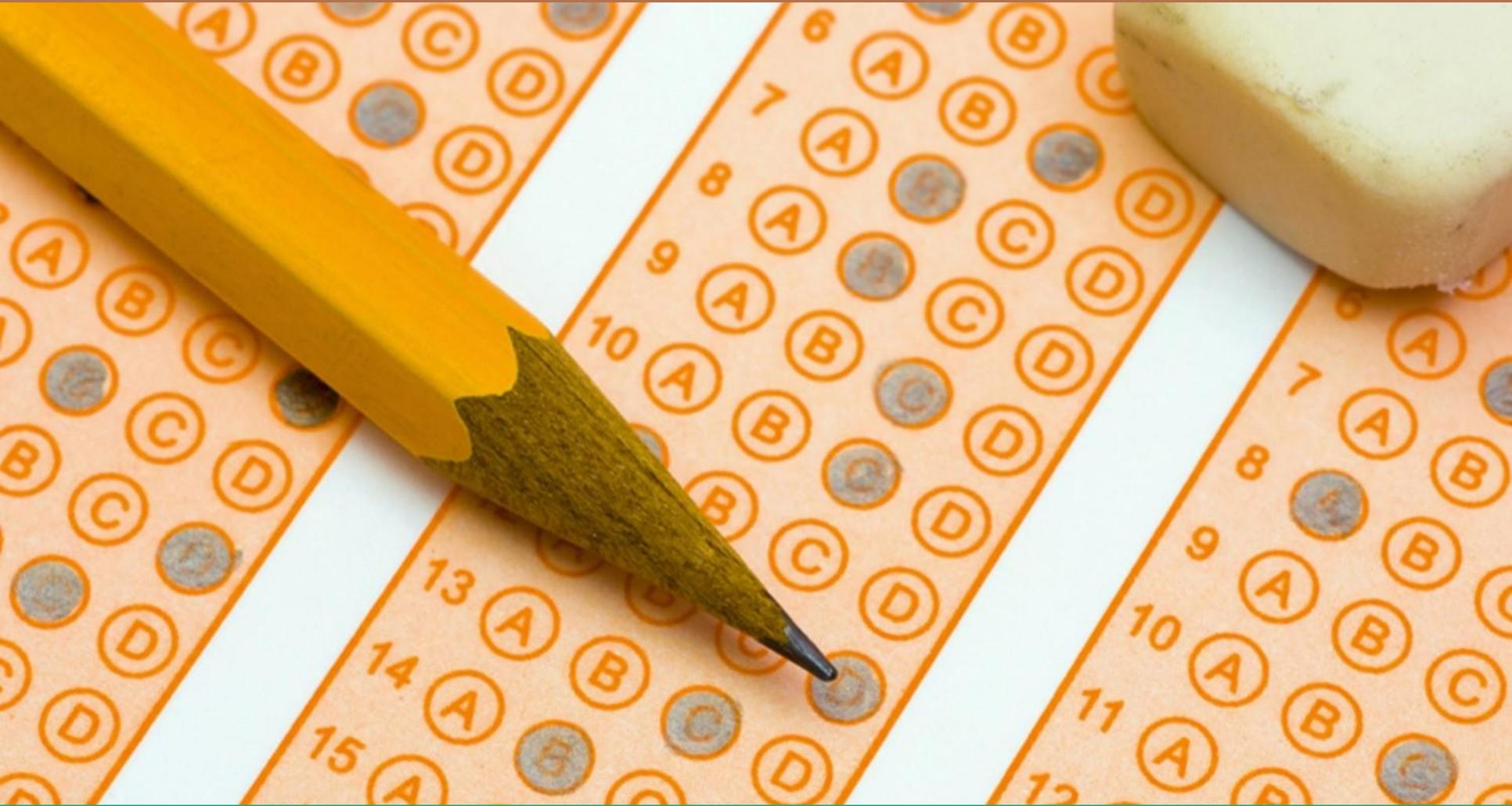


# College Admissions Testing

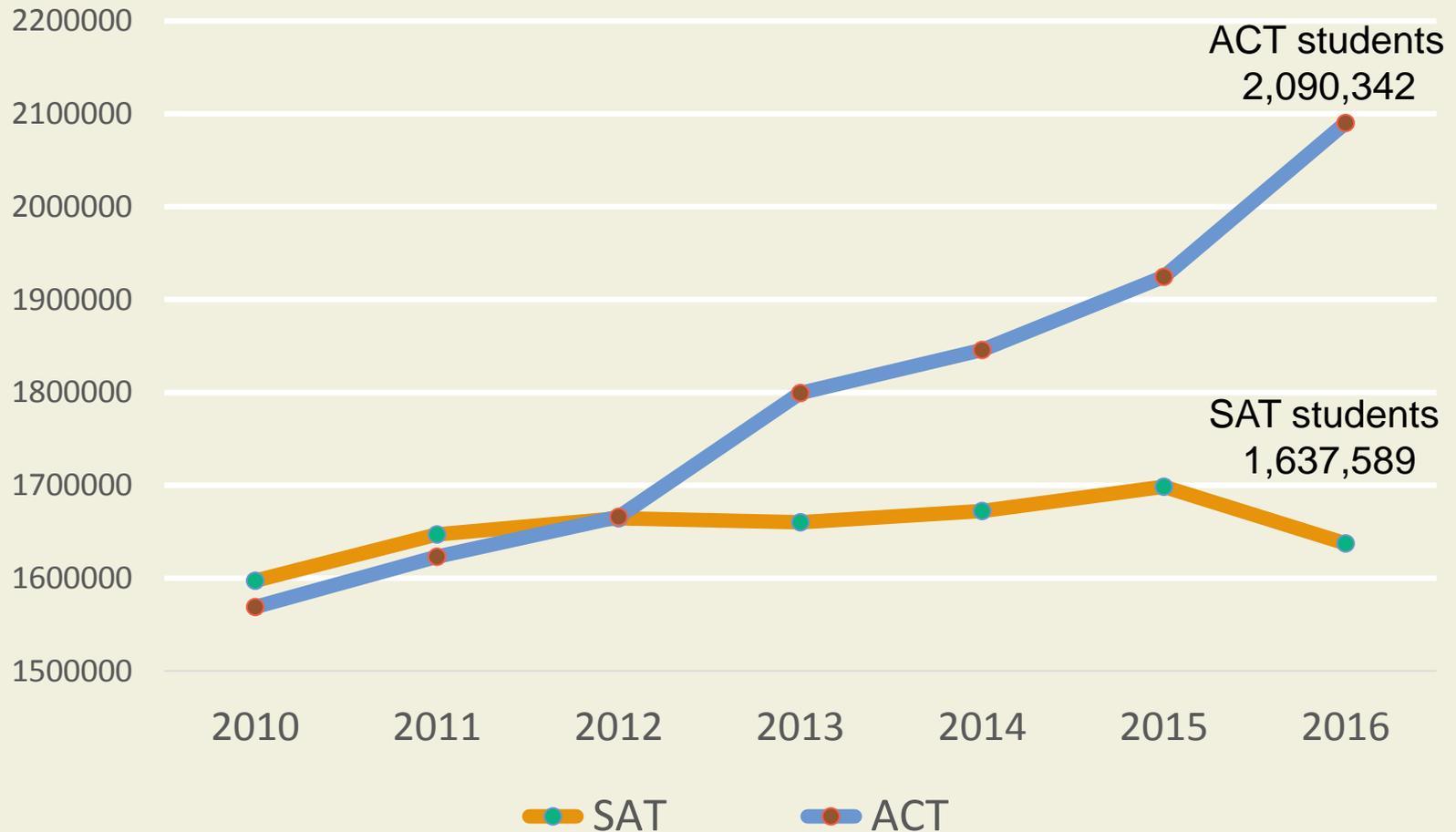
A Roadmap for the SAT, ACT, and Other Tests



