

Testing 2020: What we know so far

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applerouth

Major Topics

- ACT/SAT
- Social distancing and testing
- Testing bottlenecks- supply/demand/priority/access
- Testing timelines for rising seniors/juniors
- Home-administrations of ACT/SAT
- ACT/SAT essays
- Test optional changes and policies
- SAT Subject Tests
- APs-home administration, validity and reception

Key Dates

- APs next week: round the world
- By **Friday, May 8th**, ACT will announce social distancing guidelines for June and July test dates
- By Friday May 22, ACT will announce changes to June ACT test administration, where will it hold, where will it be cancelled
- June 13 and 20 ACT, initial and makeup
- July 18 and 25, much higher confidence
- July Sep ACT registration, CBT and sectional testing

Key Dates continued

- May 21 UC Board of Regents scheduled to meet-determine SAT/ACT status and the status of the essay. Standardized Testing Task Force and Academic Senate overwhelmingly endorse keeping testing for 5 years and lean towards dropping the SAT/ACT essay

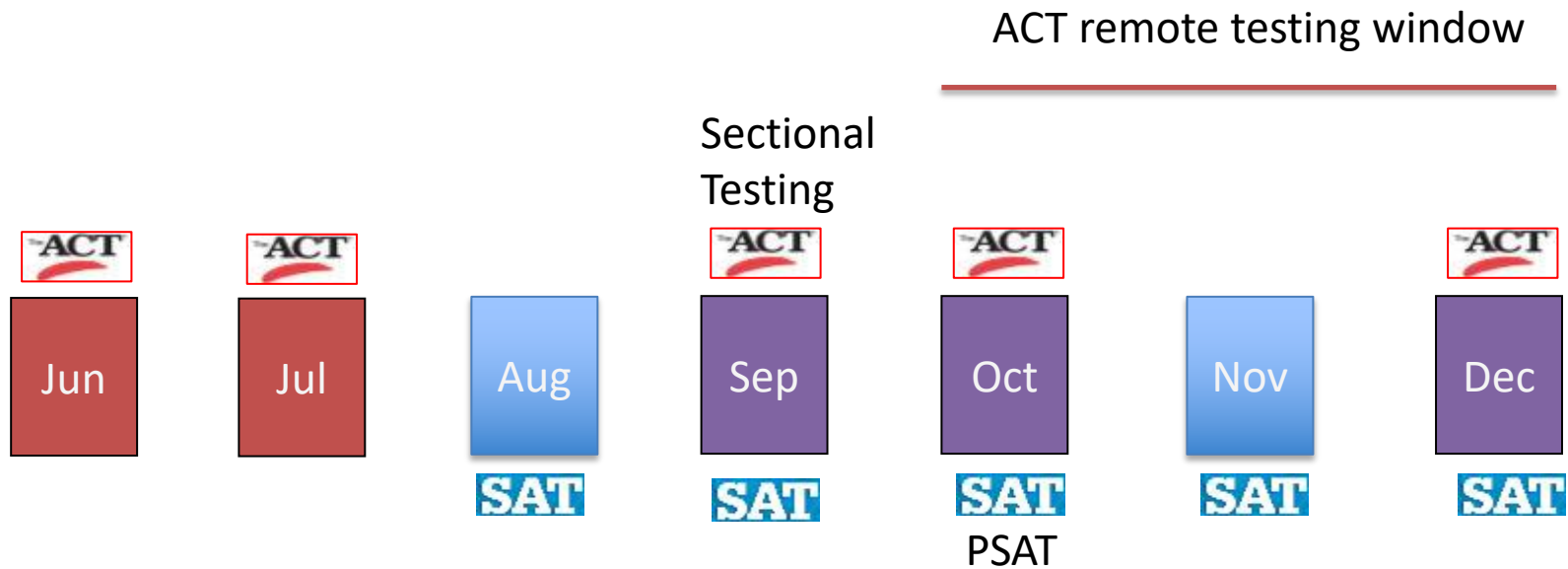
SAT Changes

- An opportunity to test **every month** this fall (August through December)
- Priority registration for those impacted by changes and those who have yet to test
- Preparing for at home option ‘just in case’
- Coleman does not seem remotely confident about an online option in the near term. College Board is well behind the ACT in this area.

