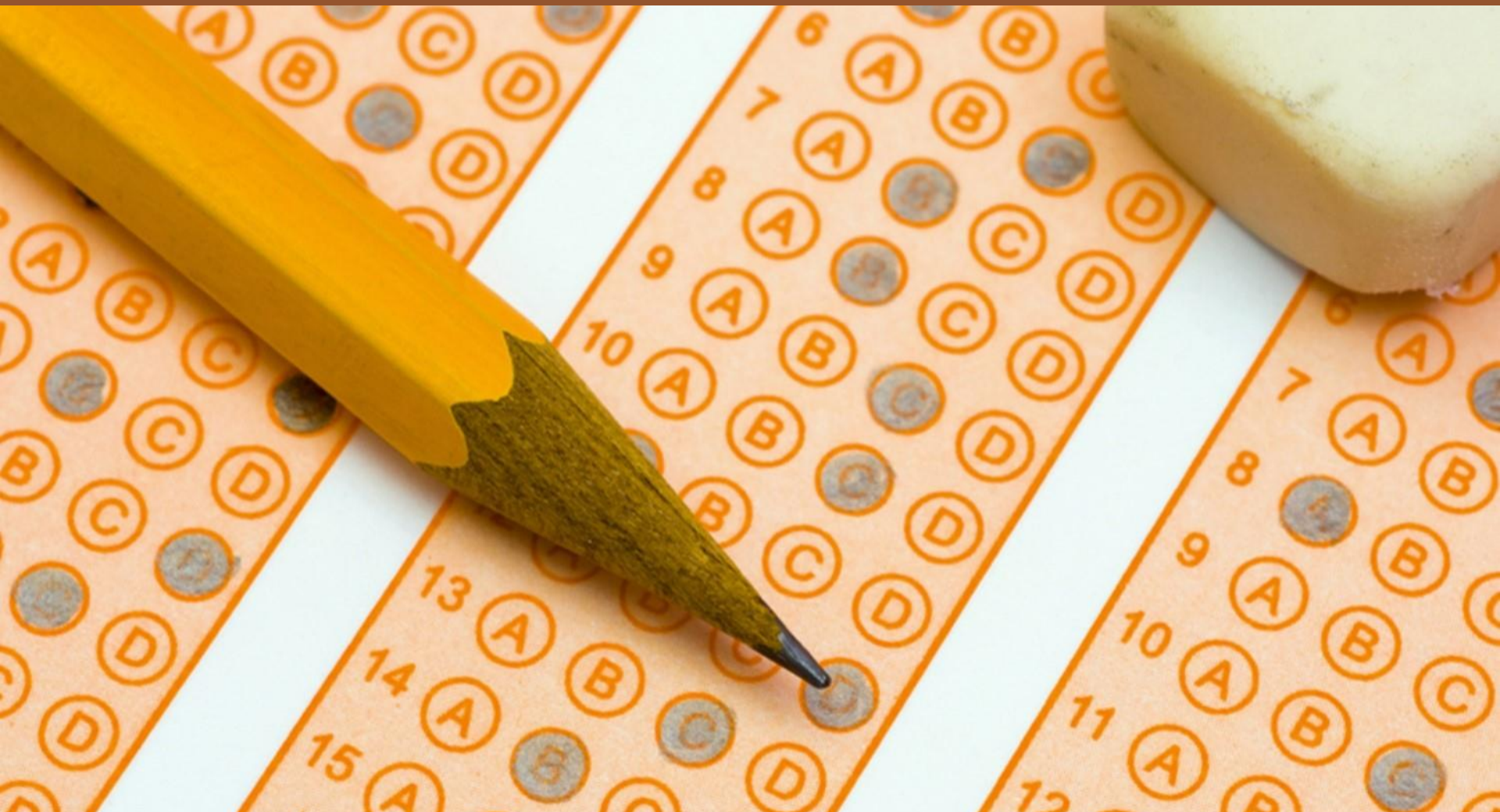


College Admissions Testing

A Roadmap for the SAT, ACT, and Other Tests



Summit Educational Group

What's Your Score Now?