Summit Educational Group

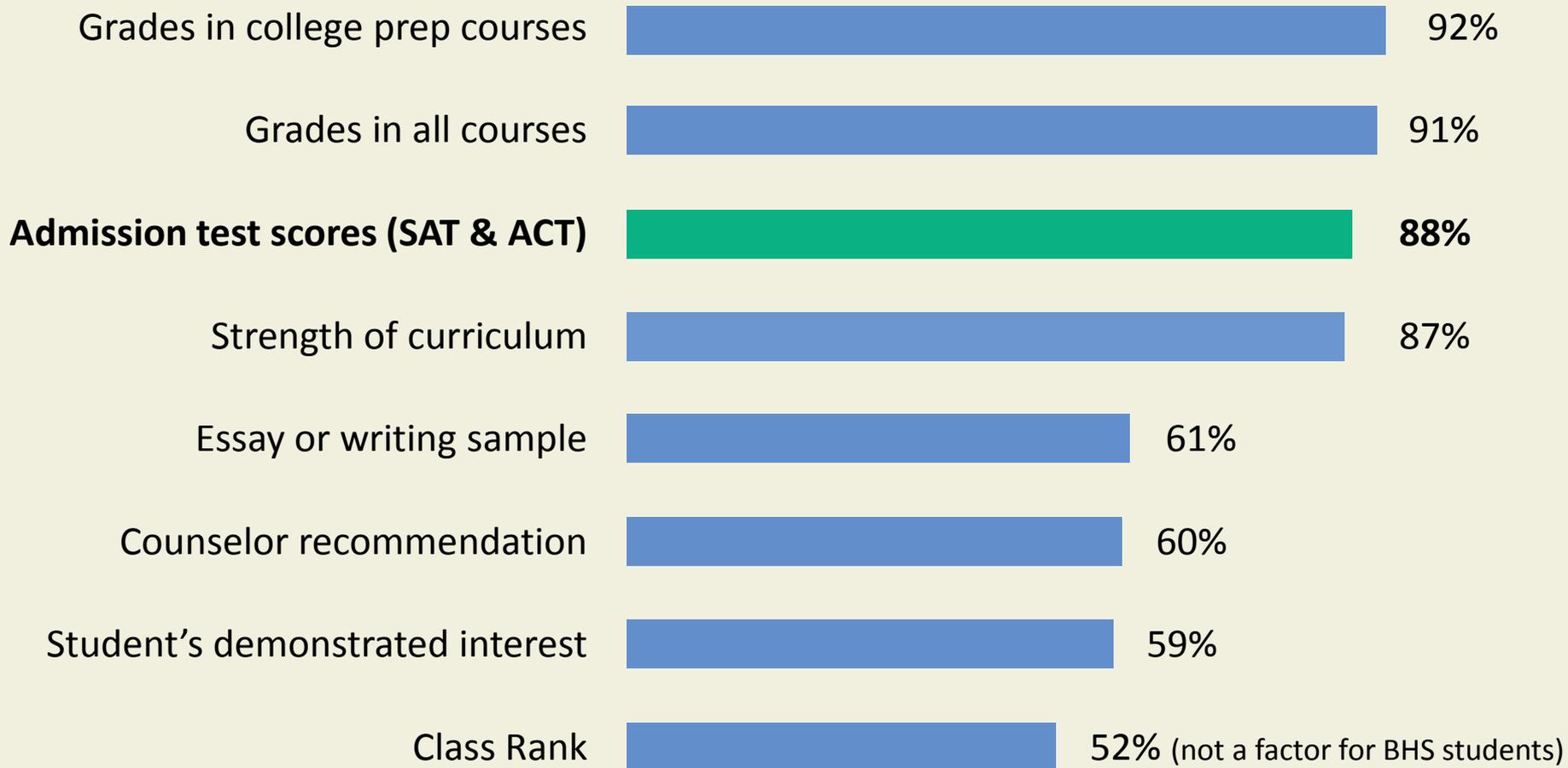
# The College Board vs. ACT, Inc

## SAT/ACT Test-Takers 2010-2016



# Test Scores – Relative Importance

Percentage of Colleges Reporting “Considerable or Moderate Importance”