ACT Changes

- Spring test dates postponed, June and July planned with “Flexible Scheduling”
 - No charge for changing test dates
 - Working with test centers to open more seats
 - Roorda seemed very confident about July, hopeful for June
 - June/July will depend upon local/regional readiness
- Sep., Oct., Dec. National Test Dates for Fall
 - Section Retesting available starting in September
- Accelerating at home proctoring option to launch “late fall/early winter”

2020 Testing Schedules



SAT remote testing?

PSAT

- Should hold for October
- May have to be administered over multiple days with social distancing
- Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT and are African American, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, or attend school in a rural area or small town, may be invited to apply for academic recognition as part of the College Board National Recognition Programs*.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scholarships-and-recognition/recognition-programs>

Will tests have more or less weight in COVID times?

- Students less able to stand out through traditional means, grades turned Pass/Fail
- Summer programs/internships/opportunities to stand out cancelled
- When students look more similar, testing is one way to stand above the pack.
- Versus difficulty of gaining access to tests, issues of access



The crunch

- Social distancing and testing
- Testing bottlenecks- supply/demand/priority/access
- Testing timelines for rising seniors/juniors
- Rising Juniors will need to anticipate longer gaps between prep and official testing administrations

Home-based testing



GRE offered at home, model for SAT/ACT?

- **NEW: At Home Testing for the *GRE*[®] General Test**
- ETS has launched an at home testing solution for the *GRE*[®] General Test for students who have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Monitoring of the test will be conducted using live remote proctors by ProctorU[®], the leading proctoring solution for online testing.
- Taking the GRE General Test at home is now available in selected countries where students can take the test at home beginning Friday, March 27.

<https://www.ets.org/s/cv/gre/the-americas>

Many grad tests shifting to home delivery

- GRE
- GMAT
- LSAT

Universities are not pushing back against these home-delivered assessments

ProctorU

Exam Security. Done Right.

Deter. Detect. Prevent.

Online proctoring to advance your learning and testing program. Validate knowledge. Reduce costs. Expand access.

SEE WHAT WE DO



Live proctors observe groups of students to prevent cheating,
as they would in an in-person setting

<https://www.proctoru.com/services/live-online-proctoring>

Proponents and Opponents of Take-Home tests

- Rick Clark GA Tech: more access, more fewer barriers
- Cornell: Don't trust it
- Claremont McKenna: won't accept it
- NACAC: Don't trust it

Claremont McKenna

Although both the College Board and the ACT have introduced the concept of an at-home version of the exams, details regarding security, content, scoring, or validity have not been addressed. **Therefore, CMC will not use scores from these tests** as a replacement for the traditional SAT or ACT exams

<https://www.cmc.edu/news/cmc-adopts-sat-act-test-optional-policy-for-fall-2021-applicants>

Test Optional: the landscape is shifting

Some schools are temporarily shifting, others are making a permanent shift

- University System of Georgia 2020
- UC, BU, Case Western, Amherst, IU, Tulane, Vassar, Williams, Fall 2021/Spring 2022
- Tufts, Davidson, Middlebury, Rhodes 2020-2023
- Swarthmore, optional, students can now choose to report results from PSAT and PreACT
- Applerouth is keeping a running list [here](#)

Test Optional Does Not Mean Test Blind

- At most colleges that practice test optional admissions, the majority of admitted students still submit test scores – and strong ones, at that
- Colleges still consider results from standardized tests among the factors that help predict student success in college
- With P/F and All As abounding this spring, strong test results can help students stand out

Quick List: Test Optional COVID (selective)

Test Optional Class of 2021					
Amherst	Colgate	Gonzaga	Pomona	U. Washington	Williams
Babson	Cal. State U.	Hamilton	U Richmond	Vassar	
Boston University	U. California	Loyola Marymount	TCU	Virginia Tech	
Case Wes.	Cornell	Northeastern	Tulane	Wellesley	

Test Optional 3 Year Trial				
Centre Coll.	Haverford	Rhodes	Swarthmore (2)	Tufts
Davidson	Middlebury	Santa Clara (2 yr)	Trinity U (TX)	U. Cincinnati (2)

