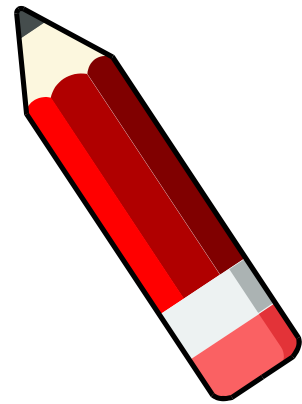


WHAT
STANDARDIZED
TESTS
SHOULD
I TAKE ?





AND

WHEN ?

Introduction

This booklet, prepared by Cardinal Newman High School Guidance Department, is intended to help students and parents understand standardized testing options and requirements. We hope that by providing definitions, advice and timetables, we can help eliminate the confusion which often surrounds this topic. On the pages that follow you will find the recommended testing pattern for students, organized by class year, along with background information about specific tests and a glossary of terms.

Ninth Grade

The Guidance Department at Newman recommends that students in ninth grade not take any national standardized, SAT/ACT test. Beginning in ninth grade all tests taken become a part of the students's test record with the testing companies. Generally speaking, student skills in ninth grade are not sufficient to warrant taking a national test designed for older students. Ninth grade students are scheduled for the EXPLORE test on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. The EXPLORE will cover math, English and reading skills.

Tenth Grade

PLAN

All students in 10th grade will take PLAN, the preliminary ACT test, on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Taking PLAN will provide students with feedback on the four academic sections (English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning), an interest inventory, a study skills assessment and a student information section intended to initiate further career and academic planning.

PSAT

The PSAT is designed for students in eleventh grade as a practice test for the SAT. Because it is used as the entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program, students at Newman may choose to take the PSAT in 10th grade as practice before taking it for real in 11th grade. The PSAT will be administered on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. All Juniors will take the PSAT. There is limited room for interested 10th graders on a first come basis. Interested 10th graders must sign up in Guidance.

Eleventh Grade

PSAT

Students in 11th grade should take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Results of this test are not reported to colleges; it is only a practice experience before taking the SAT later in the junior year. Taking the test provides high scorers with the opportunity to participate in the National Merit Scholarship competition. All Juniors will be taking the test.

SAT I

Students at Newman generally take the SAT I in January, March, May or June of their junior year. Scheduled dates for 2009-2010 are Saturday, January 23, 2010, Saturday, March 13, 2010, Saturday, May 1, 2010 and Saturday, June 5, 2010. Registration materials are available in the Guidance Office or you may register on line at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT

Students at Newman generally take the ACT in February, April, or June of their junior year. Scheduled dates for 2009-2010 are Saturday, February 6, Saturday, April 10, and Saturday, June 12, 2010. Registration materials are available in the Guidance Office or you may register on line at www.actstudent.org.

Students may register by mail, phone, or on-line for both tests.

Twelfth Grade

SAT I

Seniors who have not yet taken the SAT I, or those who wish to retake the test, may do so on October 10, 2009, November 7, 2009, or December 5, 2009. Registration should be completed by September 9, 2009, October 1, 2009, or October 30, 2009, respectively.

SAT II

SAT II tests are specific one-hour subject tests required by highly selective colleges. Students may take up to three SAT II tests on one (1) day. The test dates are October 10, 2009, November 7, 2009, or December 5, 2009. Seniors applying to any college on an early decision or early action plan are advised to take SAT II tests **no later** than November 7, 2009. Students may take only SAT I **or** SAT II on any given test date. The best time to take an SAT II is after the completion of the course work in the subject area of a particular test.

ACT

Seniors who have not yet taken the ACT, or those who wish to retake the test, may do so on Saturday, September 12, 2009, Saturday, October 24, 2009, or Saturday, December 12, 2009. Registration must be completed by August 7, 2009, September 18, 2009, or November 6, 2009, respectively.*Students may register for both tests by mail, phone or on line.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS

Students at Newman will have an opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) examinations May 3-14, 2010. Cardinal Newman High School offers specific Advanced Placement (AP) courses in United States History, Biology, Calculus, Economics, English, French and Spanish. Students will register for AP exams through Guidance with a February, 2010 deadline.

IB TEST: Students who are in 2nd year of the I.B. Program will sit for I.B. Test May 3 -21, 2010.

GLOSSARY

ACT - a college admissions test administered six times per year in test centers throughout the country. Colleges usually require that student submit scores from the ACT or SAT as part of the college admissions process. The test consists of four sections - English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. Students receive a score for each section plus a composite score ranging from 1 to 36.

AP- Advanced Placement Examinations. - These examinations are taken each year in May by students who have just completed a specific Advanced Placement course. They are not required for college admissions but are often used for college credit or for placement in advanced courses upon admission to college. Colleges will look favorably on strong results on AP exams, but students are not penalized if they have not taken AP exams. AP courses and exams may enhance your chances for acceptance at certain colleges.