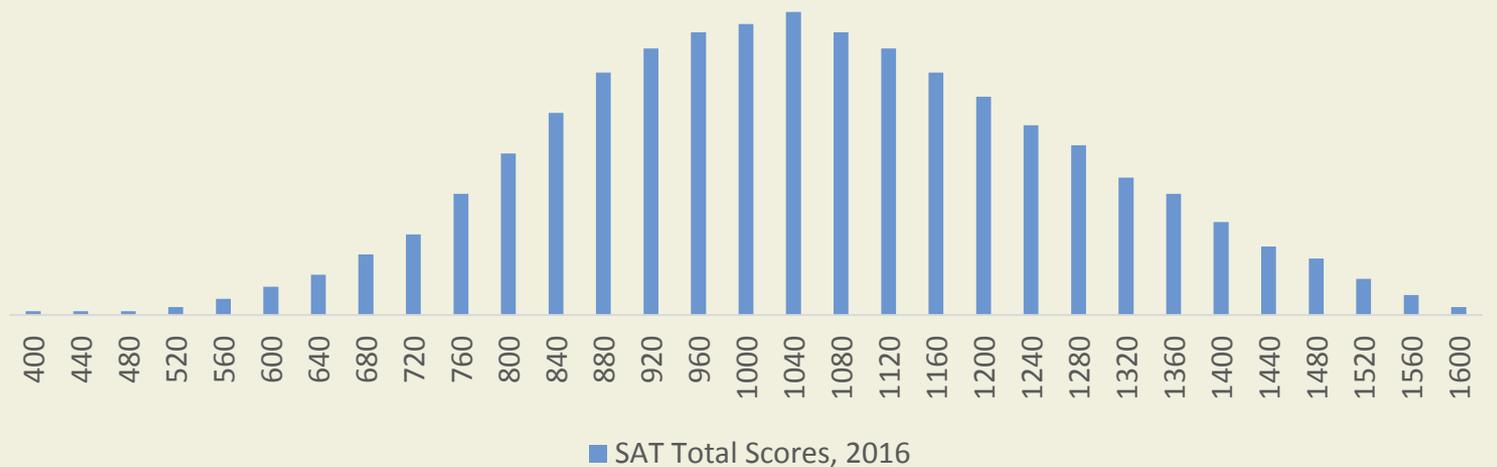
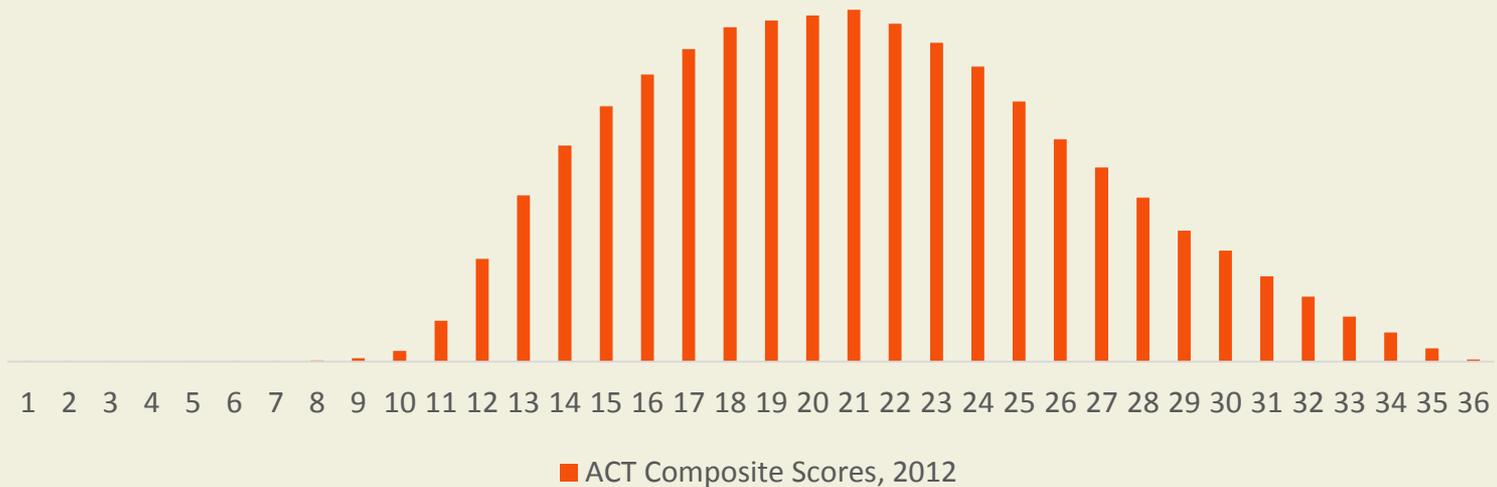


# Test Optional Schools

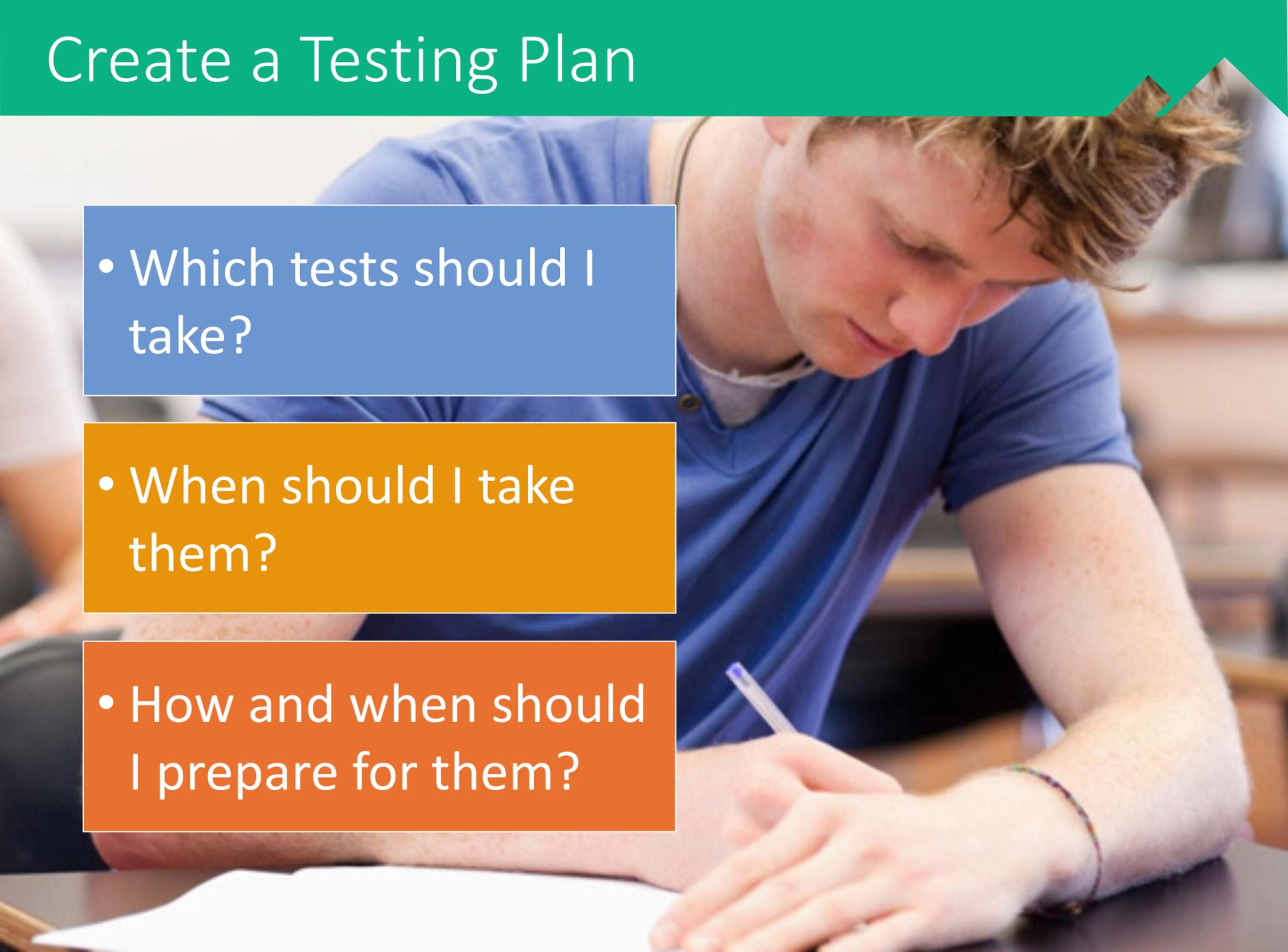
“We want outstanding students from all over the world and from all different backgrounds—regardless of their standardized scores.”