If you took the SAT before 1995 and got a ~~1900~~ 1400,

your score on the new SAT would be a ~~1000~~ 1400.

Concordance Tables

Old SAT	New SAT
900	980
920	1000
940	1020
960	1040
980	1060
1000	1080
1020	1100
1040	1120
1060	1130
1080	1150
1100	1170
1120	1190

+80

Old SAT	New SAT
1140	1210
1160	1230
1180	1250
1200	1270
1220	1290
1240	1310
1260	1320
1280	1340
1300	1360
1320	1380
1340	1400
1360	1420

+70

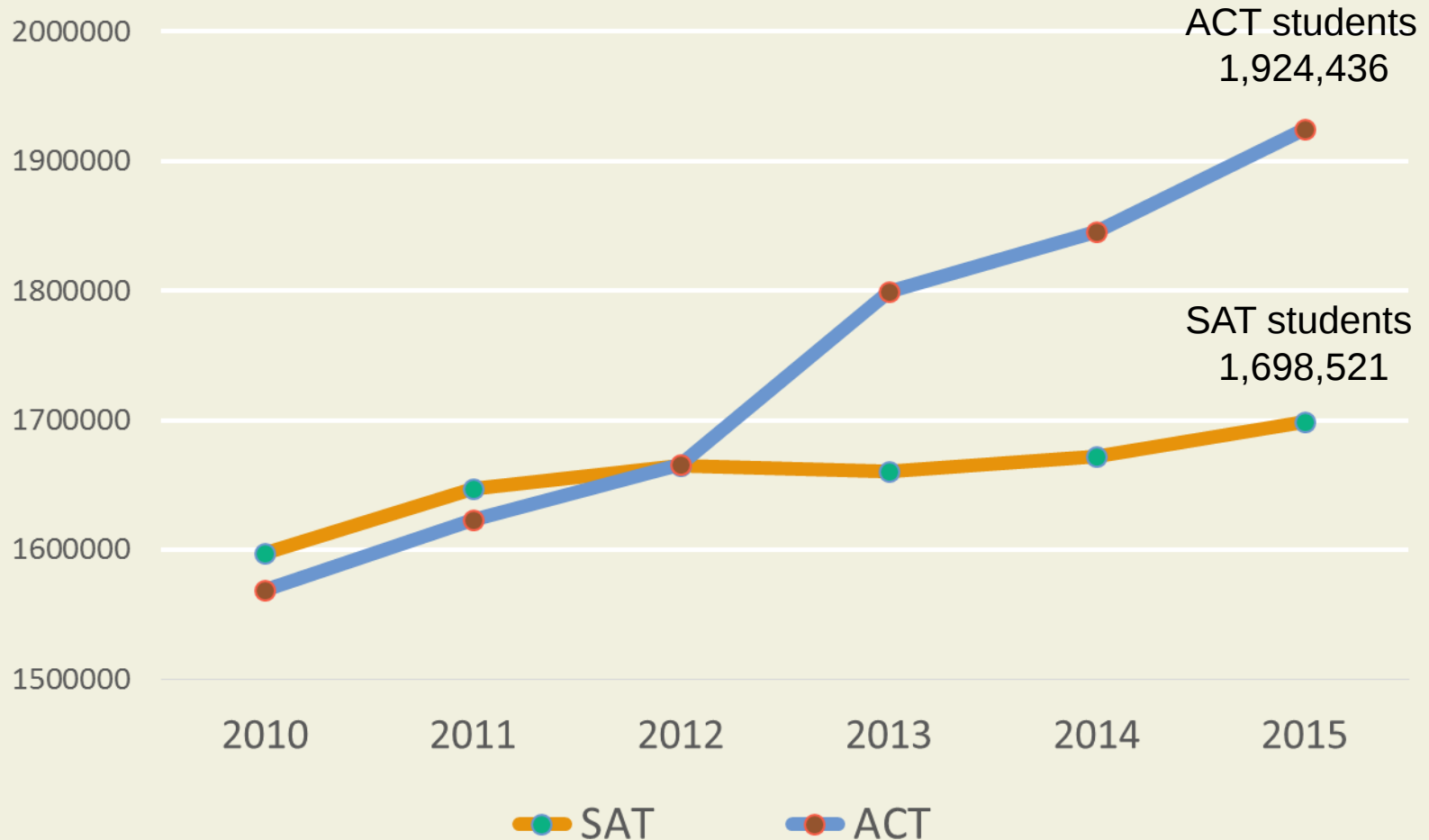
+60

Old SAT	New SAT
1380	1430
1400	1450
1420	1470
1440	1480
1460	1500
1480	1510
1500	1530
1520	1540
1540	1560
1560	1570
1580	1590
1600	1600

