math	Reading	Science
2016	20.8	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8
2019	21.0	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0
2018	20.8	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7
Maryland	22.5	22.1	22.0	23.1	22.2

ACT Score Conversion

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SOURCE:

The College Board

ACT vs. New SAT

- Scores based on total correct answers.
- Scaled between **1-36 per section.**
- Overall score is average of 4 sections.
- “Score Choice”.
- Essay optional.

- Scores based on total correct answers.
- Scaled between **200-800 per section.**
- Overall score is sum of sections.
- “Score choice”.
- Essay optional.

Which Test to Take

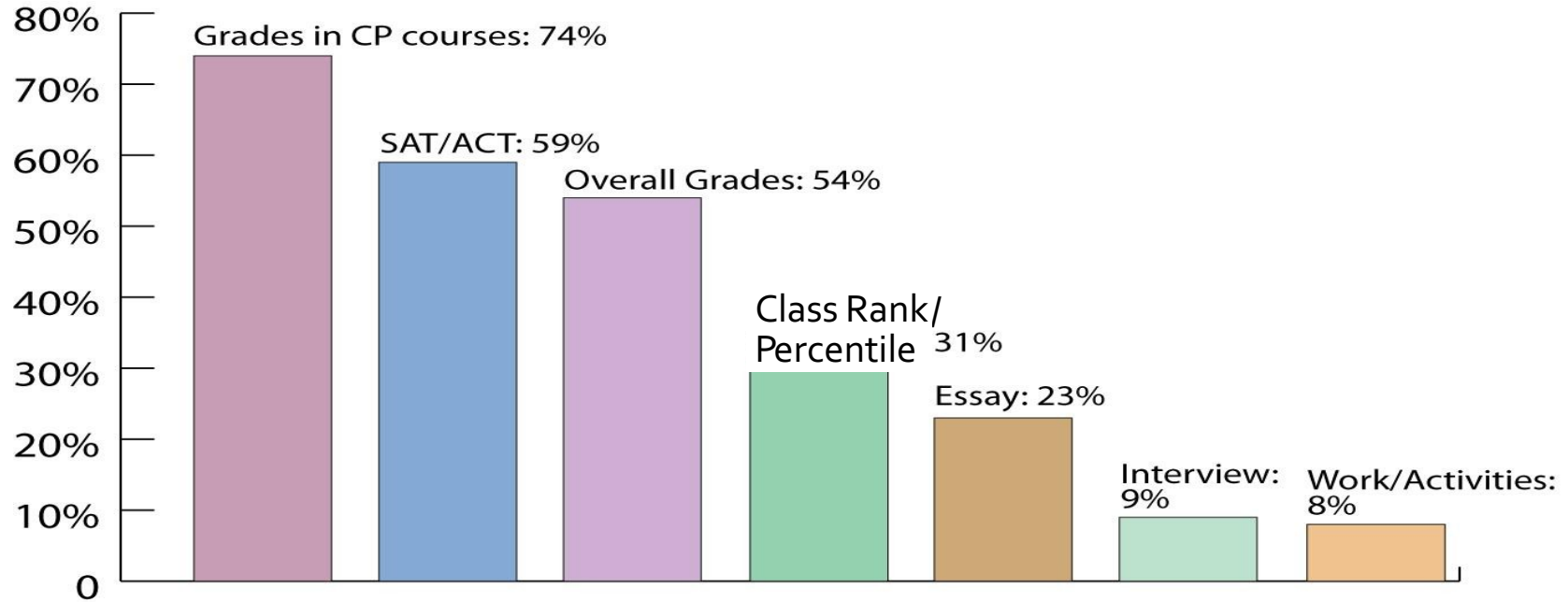
Factors to Consider

- Take a practice test for each
- Testing schedule
- Historically, the SAT has favored strong verbal students while the ACT seems to favor strong math and science students.

What is a Good Score?

- Depends on the following:
 - The school to which you are applying.
 - The scores of the other students applying to that school.
 - How cheaply you want to go to that school.
- A list of SAT and ACT scores for popular schools can be found at <https://www.compassprep.com/college-profiles-new-sat/>.

College Admissions Factors



Why Entrance Exams are Important

For Colleges

Creates level playing field

Adjusts for grade inflation

Helps predict student success

For Students

Chance to make up for sub-par effort in high school

Chance to earn scholarships \$\$\$\$\$\$

Chance to separate one student from another

Program Evaluation