- Karen Stroud Felton  
Former Dean of Admissions  
George Washington University

# Why the SAT/ACT? – Consistent Curve



# Create a Testing Plan



- Which tests should I take?

- When should I take them?

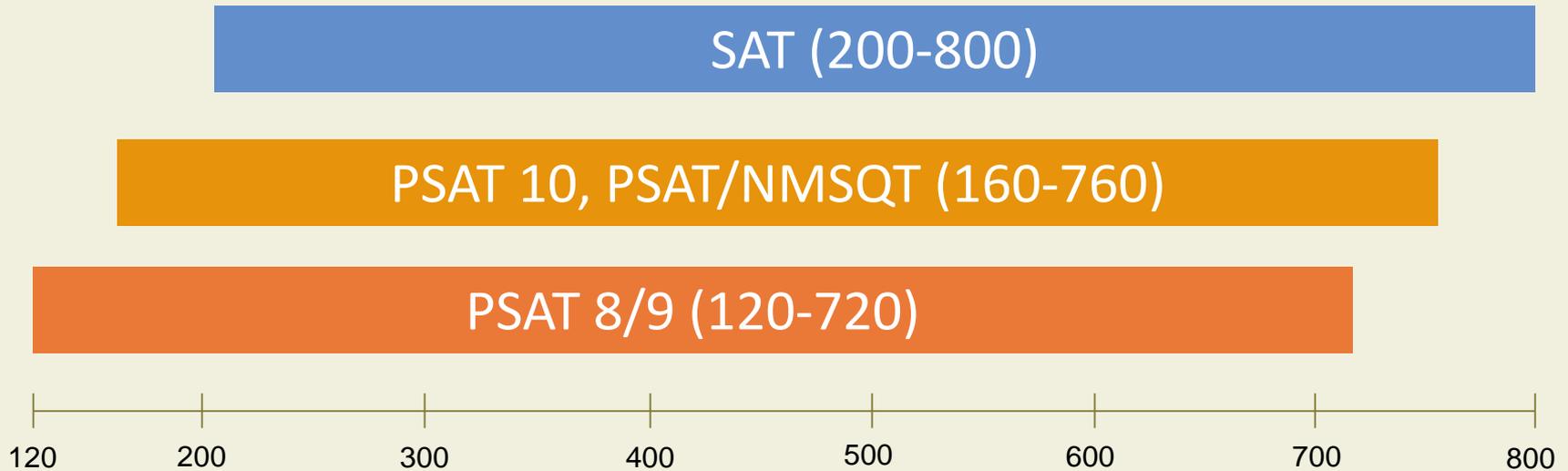
- How and when should I prepare for them?

# Which Tests Might I Take?



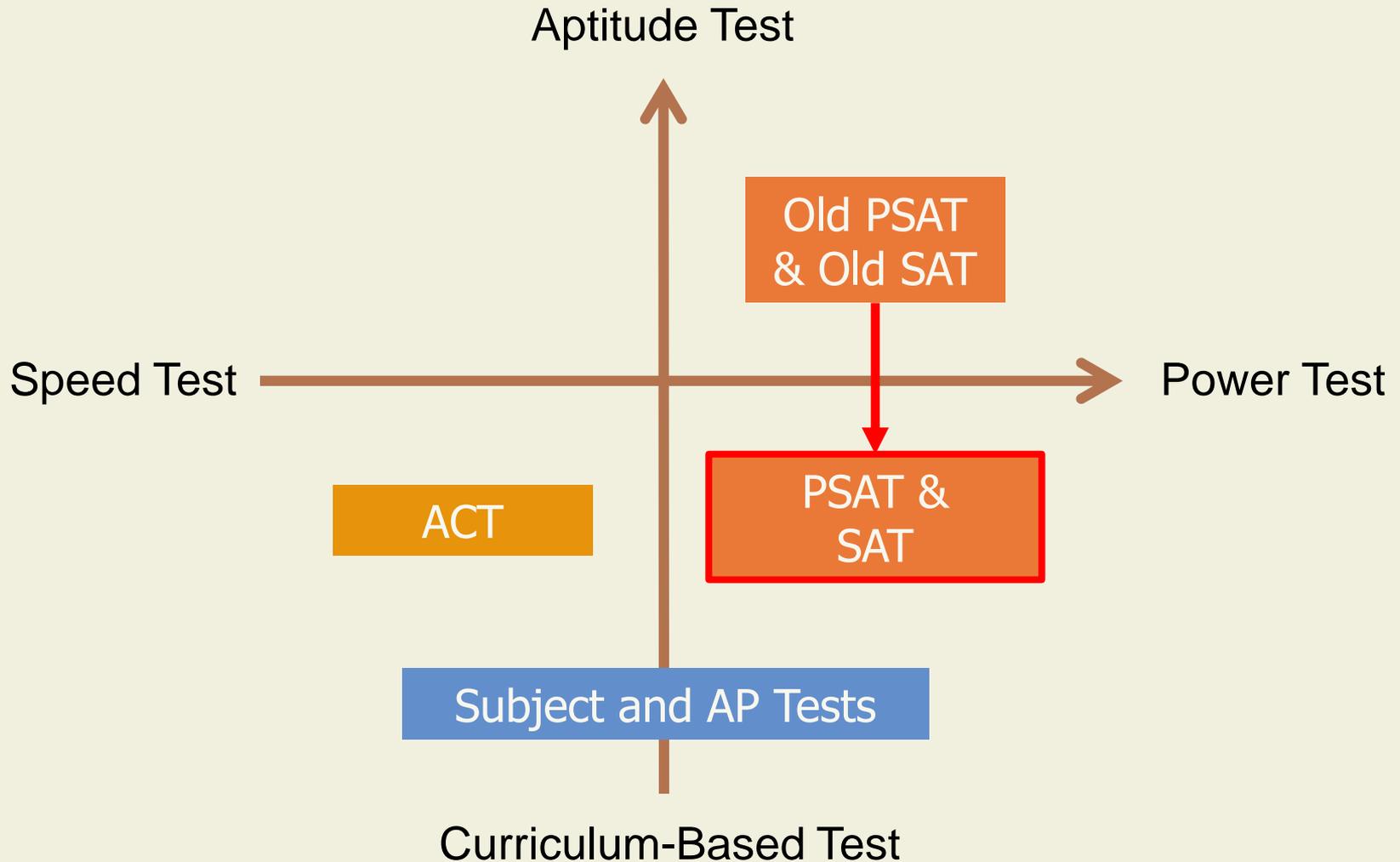
- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- Subject Tests
- AP Tests

# PSAT is Practice for the SAT



PSAT scores show what you would have scored on the SAT on that same day.