+50-0

The College Board vs. ACT, Inc

SAT/ACT Test-Takers 2010-2015



Tale of the Tape

\$841,000,000

2013 Revenue

\$329,000,000

AP and Instruction: \$382,000,000
SAT and PSAT: \$333,000,000

\$99,000,000

2013 Profit

\$10,000,000

12%

Profit/Revenue

3%

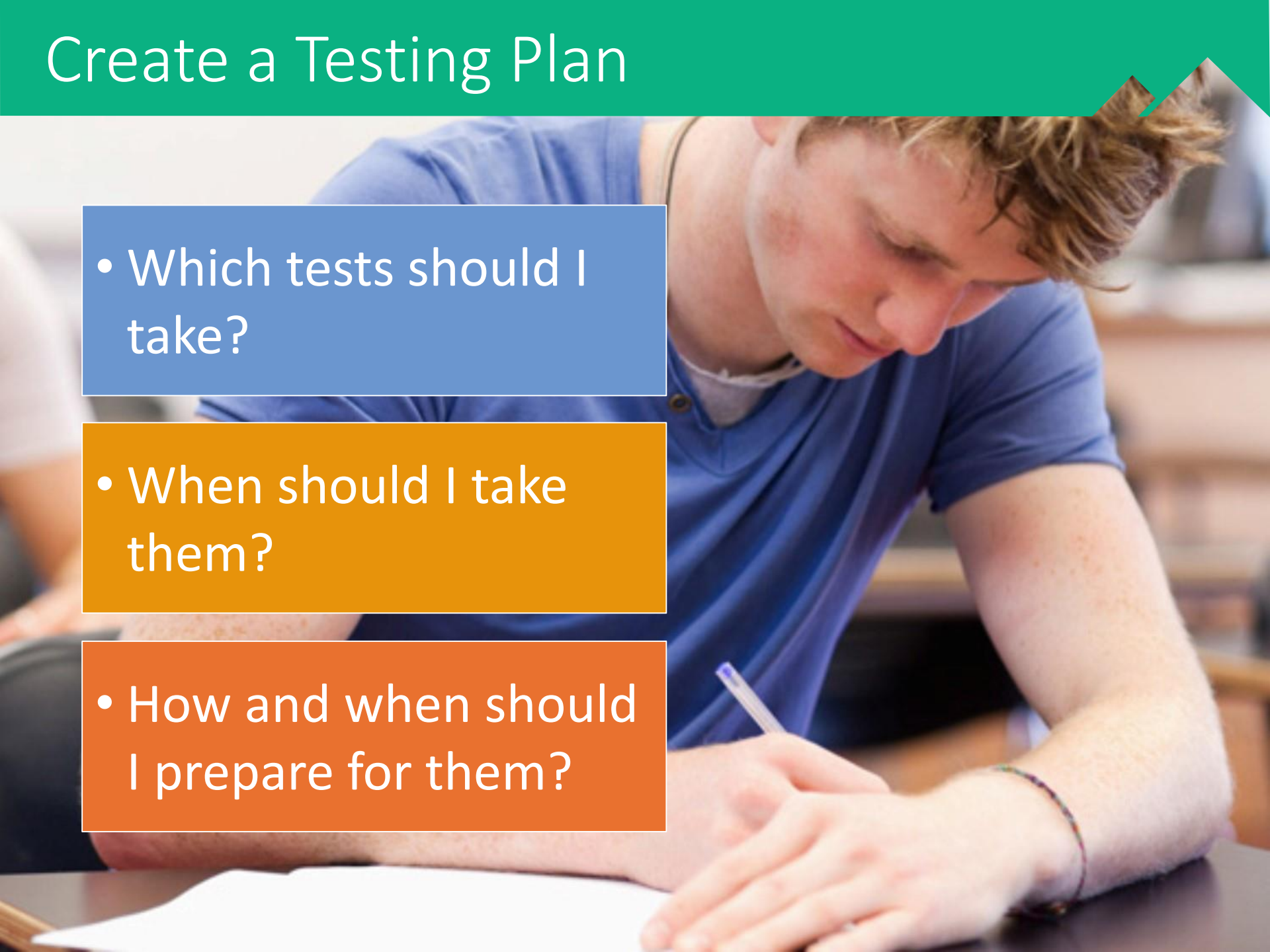
**College
Board**

vs

ACT

Create a Testing Plan

- Which tests should I take?
- When should I take them?
- How and when should I prepare for them?

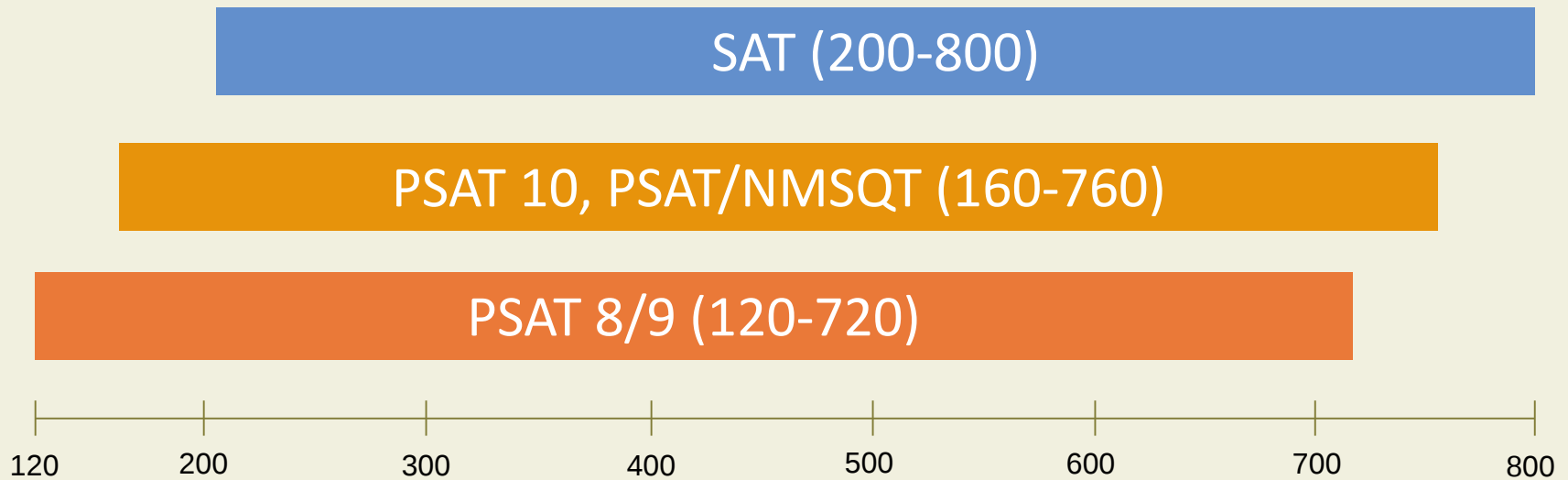


Which Tests Should I Take?