Test Optional Permanent					
Butler	Drury	Oregon St.	St. Edwards	U. Oregon	
College of Wooster	I.U. Bloomington	Scripps	St. Olaf		



Cornell Clarifies: No testing increases scrutiny

For those who can't plan for, take, and submit exams, Cornell readers will consider with increased scrutiny their other application documents, looking for different evidence of excellent academic preparation, including:

- Rigor and GPA
- Commitment to pursuing other learning experiences
- Other Testing
- Essays
- Counselor and Teacher Recs

<https://admissions.cornell.edu/news/cornell-university-suspends-actsat-testing-requirement-2021-applicants>

All things being equal, good testing is hard to ignore

- Readers used to evaluating testing will most likely consider robust testing.
- The student with 750, 760, 780 and 5s on multiple APs, compared to a student with a similar academic profile and no testing: it's hard to ignore that information in the admissions calculus.

SAT Subject Tests

- Typical administration in the May/June testing window has been disrupted
- Lower priority than SAT
- Better to take the SAT 2,3 times to pop the score than submit a weaker SAT score with stronger SAT Subject Tests
- This year, optional is really optional, much more forgiving
- However, strong SAT Subjects will stand out more this year, a differentiator when everyone looks the same

SAT Subject Tests News

- Following Caltech's and Harvey Mudd's decision to drop these as a requirement earlier this year, MIT recently followed suit.
- Now, NO US college requires them for all students.
- Caltech and MIT will not consider them at all in the admissions process.
- The loss of these three schools will put pressure on the College Board and this line of assessments.
- The end may be coming for these tests.

Quick List: Requires SAT Subject tests

**Require SAT + Subjects,
Not with ACT**

McGill

Required: Particular Majors/Programs		
Boston U	Cornell	Union
Cooper Union	GWU	Stevens
	Northwestern	

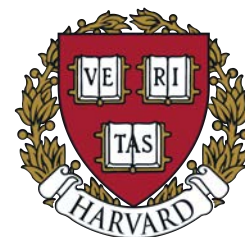
Quick List: SAT Subject Tests continued

Recommended, Encouraged, Welcomed			
Brown	Emory	Georgetown*	U. California
Dartmouth	Lehigh	Rice	Princeton
Davidson	Duke	UPenn	Harvard
Delaware	Carnegie Mellon	Yale	Webb

Will Consider					
Amherst	Chicago	Macalester	Reed	UGA	Vassar
Babson	Cl. McKenna	Notre Dame	Smith	UNC	W. Poly
Barnard	Columbia	Oberlin	Stanford	Union	Wake Forest
Boston Coll.	Connecticut	Occidental	Swarthmore	USC	Wash U.
Bowdoin	Kenyon	Pomona	Tufts	UVA	Wellesley
Bucknell	Johns Hopkins	Lafayette	U. Mich	Vanderbilt	Wesleyan

Harvard and Yale announcements

- Applicants will not face penalties if they are unable to submit Advanced Placement test scores or SAT subject test results
- While the SAT or ACT scores are still required, the Advanced Placement and SAT Subject Tests that were once “recommended” have become entirely optional.

