

April, 2006

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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What's New?

As many of you know firsthand, A+ excels in the area of one-to-one test prep. We offer test prep for the following exams: PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, SSAT and ISEE.

Did you know there is an alternative to the SAT? In fact the most widely accepted college entrance exam is the ACT. There are some important differences between the SAT and ACT exams. To review the differences between the two exams, visit our website at www.aplustutoring.com/satvsact.pdf. Also available on our website is a list of selected colleges which includes score requirements on the two different entrance examinations. You can find this information at <http://www.aplustutoring.com/scorereq.pdf>.

Additional information about the two exams is available at their respective websites, www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org. We also recommend you check with the individual colleges to which your student plans to apply and inquire which test they accept or prefer.

Note: Call of our office today for a FREE 2006 Fast Facts Handbook. This handbook contains the SAT/ACT comparison, the list of colleges and the admissions tests they accept, the test scores required at each college, and other useful information about the college admissions process.

Some key differences between the SAT and ACT:

- The essay is a required part of the SAT, whereas the ACT's essay is optional. Individual colleges may, however, require the ACT essay.
- The SAT is longer. However the ACT asks more questions.
- The ACT tests math up to basic trigonometry; the SAT tests math up through first semester Algebra II.
- The ACT includes a science section, which the SAT does not.
- The SAT has a penalty for guessing (1/4 point deducted for a wrong answer), while the ACT has no guessing penalty.
- The ACT has score choice (you can send selected ACT results to your schools), whereas on the SAT colleges get ALL scores.

Featured Student

Congratulations to Alex Zarrinnia for being our "most improved student of the month." Alex is a first grader who has been working diligently with tutor Bob Cohen on improving his reading

decoding skills. Since December, Alex has been working with the Wilson Reading System as well as other reading techniques and has greatly improved his reading skills. Keep up the great work Alex and Bob!

SAT Tip

Did you know that every SAT contains an experimental section? The experimental section is used by the College Board to try out new material and problems, and it can appear anywhere in the test. It could be a math, writing, or reading section. How you perform on the experimental section does not count toward your score, but don't try to "outsmart" the test by guessing which section is experimental—you could be wrong! Stay focused and relaxed, and give your best effort on every section of the SAT.

Study Tip

Reading comprehension can be a challenge for many students, from elementary school through the high-school level. How can parents help in this area? Try reading a story to your youngster. Encourage her to anticipate what may happen next, discuss specific words or phrases in the text that may be unfamiliar, and have her summarize the story in her own words. As your child gets older, encourage her to read a newspaper or magazine article on a topic that would be of interest to her (make sure you read the article too!) and discuss what the topic was, what the author's purpose was in writing the article, and what the main point was. To further hone reading comprehension and analytical skills, you could ask what an alternative viewpoint might be, or what the author may have omitted from the article.

Helpful Links

Do you have writer's block? A grammar question? Looking for inspiration? Check out these writing websites.

www.bartleby.com The self-described "preeminent Internet publisher of literature, reference and verse providing students, researchers and the intellectually curious with unlimited access to books and information on the web, free of charge." Of particular interest is its entry on the classic Strunk's Elements of Style.

www.nutsandboltsguide.com Author Michael Harvey offers extracts from his reader-friendly Nuts and Bolts of College Writing.

www.powa.org The Paradigm Online Writing Assistant provides advice on writing and revising various types of essays.

www.teenwriting.about.com In addition to providing advice on the writing process and on fine-tuning your grammar, the Teenwriting Forum enables teens to discuss writing problems and critique one another's poetry and prose.

Current A+ Promotions

\$50 off a summer Skill Builder Program if you register by May 31. These programs include: Math Booster, Vocabulary Booster, Write Better Essays, and Academic Coaching. Please use offer code: Summer2006

Refer-a-friend Program: Do you know someone who might be interested in PSAT, SAT, or ACT tutoring? For students who have not previously enrolled in one of our test preparation programs, we offer a free 1-hour one-to-one strategy session. This is a great, no-obligation way to get to know us. A referral gift will be provided for referrals resulting in enrollment. Call or email us today!

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