



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

August 2006

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Featured Student

Jodie, a junior at Council Rock North High School, was not satisfied with her previous SAT scores. Jodie and Bob Roach, her one-to-one A+ SAT Instructor, worked together over a 3-month period on writing, critical reading and math. Jodie was always conscientious and hard working and a delight to work with. During the course of her one-to-one program she gradually showed improvement on the practice tests. She took the SAT on May 6, 2006. Boy was she pleased when her SAT scores improved by 240 points! Hats off to Jodie and Bob for a job well done.

Have you considered the ACT?



Many of us are familiar with the SAT, the standardized college admissions test. Fewer of us on the East Coast are acquainted with the ACT, which is, in fact, the most widely accepted college entrance exam in the United States! Last year nearly 1.2 million students took the ACT, which is administered in all 50 states five or six times a year (there is a September testing date that is only offered in certain states).

The ACT is a curriculum-based test (as opposed to an aptitude or an IQ test) and is a shorter exam than the SAT with a testing time of 2 hours and 55 minutes. It

• Do you know about SAT Subject Tests?

[SAT Subject Tests](#) (formerly referred to as SAT II: Subject Tests) 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 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 College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>.) Check with the colleges to which you are applying to see if they require SAT Subject Tests, and keep in mind the following:



- SAT Subject Tests provide students with an additional way to round out their college applications.
- They can provide an excellent way to highlight a student's achievement in a particular subject area.
- In addition to their value in the college application process, they can also help with course placement and

tests the following 4 skill areas: English, math, reading, and science. The total number of questions in these 4 skill areas is 215, and the format is entirely multiple-choice (out of 4 possible answer choices). In addition to assessing student's mastery of these 4 areas, there is an optional Writing Test. Some benefits of taking the ACT instead of the SAT are:

- The 30-minute Writing Test is optional (as opposed to the mandatory SAT essay).
- Shorter overall testing time even with the Writing Test.
- Curriculum-based nature of test may be a more comfortable option for some students.
- Students select which set of ACT test scores they want reported to colleges.
- No penalty for wrong answers; credit given only on correct answers.
- Less expensive registration fees.

[Click here](#) to for a link to the ACT website, which includes FAQs, sample questions, test tips, registration information, and much more. For a quick side-by- side comparison of the ACT and the SAT, please click on the link below this article. In addition, A+ Test Prep & Tutoring offers a free practice ACT with a detailed analysis of your student's results and a complimentary consultation to explain what those results mean for your child. Please give our office a call to arrange your free practice ACT.

Comparison of the ACT and the SAT

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.
- You can take up to 3 Subject Tests 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's better to wait to take the test after you have received the most 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!).
- A+ offers one-to-one tutoring in several of the SAT Subject Test areas. Please call our office to inquire about availability.

• End of Summer Math Tips

Keep your child's math skills sharp this summer with the following techniques. For younger students:



- Buy an inexpensive calculator for your child and let her experiment with various features. Ask her how much $15+7$ is, for example, and then let her "check her work" on the calculator.
- Reinforce your youngster's time-telling skills by buying him an analog watch and asking him what time it is periodically. "How many minutes 'til noon?"
- Baking together with your child, while a fun activity , can lead to various math opportunities. If the cookie recipe says it makes 36 cookies, ask how many dozen that is; if you're making muffins or cupcakes, have your youngster count out the paper muffin liners needed; mix it up by having her count them by two's or three's. If you are doubling or tripling a recipe, have your youngster help you figure out the new measurements.
- Make lemonade! Make lemonade! This is a great activity for the sweltering days of August with the added benefit of teaching your child about money. Shop with your child for all the necessary supplies (lemonade, cups, etc.) and have him keep a running tab of all the expenses. Then, based on the number of ounces of lemonade that each cup holds, let your child calculate what the price of each drink should be. Making change for customers is also a good, reinforcing math activity. Your child can then calculate (remembering to subtract the up-front expenses) and enjoy the profits!

For older students:

- When dining out, have your son or daughter mentally calculate both a 15% and a 20% tip.
- Get your teens involved in family finances; let them examine a checking account statement and ask them to research other banks or financial institutions that may offer a better rate. Have them estimate how much more interest would be made in a year by switching to a higher interest- bearing account.
- When you are shopping together with your daughter and her favorite brand of jeans is on sale for 30% off, have your teen calculate the new, lower price.
- Teach your son or daughter how to balance your checkbook, then let him or her do it the following month. This skill will hold them in good stead when they go off to college too!
- Finally, have your student check out the following award-winning website written by a professor of mathematics. Presented colorfully and with humor, the site contains helpful information about math anxiety, how to take notes in math class, test-taking tips, math learning styles, and much more: <http://www.mathpower.com/index.htm>

- **Free Offers and Promotions**

August, 2006.

- **Free Proctored SAT!**

A+ periodically offers its students and anyone in the community the opportunity to take a full-length practice SAT in a group setting under "test- like" conditions. Our next such practice SAT is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2006 at 8:45 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran

Church,
Easton Rd.
& Mt.
Carmel
Ave.,
Glenside.
Test
scores and
a detailed
analysis of
each
student's
test
results will
be
available
about a
week
later.
Please call
our office
at 877-
730-7200
to
register.

office@aplustutoring.com
<http://www.aplustutoring.com>

877-730-7200

\$50 Off Academic Coaching Program

Use offer code N0806.

[For more information about Academic Coaching click here](#)

Offer Expires: 9-16-06

\$25 off a Reading or Math Evaluation

The president of A+, Daniel Ascher, M.Ed., will conduct a thorough evaluation to determine your child's grade level, strengths/weaknesses, and recommend an instructional plan.

Use offer code N0806

Offer Expires: 9-16-06

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