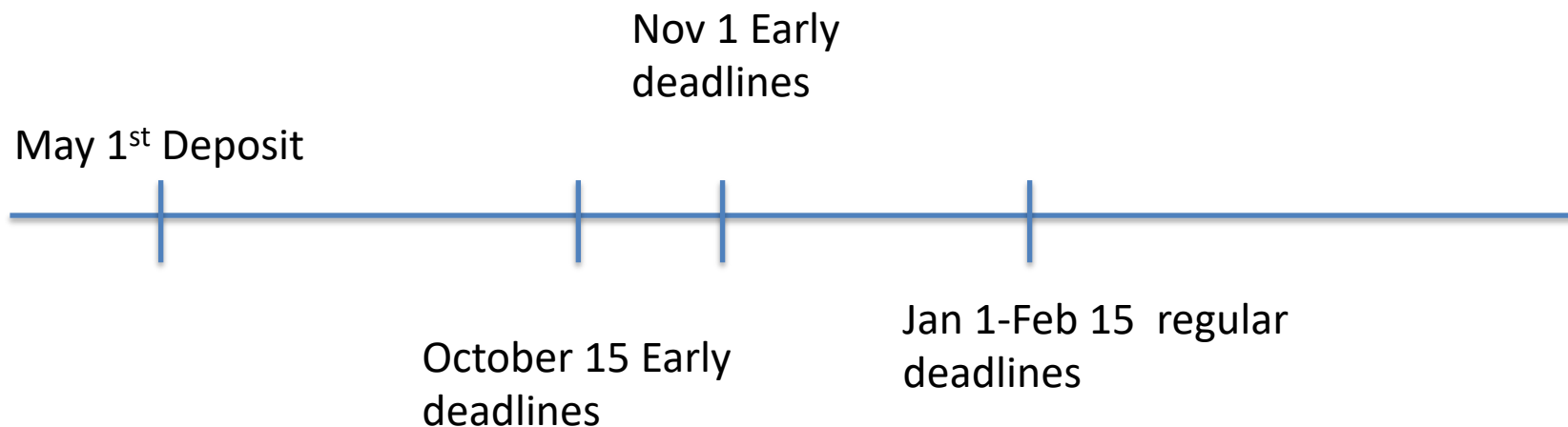


Optional **Really** means optional this cycle

Accommodations

- May be affected by availability.
- National testing, 50% time should not be affected
- School based testing accommodations may become more challenging depending upon school openings and availability

Key dates may shift



If colleges shift deadlines for admissions, this could affect the testing calendar, giving more options to students

ACT Changes for September 2020

1) Computer Based Testing for individual students



2) Section Retesting

English

Math

Reading

Science

3) Superscore Reporting



Preparing for the ACT Online Studies

Thank you for your participation in the upcoming online studies! Below you'll find a number of resources that can help you adequately prepare for test day in both paper and online formats.

Paper Practice Materials

Preparing for the ACT Test

Contains an overview of the ACT® test, scoring guidelines, test taking strategies as well as a full length practice ACT.

Online Examinee Preparation

The ACT Online Practice Test

This full length practice exam is available in online format for you to prepare in advance of test day. Use "Guest Access" to connect to the practice tests.

Answer Keys and Conversion Tables for Online Practice Tests

Scoring the Practice Tests

Instructions to score your practice multiple-choice tests and review your performance.

ACT Tao Navigation Video

Tutorial Video

A fully narrated video providing a walkthrough of the ACT test utilizing the TAO platform. Review the interface and available tools before test day.

Tao Practice tests online: <https://actnatl-prod.taocloud.org/taoDelivery/DeliveryServer/index>

Test status

	Viewed	4/75
	Answered	3/75
	Unanswered	72/75
	Flagged	0/75

All

English 75/75

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3
- Item 4
- Item 5
- Item 6
- Item 7
- Item 8
- Item 9
- Item 10
- Item 11
- Item 12
- Item 13
- Item 14
- Item 15
- Item 16

Mystery Paper Sculptor

Between March and November of 2011, an anonymous donor left intricately crafted paper sculptures at various cultural institutions in Edinburgh, Scotland. **Delighted, each sculpture was left secretly and was later discovered by staff.** The delicate sculptures—streetscapes, plants, and animals—were carved exclusively from the pages and bindings of books. The tiny details in the pieces are awe-inspiring.

The first sculpture discovered—at the Scottish Poetry Library—was a tiny tree formed from a book of verse. Library staff dubbed it the “poetree.” The tree sits atop a book. Beneath the tree are the halves of a golden paper egg, each half filled with words clipped from the poem “A Trace of Wings” by Edwin Morgan. At Edinburgh’s Filmhouse Cinema, a three-dimensional sculpted scene shows patrons sitting in a movie theater as horse leaps out of the screen. At the Scottish Storytelling Centre, a dragon crafted from the pages of a mystery novel was found nesting in a window. At the National Museum of Scotland, a paper tail was spotted emerging from the spine of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s book *The Lost World*. Inside, a dinosaur charges through shredded pages of the open book. More creations appeared at more than a few additional places where literature and artifacts are related to books and writing. Therefore, a total of ten sculptures were bestowed on special institutions, whose staff are thrilled by their luck.