# Dimensions of Standardized Testing



# SAT/ACT – Similar in Structure

← SAT (3 hours 50 minutes) →

200 - 800

200 - 800

optional

Reading  
(65 min)

Writing &  
Language  
(35 min)

Math  
(No Calc)  
(25 min)

Math  
(Calc)  
(55 min)

Essay  
(50 min)

← ACT (3 hours 35 minutes) →

1 - 36

1 - 36

1 - 36

1 - 36

optional

English  
(45 min)

Math  
(60 min)

Reading  
(35 min)

Science  
(35 min)

Writing  
(40 min)



Writing & Language / English

# SAT/ACT – Writing & Language / English

SAT

ACT

Very similar tests. Both require strong grammar and editing skills and emphasize correcting sentence structure and punctuation.

Essays ranging in complexity from grades 9-10 to early college level

Inclusion of Data Graphics

48 seconds / question

Essays resemble what might be written by a high school student

36 seconds / question

## ACT

In 2009, Libbrecht and Arnold's experiments revealed that triangular snowflakes begin with the same process of chemical bonding and forms a<sup>8</sup> hexagonal shape. The triangular shape is an illusion resulting from one significant addition to the process dust.<sup>9</sup>

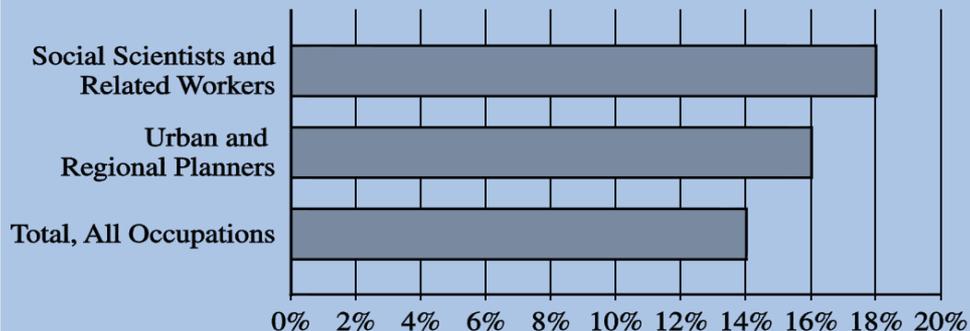
8. F. NO CHANGE  
G. were they to form  
H. if they formed  
J. form
9. A. NO CHANGE  
B. process is  
C. process:  
D. process;

# SAT Data Graphics Questions

## SAT

... As of 2010, there were approximately 40,300 urban and regional planners employed in the United States. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, **6** projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning. Population growth and concerns about environmental sustainability are expected to spur the need for transportation planning professionals.

Urban and Regional Planners  
Percent Increase in Employment, Projected 2010–2020



Which choice completes the sentence with accurate data based on the above graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) warning, however, that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.
- C) predicting that employment of urban and regional planners will increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- D) indicating that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.