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

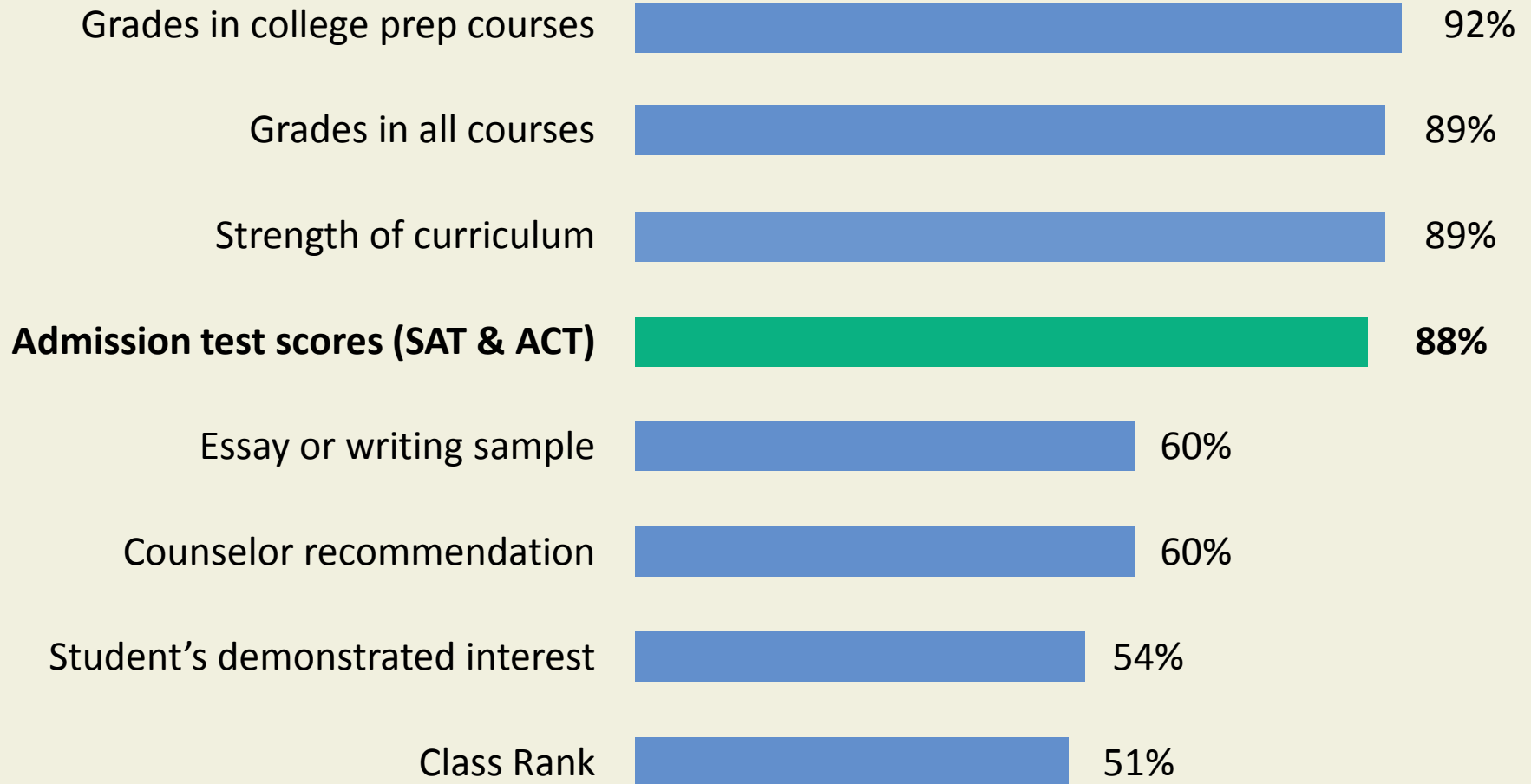
PSAT is Practice for the SAT



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

Test Scores – Relative Importance

Percentage of Colleges Reporting “Considerable or Moderate Importance”