The creator of these sculptures are not known because no one has claimed responsibility. So far, that is. The last gift came with a note in which the mystery artist reveals her gender. Whatever whoever created the art, your intention is clear. Each gift came with a note expressing special gratitude for “libraries, books, words, ideas.”

Ironically, the creator of these exquisite sculptures who destroyed books—cutting them up with refashioning them into elaborate works of art—as “a tiny gesture in support of the special places.” The mystery artist celebrated the magic of those places and, at the same time, made some magic.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Each sculpture was left secretly and later discovered by delighted staff.
- C. Left secretly and later discovered by staff, each sculpture was delighted.
- D. Secretly delighted, each sculpture was discovered by staff.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Black on white
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black on cream
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black on light blue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black on magenta
<input type="checkbox"/>	White on black
<input type="checkbox"/>	Light yellow on royal blue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gray on green (low contrast option)

Students can access CBT practice materials online

- [ACT Academy](#): free practice items
- <https://actnatl-prod.taocloud.org/tao/Main/login>
Free practice test and sections
- [ACT Online Prep](#): a 6-month subscription for \$39.95 will give a student access to two complete timed practice tests plus 2400 practice items

Private companies like Applerouth will be developing and releasing additional practice materials and tests

Students with disabilities

- Students who take the ACT with 1.5x extended time will be able to take advantage of the CBT option.
- Students with double or triple time will take paper-based tests.
- This policy may shift: we'll tune into ACT, Inc. for further announcements pertaining to accommodations.

We don't yet know how many sites will offer CBT

- There may be issues with supply and demand, of seats, staffing and digital infrastructure.
- The transition from paper to CBT internationally was not without incident.
- Internationally, ACT managed scarcity of computers by offering more testing options (i.e., morning and afternoon testing).
- ACT has not determined if it will use established CBT testing facilities that administer other tests. It is starting with current ACT sites.

Scaling the rollout: the great unknown

- There is no indication how widespread the adoption will be: 60, 600 or 6000 schools.
- Some students may have to travel great distances to access CBT, particularly outside of major metropolitan areas.
- When registration opens in July, students will be able enter their zip code to display the nearest center that offers online testing.
- There may be a technological divide, separating the haves and the have nots based on access.

ACT Validity study

“Our research shows that ACT scores for students who take individual section tests are consistent with those earned when they take the entire test.”

