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A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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FREE PROCTORED SAT PRACTICE EXAM

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests (formerly referred to as SAT IIs) are one-hour, multiple-choice exams designed to measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas and your ability to apply that knowledge. SAT Subject

A+ is offering a free, no-obligation, full-length actual SAT practice exam to members of the community. The exam is scheduled for 8:45 AM on January 26, 2008, in Glenside, PA. Please call our office at 215.886.9188 to register.

This is a great opportunity for students to take the exam under actual test conditions, prior to sitting for the "real" thing.

Students will receive a detailed score report which includes an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses on the exam. [Click here](#) to view a sample score report.

Space is limited so call today to reserve your spot!

Featured Tutor



We at A+ are very proud of our excellent team of tutors, and would like to introduce you to Carolyn Scott. Carolyn has been with A+ Test Prep and Tutoring for over two years and teaches verbal SAT and ACT prep, writing skills, and the Wilson Reading Program.

Prior to joining the A+ team, Carolyn enjoyed a career as an English teacher at Springfield High School (Montgomery County) where she taught for 34 years. After retiring from full-time teaching in 2002, she took a year-round, part-time job at Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, the historical home of John Bartram, America's first botanist.

At Bartram's Garden, Carolyn teaches visiting school groups and summer campers about botany, birds, and colonial history--including hands-on demonstrations in making butter and cider. For more information, visit www.bartramsgarden.org.

Carolyn's other interests include doing crossword puzzles (she does cheat, she says!), baking the occasional dessert-to-die-for, and walking with her Vizsla, a Hungarian hunting dog, along the trails in Wissahickon Valley Park.

College Prep Timeline

Tests fall into the following 5 subject areas: English, History, Math, Science, and Foreign Languages. For a complete list of Subject Tests plus information about some unique requirements and formats, see this page from the CollegeBoard website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>

Why should a student take a Subject Test? If a student is very strong in a particular subject, it is an excellent way to highlight his achievement in that discipline beyond his high school grades. SAT Subject Tests provide students with an additional way to round out their college applications. In addition to their value in the college application process, Subject Tests can also help with course placement and selection in college (in some cases, colleges allow high-scoring students to skip certain introductory-level courses).

SAT Subject Tests cannot be taken on the same day as the SAT itself, so factor that into your decision-making about test dates. Up to 3 Subject Tests can be taken on the same day. When to take a given SAT Subject Test should be carefully considered. Most students take Subject Tests at the end of their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year, but you may have a strong case for taking one earlier. For example, if you take Biology your sophomore year, and plan to take Chemistry your junior year, it's better to take the Subject Test in Biology at the end of your sophomore year while the material is still fresh in your mind.

For those studying a foreign language, it is better to wait to take the test until after you have received the most



Seniors: You should be putting the finishing touches on your college applications which, for regular admissions, have deadlines of anywhere from January 1 to February 15.

Double-check that you have accurately completed all components of the application (including the required number of letters of recommendation), arranged for standardized test scores to be mailed directly to the colleges, and accurately addressed the prompt in the college essay. The essay is a very important feature of your application and should reflect your personality and represent your best writing. Be sure that you have accurately addressed the essay prompt, that your writing is free from spelling and grammatical errors, and that you have met any length requirements.

Juniors: You are in the midst of a very important year in your high school career. If you have not already received your PSAT scores, you will shortly. The PSAT is meant to be a diagnostic or "practice" exam for the SAT, so study your results carefully and see what areas need improvement since you will be taking the SAT possibly as early as January 2008, but more likely in March or May 2008.

By taking the SAT on one of the later testing dates in the spring, you will have more time in which to prepare adequately and enroll in group or one-to-one tutoring such as the kind offered by A+. (Whichever method of test prep you choose, just be sure to prepare for the SAT in some way!) Keep in mind that the PSAT does not include an essay but the SAT does, so preparing for the essay is an important step in test preparation since it counts for approximately one-third of your writing score.

Sophomores & Freshmen: First semester grades have already been reported to you. Take stock of which subjects you need to work on and explore ways in which to improve those grades: talk to your teacher, get extra help either from that teacher or from your school's learning center, find out about extra credit opportunities, or arrange for tutoring.

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also provide in-school Test Prep courses through our

years of instruction in that language (keeping in mind, of course, not to delay so long that you miss a deadline to report the score to colleges). If you are applying Early Decision or Early Action to a college that requires Subject Tests, then you will have to plan accordingly and coordinate all of your test dates: SAT or ACT, SAT Subject Tests, and any AP exams.

Check with the colleges to which you are applying to see if they require SAT Subject Tests and, if they do, which ones. Some colleges require several, others require none at all. Here is a sampling of what some colleges' current policies are:

* Boston College: Requires 2 SAT Subject Tests of the student's choice. Alternatively, in place of both the SAT and SAT Subject Tests, an applicant may take the ACT. Students who choose this option MUST also take the optional ACT Writing examination.

* Georgetown University: Requires 3 SAT Subject Tests of the student's choice. The score from the Writing Portion of the SAT can not be used in place of a Subject Test.

* LaSalle University: None required

* Temple University: None required

* University of Delaware: According to their website, "The SAT Subject Tests are recommended for all freshmen applicants" and "for students applying to the University Honors Program, at least 2 SAT Subject Tests are strongly recommended."

School Partners program. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher
President

* University of Pennsylvania:
Freshman applicants must take the SAT and two SAT Subject Tests. Candidates to the School of Engineering and Applied Science or the Wharton School are encouraged to take a Mathematics Subject Test. Students applying to the College are encouraged to take a foreign language Subject Test. This test is used for both admissions and proper placement at the college level. Appropriate language scores also afford exemption from the language requirement. Students interested in science-related fields, and especially applicants to the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Nursing, are encouraged to take a science Subject Test. The American College Test (ACT) with Writing, may be used in lieu of the SAT and two SAT Subject Tests.

A+ offers one-to-one tutoring in many of the SAT Subject Test areas. Each SAT Subject Test Program consists of four 1.5 hour sessions. Please call our office at 1-877-730-7200 to inquire about availability.

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