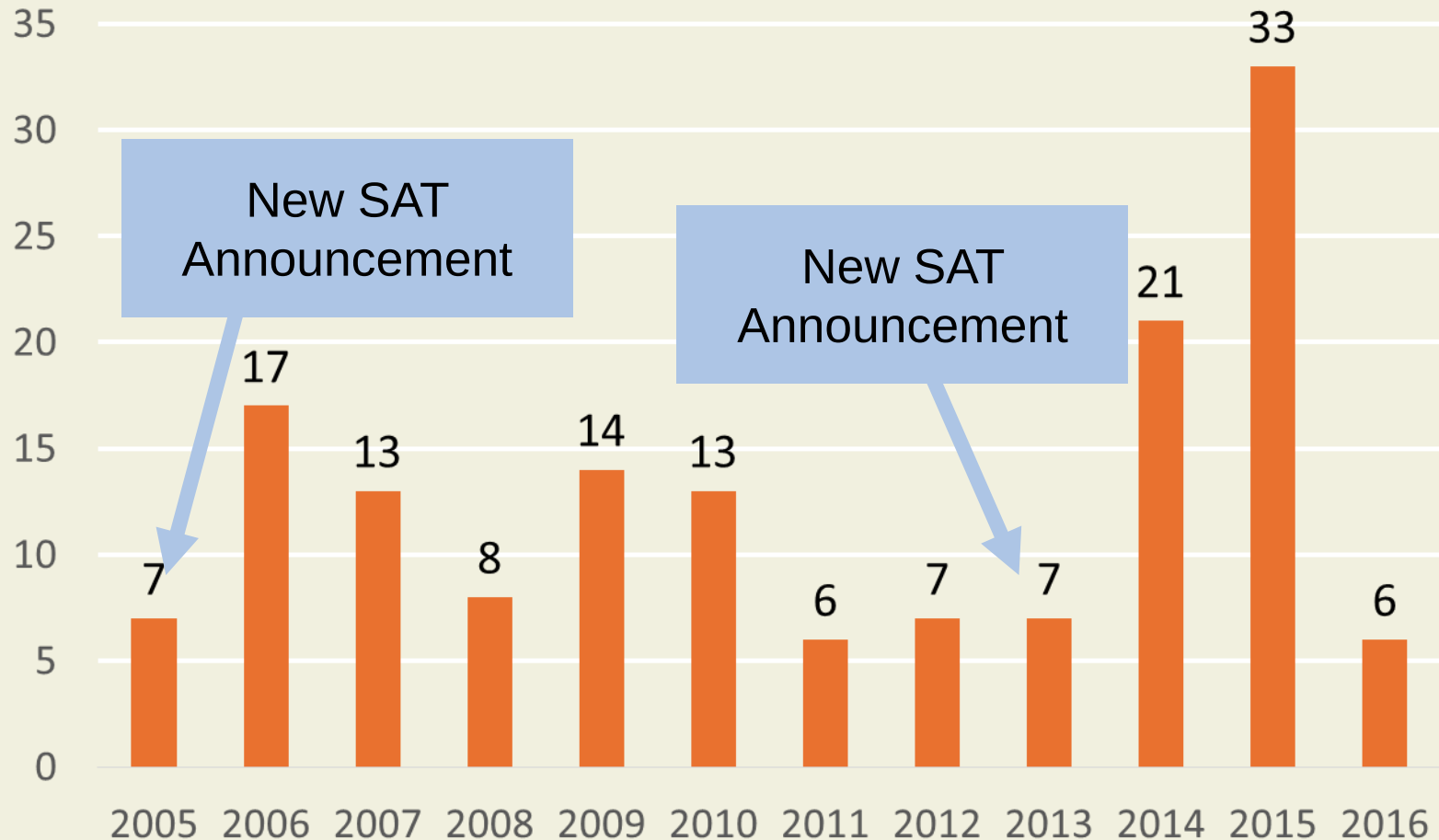
Test Optional Schools

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

- Karen Stroud Felton