Reading

# SAT/ACT – Reading

## SAT

More nuanced reading for deeper understanding

Complexity ranges from grade 9-10 to early college level

13 minutes per passage

Data Graphics

## ACT

Quick, efficient reading for comprehension

Complexity ranges from grade 9-10 to early college level

$8\frac{3}{4}$  minutes per passage

# SAT/ACT – Reading

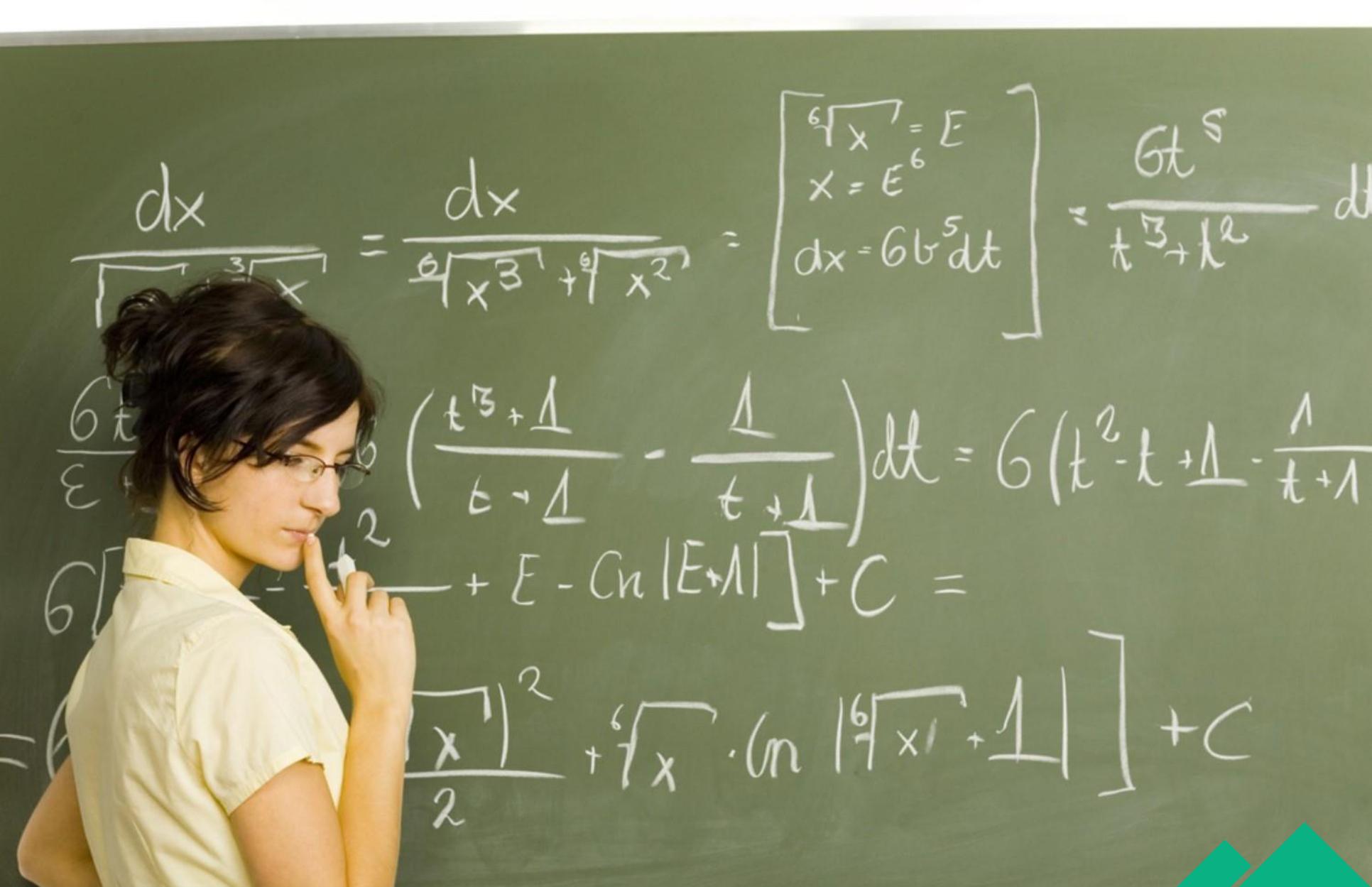
SAT

What can reasonably be **inferred** about gliding animals from the passage?

Which choice provides the best **evidence** for the answer to the previous question?

ACT

The **passage points to** which of the following as a characteristic of trap-jaw ants' mandibles that prevents the ants from harming themselves with their powerful bite?



# Mathematics

# SAT/ACT – Math

## SAT

Narrow and Deep

Algebra – about 60% of Math

1 Calculator Section

1 No-Calculator Section

83 seconds / question

## ACT

Broad and Shallow

Algebra – about 30% of Math  
Relatively even spread

Calculator allowed throughout

60 seconds / question

# SAT/ACT – Math

## SAT

The graph of the linear function  $f$  has intercepts at  $(a, 0)$  and  $(0, b)$  in the  $xy$ -plane. If  $a + b = 0$  and  $a \neq b$ , which of the following is true about the slope of the graph of  $f$ ?

- A) It is positive.
- B) It is negative.
- C) It equals zero.
- D) It is undefined.

## ACT

If two lines in the standard  $(x, y)$  coordinate plane are perpendicular and the slope of one of the lines is 3, what is the slope of the other line?

- A.  $-3$
- B.  $-1$
- C.  $-1/3$
- D.  $1/3$
- E.  $3$



Science

# SAT/ACT – Science

## SAT

No Science section, but 21 science-related questions appear throughout the test.

Does not require knowledge of specific science concepts

## ACT

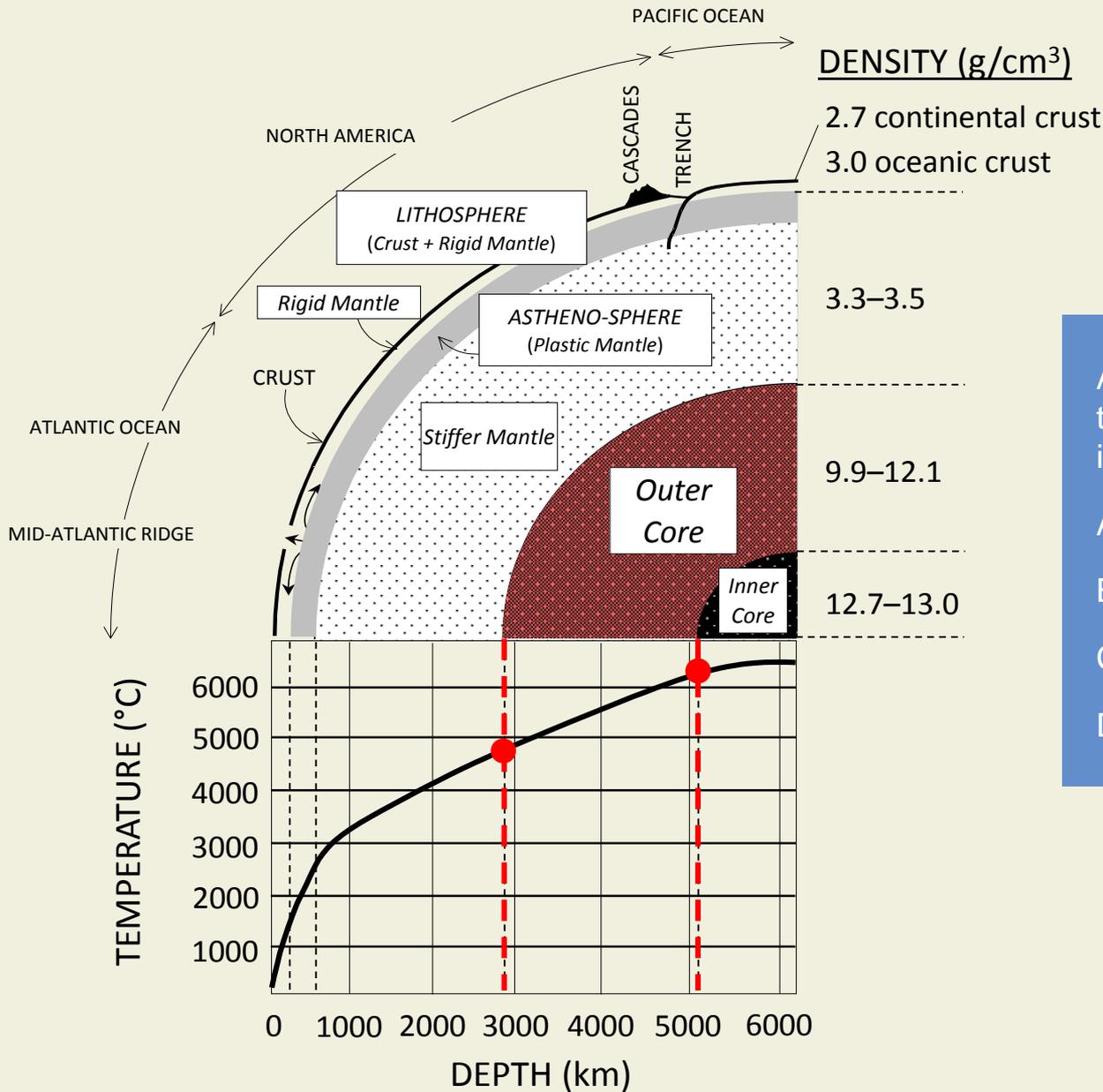
Dedicated Science Test.  
Measures interpretation, analysis, and reasoning skills.