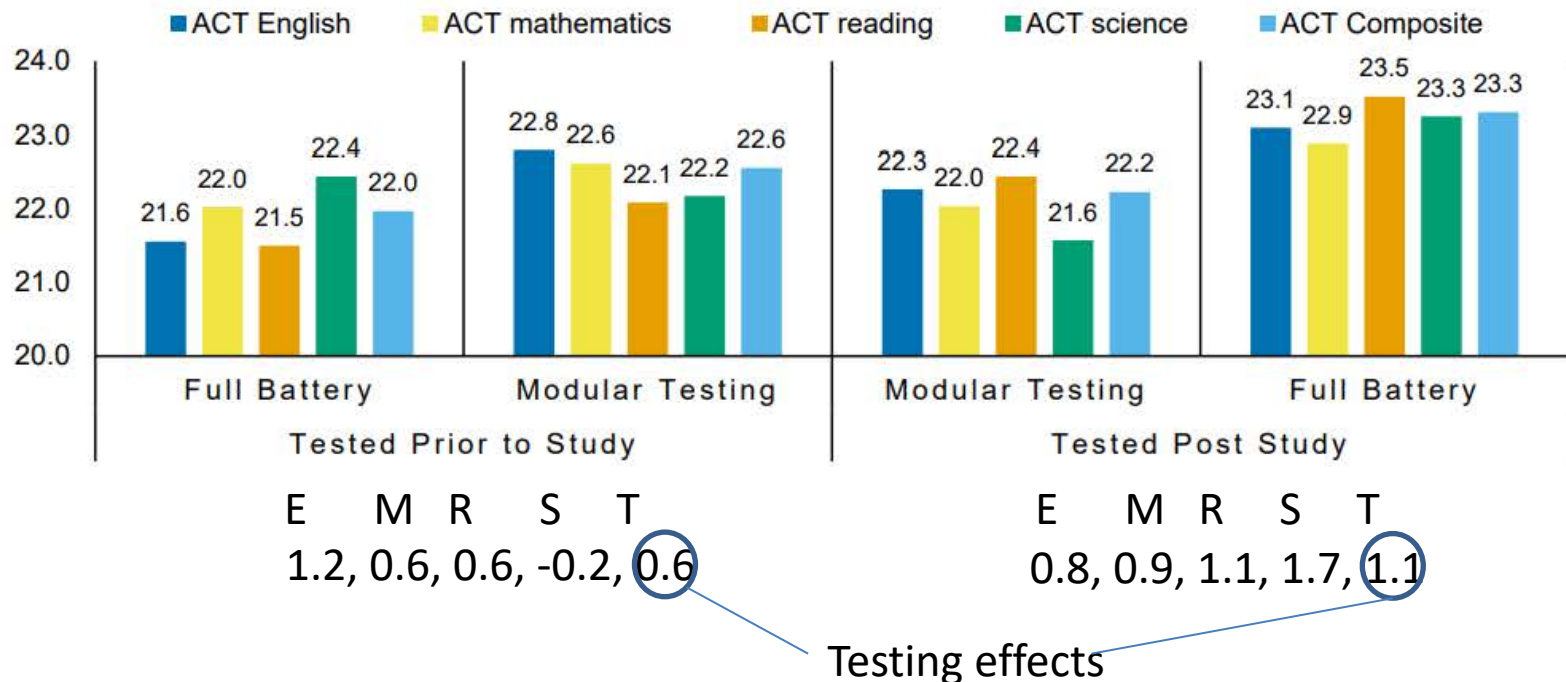
Suzana Delanghe, Chief Commercial officer



As quoted in the Washington Post

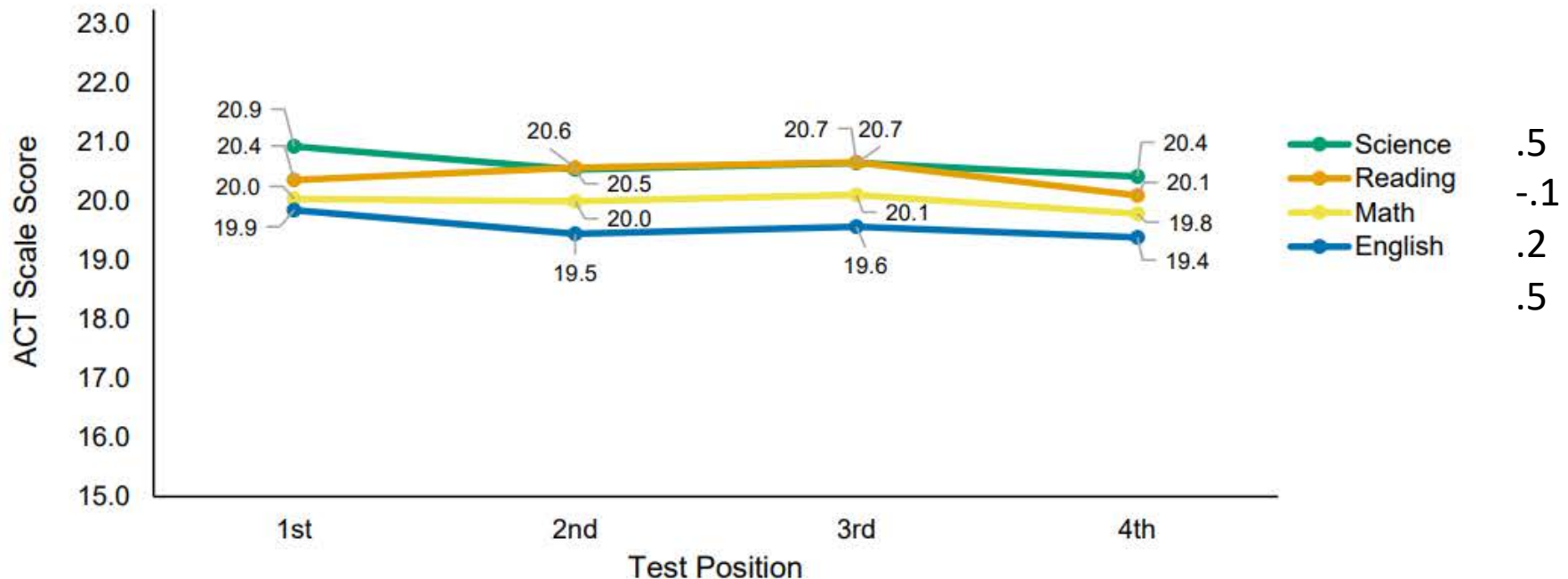
ACT didn't find benefits of multi-day versus single day testing

