

College Entrance Exams

If you are planning to attend college, you will probably be required to take college entrance exams. Some of these exams test your knowledge of specific subject areas; others are more general exams that attempt to measure the extent to which your verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities have been developed. These abilities are ones that can be improved through study and practice. Generally the best preparation for college entrance exams is to follow a strong academic program in high school and to read as extensively as possible.

At the end of every even-numbered chapter in this book are tests called “Preparing for College Entrance Exams.” These tests contain questions similar to the questions asked on college entrance exams.

The following test-taking strategies may be useful:

- Familiarize yourself with the test you will be taking well in advance of the test date. Sample tests, with accompanying explanatory material, are available for many standardized tests. By working through this sample material, you become comfortable with the types of questions and directions that will appear on the test and you develop a feeling for the pace at which you must work in order to complete the test.
- Find out how the test is scored so that you know whether it is advantageous to guess.
- Skim sections of the test before starting to answer the questions, to get an overview of the questions. You may wish to answer the easiest questions first. Correctly answering the easy questions earns you the same credit as correctly answering the difficult ones, so do not waste time on questions you do not understand; go on to those that you do.
- Mark your answer sheet carefully, checking the numbering on the answer sheet about every five questions to avoid errors caused by misplaced answer markings.
- Write in the test booklet if it is helpful; for example, cross out incorrect alternatives and do mathematical calculations. Do *not* make extra marks on the answer sheet.
- Work carefully, but do not take time to double-check your answers unless you finish before the deadline and have extra time.
- Arrive at the test center early and come well prepared with any necessary supplies such as sharpened pencils and a watch.

College entrance exams that test general reasoning abilities, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test, frequently include questions relating to basic geometric concepts and skills. The following topics often appear on such exams. For each topic, page references have been given to the places in your textbook where the topic is discussed.