Biggest challenge is timing.

Students must navigate mazes of information to find the relevant portions.

About 3-4 questions require knowledge of basic science concepts

# SAT/ACT – Science



According to Figure 1, the temperature of the Outer Core is approximately between:

- A. 1000° C and 2500° C
- B. 2500° C and 5000° C
- C. 4800° C and 6300° C
- D. 6200° C and 6500° C



Essay / Writing

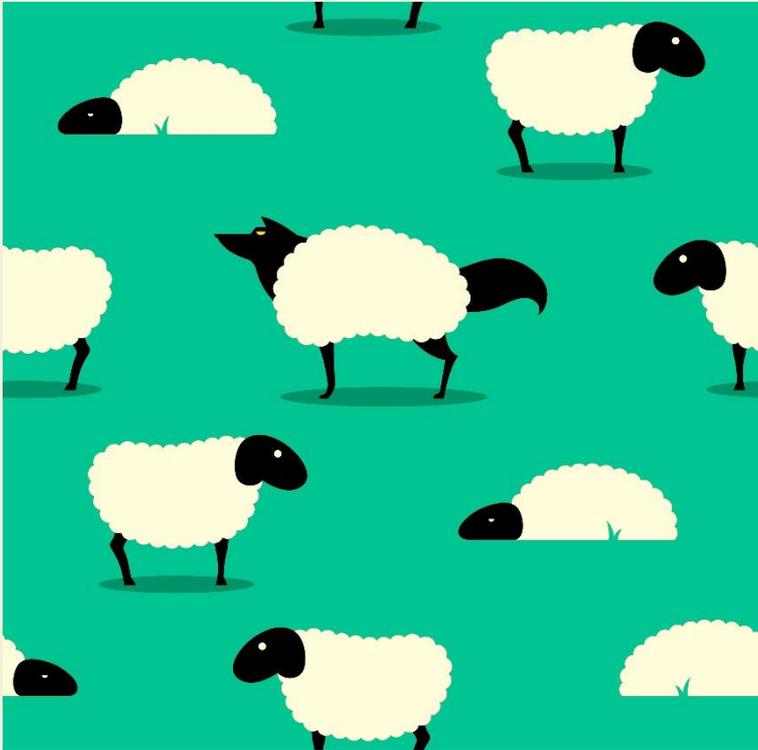
# SAT/ACT – Essay/Writing

## SAT Essay Prompt

The ACT essay assignment asks you to **WRITE** an argumentative essay, whereas the SAT essay assignment asks you to **ANALYZE** an argumentative essay.



# Is SAT the ACT in Sheep's Clothing?



- 4 answer choices
- Rights-only scoring
- Writing Test very similar to ACT English Test
- Test of achievement rather than aptitude
- Incorporates science
- Similar skills tested

# Comparing the SAT and ACT

## **SAT Questions**

More challenging

Require deep understanding

Narrower focus of skills

More time per question

---

## **ACT Questions**

Straightforward

Require instant recognition

Broader scope of skills

Require constant, rapid pace

# Choosing SAT or ACT



*"We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT."*

# Choosing SAT or ACT

Best way to make this decision is by taking each one and comparing scores using a Concordance Table.

# Concordance Tables

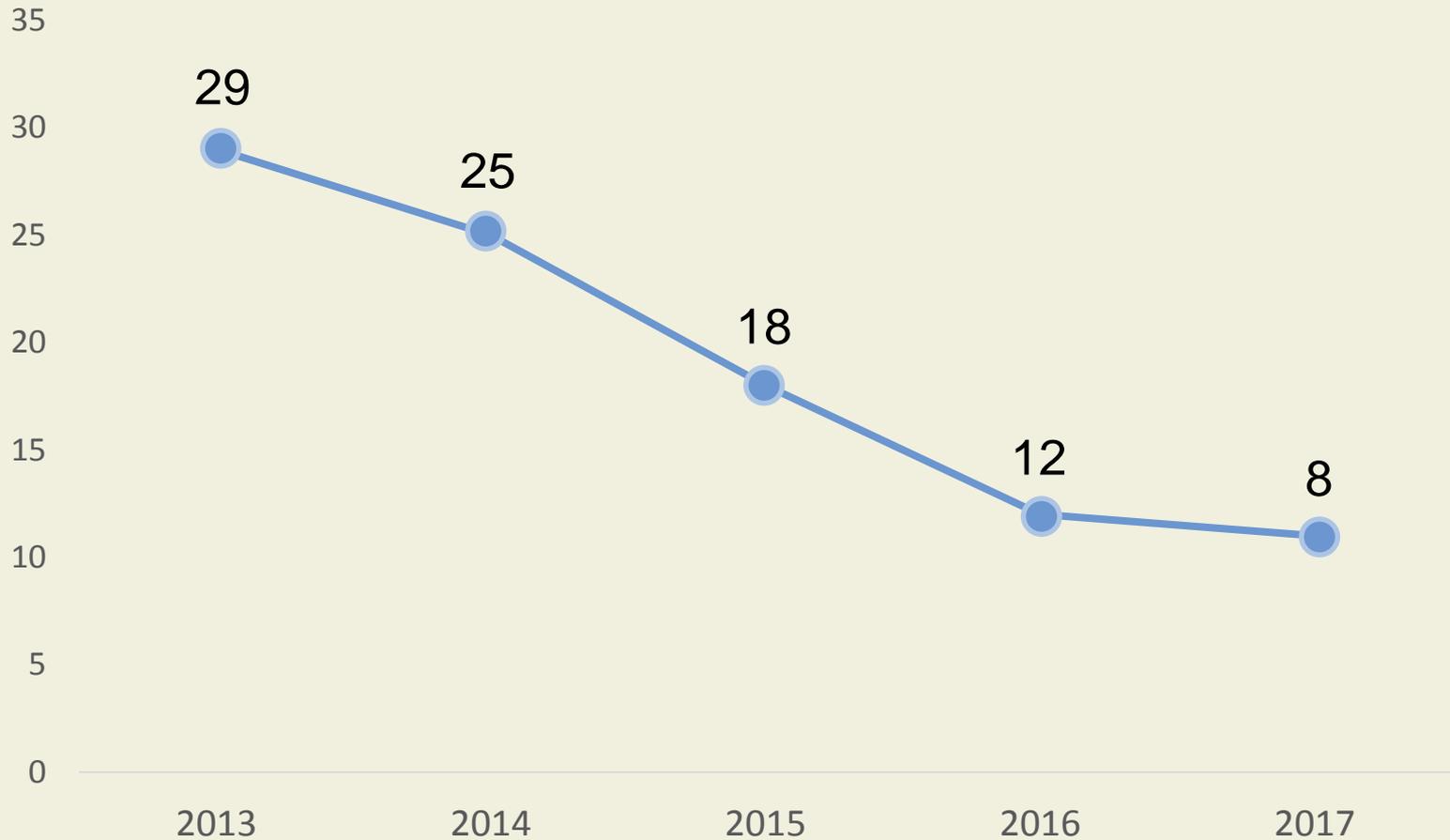
ACT	New SAT
36	1600
35	1590
	1580
	1570
	1560
34	1550
	1540
	1530
	1520
33	1510
	1500
	1490
32	1480
	1470
	1460
	1450
31	1440
	1430
	1420
30	1410
	1400
	1390