PSAT- Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test. Are given nationally at test centers throughout the country. Test centers may choose to administer the PSAT on the Saturday date or the Wednesday date, but may administer the PSAT on only one date. Juniors take the PSAT as a predictor of college success and as practice for the SAT. Scores on the PSAT are used for National Merit Scholarship Qualification (referred to as NMQT). Colleges do not receive PSAT scores. However, they often buy names of test takers to begin sending college literature to students who have taken the PSAT.

SAT I - SAT stands for Scholastic Assessment Test. SAT I is officially called the SAT I: Reasoning test. It consists of critical reading, math, and writing sections and takes three hours and 45 minutes. The test is administered seven times per year at test centers around the country and the world. Nearly all selective colleges and universities require this test (or the ACT) as a part of the admissions decision.

SAT II - The official name of SAT II is SAT II: Subject Tests. These are one hour tests measuring specific achievement in 18 subject areas such as foreign language, mathematics, science, and history. Selective colleges may require SAT II: Subject Tests in addition to SAT I. If they are required, most colleges ask for any three subject tests of the student's choosing. It is advisable to check college catalogs for any specific requirements. SAT II tests may be taken at national test centers on regular tests dates. Students may take only SAT I or SAT II on any given test date.

PRESENT SAT:

SAT Critical Ready Section: (70 Minutes)

SAT Math Section: Expanded to cover 3 years of High School Math: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II: (70 Minutes)
Variable Section: (25 Minutes)

SAT WRITING Section: Written essay and multiple choice grammar questions: (60 Minutes)

PRESENT SAT

**70 min (Two 25-min. sections,
one 20- min. section)**

**Multiple-Choice Items
Student-Produced Responses
Measuring:
Number and Operations
Algebra I, II, and Functions
Geometry; Statistics,
Probability, and Data Analysis**

Score M 200-800 M 200-800

CRITICAL READING

**Time: 70 min. (Two 25-min. sections,
one 20-min. section)**

**Content: Sentence Completion
Critical Reading:
Short and Long Reading
Passages**

Score: CR 200-800

WRITING COMPONENT - MULTIPLE-CHOICE: GRAMMAR

Present SAT

**Time: Preliminary 60 min. (25-min.
Essay; 35-min. multiple-choice)**

**Content: Multiple-Choice: Identifying Errors;
Improving Sentences and
Paragraphs and Student-Written
Essay; Effectively communicate a
Viewpoint, Defining and Supporting
A Position**

**Score: W 200-800
Essay Sub score: 2-12
Multiple-Choice SubScore: 20-80**

PRESENT PSAT /NMSQT

CRITICAL READING

Time: 50 minutes
(Two 25-minute sections)

Content: Critical Reading
Sentence-Level Reading

Items: Sentence Completions

Short and Long Paragraph
Reading Items

Score: 20 - 80

MATH:

Time: 50 minutes
(Two 25-minute sections)

Content: Algebra and Functions*
Geometry and Measurement*
Number and Operations*
Data Analysis, Statistics, and
Probability

**All areas will include some expansion in concepts*

Items: Multiple-Choice
Student-Produced Responses

Score: 20 - 80

WRITING:

Time: 25 minutes (to mirror the multiple-
Choice portion of the new SAT writing section)

Content: Grammar
Usage
Word Choice

Items: Improving Sentences
Identifying Sentence Errors
Improving Paragraphs

Score: 20 - 80

A Final Word of Advice

Standardized testing is not as important as what you do in the four years you are in high school. Success in challenging courses and meaningful involvement in selected co-curricular activities is a better predictor of your success in college than a three-hour standardized test. Treat standardized testing seriously by becoming familiar with the test format and content but do not let the prospect of testing overwhelm you or cause you to lose sight of all your efforts here at Cardinal Newman. Testing is only one of the many factors colleges consider in making admissions decisions.

Your counselor is available to help you and answer your questions. If you need assistance, please come in.

Students are advised to check with individual colleges regarding the requirements for SAT Writing component, ACT plus Writing, and SAT II subject area tests.

PARENT MEETINGS

Freshman/Sophomore Information Night

Wednesday, September 2, 2009 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. School Cafeteria

RSVP to Guidance \$1.00 charge for materials

Junior/Senior College Information Night

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. School Cafeteria

RSVP to Guidance \$1.00 charge for materials

College Financial Planning (AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL)

FOR ALL GRADES **RSVP REQUESTED**

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 7:00 P.M. School Cafeteria

College Fairs:

Palm Beach County College Fair **To Be Announced**. All grade levels and parents welcome.

Ft. Lauderdale College Fair: at the Ft. Lauderdale/Broward City Convention Center on Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 5:00P.M. -8:30 P.M. and Friday, November 6, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



**THIS BOOKLET PREPARED
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