Figure 1. ACT Subject Scores on Full Test Battery and Modular Testing by Testing Order (Pre- and Post-Modular Testing)



Nor did it find any significant benefit in shifting the order of sections

Figure 1. Average ACT Subject Scores by Test Position



<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/R1800-order-study-2019-10.pdf>



AP

AP Exam Changes

- Students will be able to take these at home. CB has said that they will be flexible with how students take them (computers, tablets, phone, even handwriting answers and sending in pictures of the responses).
- Content will be different than in previous years; exams will only cover units “most teachers” have typically gotten to by mid-March. Question types will also be different.
- Each exam will be offered twice, once early (for students who don’t want to forget what they learned in class), and once later (for students who want more time to prep), but they are encouraging all students test in the original testing window.
- CB is offering free review sessions and lots of free practice online.

The New APs: short, open book, at home

- Exams will be 45 minutes long, focused on free-response questions and document-based questions, not multiple choice.
- Exams will be open book/notes; that requires a particular method of preparation
- Cheating will not be tolerated: College Board will inform any college the student has submitted SAT scores to that their AP Exam has been cancelled because of suspected cheating
- Colleges have committed to accepting the scores as valid and giving students college credit as they historically have.
 - Students may need to consider additional preparation before continuing in a subject, however

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

AP Schedule

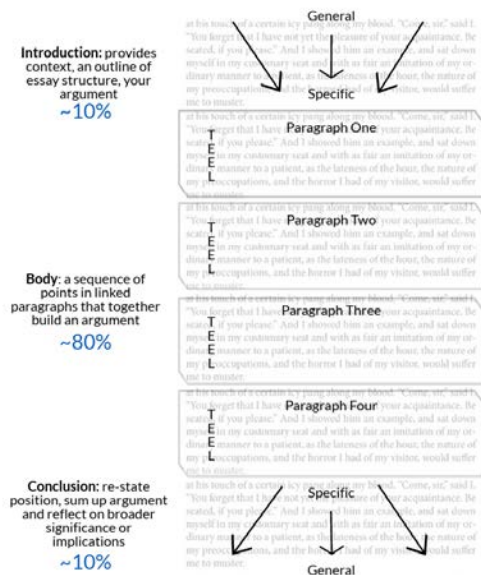
Exam Start Times:	12:00 EST	2:00 PM EST	4:00 PM EST
Mon, May 11	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	United States Government and Politics
Tues, May 12	Latin	Calculus AB/BC	Human Geography
Wed, May 13	Physics 2: Algebra-Based	English Literature and Comp.	European History
Thurs, May 14	Spanish Literature and Culture	Chemistry	Physics 1: Algebra-Based
Fri, May 15	Art History	United States History	Computer Science A
Mon, May 18	Chinese Language and Culture	Biology	Environmental Science
Tues, May 19	Music Theory	Psychology	Japanese/Italian Language and Culture
Wed, May 20	German Language and Culture	English Language and Comp.	Microeconomics
Thurs, May 21	French Language and Culture	World History: Modern	Macroeconomics
Fri, May 22	Comparative Govt. and Pol.	Statistics	Spanish Language and Culture

makeup sessions for each test from June 1 to 5

IB Exam Changes

- IB exams are canceled for this year.
- IB will award diplomas and certificates based on course performance alone (so IB seniors may still be able to graduate with their IB diplomas)
- Students *can* opt to sit for their exams in November, instead, but seniors who need those grades might have to defer college to do that, so it's unlikely we'll see many kids take that option in the US
- IB hasn't offered many details about how college credit will work, but said vaguely that they "consulted with" colleges and universities and the schools said they would work with students to get credit for their IB coursework as they have in the past.