ACT	New SAT
29	1380
	1370
	1360
	1350
	1340
28	1330
	1320
	1310
	1300
27	1290
	1280
	1270
26	1260
	1250
	1240
	1230
25	1220
	1210
	1200
	1190
24	1180
	1170

ACT	New SAT
24	1160
23	1150
	1140
	1130
22	1120
	1110
	1100
21	1090
	1080
	1070
	1060
20	1050
	1040
	1030
	1020
	1010
19	1000
	990
	980
	970
18	960
	950

# Check Your Colleges' Requirements

Colleges Requiring Subject Tests 2013-2017



# Subject Tests

Math	Science	History	English	Language
Math Level 1	Biology (E/M)	US History	Literature	Chinese
Math Level 2	Chemistry	World History		French
	Physics			German
				Hebrew
				Italian
				Japanese
				Korean
				Latin
				Spanish



When Should I Take Them?

# Test Dates – 2017/2018

PSAT	SAT and Subject Tests	ACT
October 25, 2017	October 7, 2017	September 9, 2017
	November 4, 2017	October 28, 2017
	December 2, 2017	December 9, 2017
	March 10, 2018 (SAT only)	February 10, 2018
	May 5, 2018	April 14, 2018
	June 2, 2018	June 9, 2018
	August 25, 2018	July 14, 2018

# Sample Testing Plans

	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Sample Plan #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May or June Subject Tests (if appropriate)</li><li>• Diagnostic SAT and ACT tests during summer between sophomore and junior years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October PSAT/NMSQT</li><li>• <b>March &amp; May SATs</b> or <b>February &amp; April ACTs</b></li><li>• June Subject Tests (as needed)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final SAT as needed</li></ul>

Most students should take the SAT or ACT twice in their junior year and again once, if necessary, in the fall of their senior year.

# Score Choice

All Scores Required*	Score Choice Allowed*
Carnegie Mellon	Amherst
Cornell	Brown
Georgetown	Dartmouth
Stanford	Duke
Yale	Harvard
	MIT
	Northwestern
	Princeton
	Swarthmore
	Univ. of Chicago
	Wellesley College
	Wesleyan
	Williams

\* These lists provide just a sampling of schools and their score use policies.

# Superscoring

January	
Reading & Writing	Math
580	570
1150	

May	
Reading & Writing	Math
580	650
1230	

October	
Reading & Writing	Math
640	620
1260	

Superscore	
Reading & Writing	Math
1290	

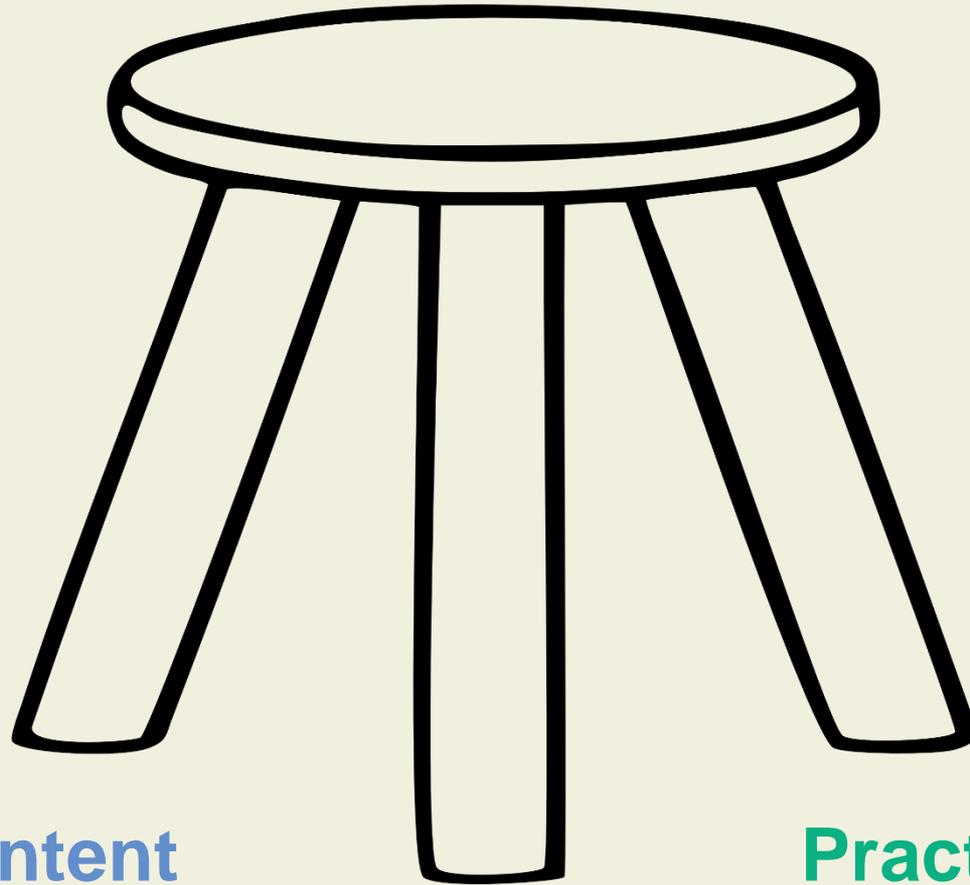


How Should I Prepare for Them?

# Choose a Starting Date

Test prep should allow for at least 6-15 weeks of study and practice before the official test date.

# Foundations of Test Preparation



**Content  
Mastery**

**Strategy**

**Practice  
Tests**

# Guiding Principles

Most students will score the same, no matter what tests they take, but it's worth looking for a student's best test.

A good testing plan prioritizes school work over test prep. Testing early and often is generally not sensible.

Prepping for one test helps prepare for the other.

Students score their best at end of junior year and fall of senior year. It is the RARE student who is finished by January of junior year, even high scorers.

# Last, But Not Least...

Maintain perspective.

It's just a test.



SUMMIT  
EDUCATIONAL  
GROUP

(800) MY TUTOR

MYTUTOR.COM