

Questions and Answers: SAT Subject Tests

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1. What are the SAT Subject Tests?

SAT Subject Tests (recently referred to as the SAT II: Subject Tests and known long ago as the Achievement Tests) allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and command of specific academic subjects. The SAT Subject Tests are not to be confused with the SAT I, which is the primary test for college admission. (The SAT I is a 2,400-point test covering three disciplines: Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematics.)

2. What is the point scale for the SAT Subject Tests?

Each SAT Subject Test is scored on an 800-point scale.

3. How long are the SAT Subject Area Tests?

Each test is one hour in length.

4. What subject areas are offered for the SAT Subject Tests?

English Literature, U.S. History, World History, Mathematics Level 1, Mathematics Level 2, Biology E/M, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese, and Korean. (Many of the foreign language exams are offered both with and without a “listening” component.)

5. How do colleges utilize SAT Subject Tests?

Some colleges and universities require SAT Subject Tests for admission; certain of these colleges specify which particular exams must be taken while others allow applicants to select which exams to take. Colleges also use SAT Subject Test scores for course placement and to counsel students with respect to college course selection.

6. Which SAT Subject Tests should your student take?

First, compile a list of all colleges to which your student might apply. Contact these colleges or go to their web sites to learn which specific (if any) SAT Subject Tests are required for admission.

It is important that your student take SAT Subject Tests in areas in which he/she is academically proficient. For example, if your student is getting an A or a high B in an Advanced Placement course that corresponds with a certain SAT Subject Test, he/she may want to take the SAT Subject Test for that subject in June following the May in which he/she takes respective AP exam.

7. How does one register to take the SAT Subject Tests?

Go online: www.collegeboard.com.