A few thoughts on the SAT/ACT essay



The fate of the SAT/ACT essay hinges on UC

- UC's Academic Senate and its Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) completed its own investigation of the essay and found it contributed little to the prediction of freshman year GPA.
- The STTF questioned the continued use of the essay in UC Admissions
- The Board of Regents is scheduled to make a formal ruling in May

If UC drops the essay, it will lose relevance and likely disappear

23 Colleges requiring the essay:

College or University	
University of California schools	Soka University of America
Claremont McKenna College	University of Minnesota, Morris
Manhattan College	University of Montana Western (Only requires essay with an ACT)
Martin Luther College	University of North Texas
Sam Houston State University	Wellesley College (Only requires essay with an ACT)
Schreiner University	United States Military Academy

SAT/ACT Essays Recommended

Amherst	Mich. State	Rutgers	Taylor
Berry	Morehouse	Simmons	US Coast Guard
Duke	Occidental	Stanford	U Mass-Amherst
GA tech	Oregon State	SUNY	U. Minnesota

Most students no longer need to take the optional essays, particularly if they've ruled all of these schools off their lists.



Thoughts on scheduling the SAT and ACT

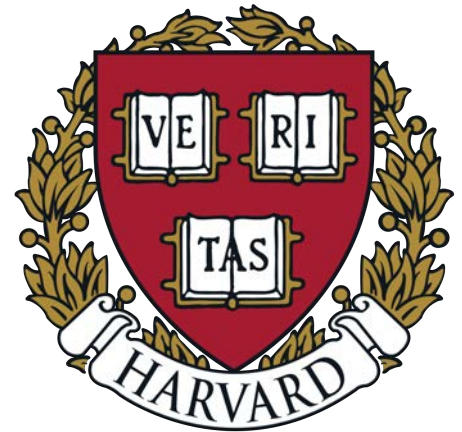
Typically we advocate 3 official tests

- Most students, while prepping in earnest, see gains through a third official test.
- Some students are “one and done,” but plan on 3 tests in case you need them.



Harvard Guidance: Don't stress if you can't retest

- We understand if you can only test once
- It's holistic review, testing is one piece.
- In this time, we'll understand if you cannot retest.
- They will be considering the context when they review applications.
- Subject Test leniency



Harvard Guidance on testing in Covid times

- We know that there are fewer opportunities to take the SAT or ACT given the cancellations to date. This means that many students may not be able to take these tests more than once. The fact is that there are diminishing returns in taking these tests multiple times, and we hope students will not feel compelled to do so now or in the future.
- You will not be disadvantaged in any way if you do not submit [subject tests](#).
- Similarly, you will not be disadvantaged if you are unable to submit AP results.
- Standardized testing is only one of many factors considered in our admissions process. Please refer to our [application requirements](#) for more information about our testing policies

<https://college.harvard.edu/about/news-announcements/special-message-high-school-juniors-applying-harvard>

Normal testing plan

- Baseline Test: choose a path- SAT or ACT
- Practice and practice tests. Take a timed practice test for each 6 hours of direct study
- Anticipate roughly 60-70 total hours: class time (20 hours), homework (30-40 hours) and practice tests (12 hours)
- Plan on 3 official tests, spreading out the study over the course of those 3 tests (e.g., distribute a 20-hour package over time)
- Ideally allow 8-10 weeks to prepare for a first test.
- Integrate SAT Subjects if appropriate

Skillfully manage the delay: keep momentum

- Take practice tests after every 6 hours of review
- Spend time each week reviewing content and taking practice sections.
- Deliberate practice and feedback will keep your skills honed
- Okay to have more distributed sessions, taking longer breaks between study events
- Don't wait until too late to build a plan – plenty of time now, less availability in the fall

Question and Answer Time

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We'll keep you up-to-date on what's happening at Applerouth and in the world of college admission testing!



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