Dean of Admissions
George Washington University

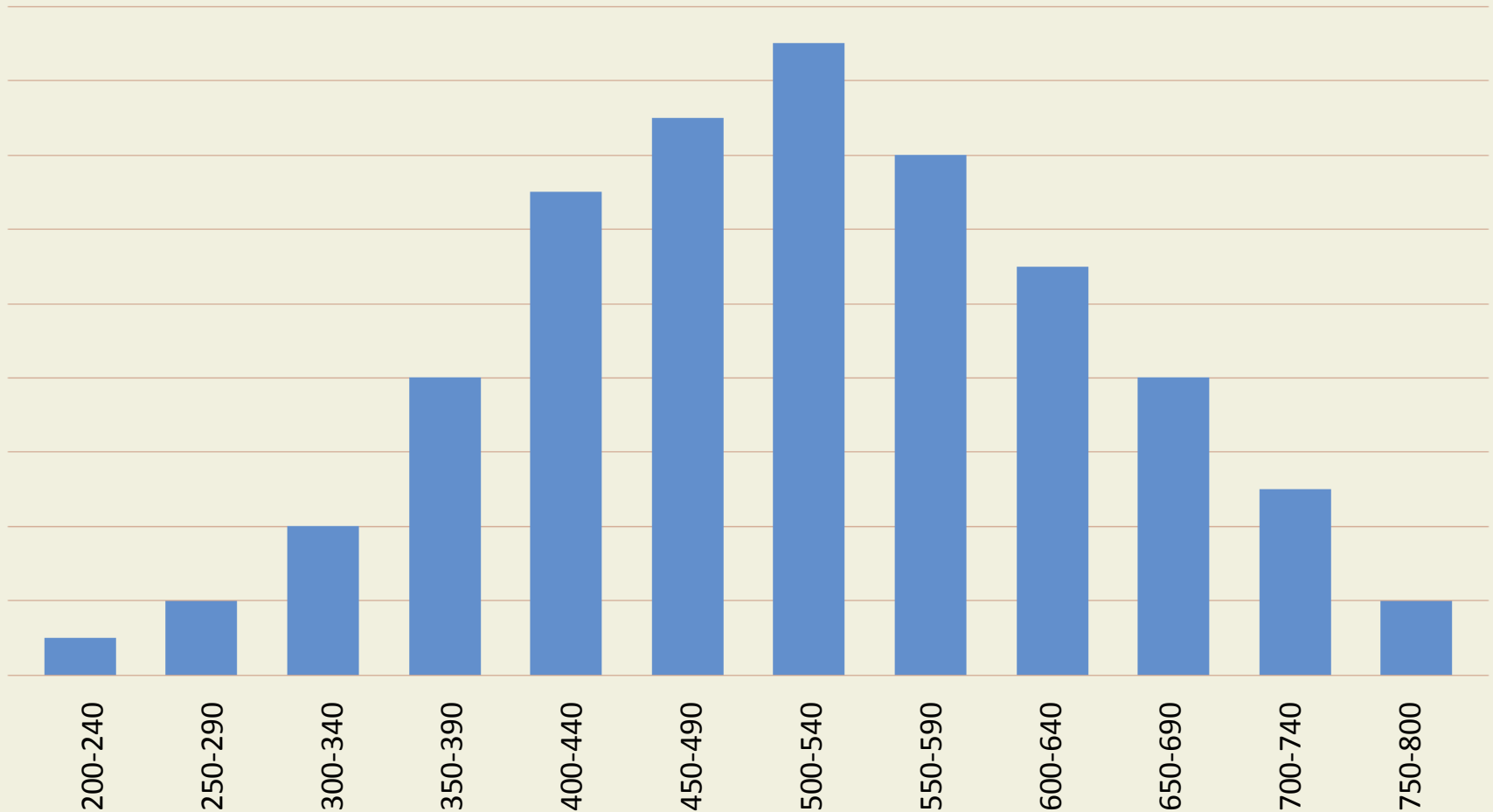
Test Optional/Flexible Movement

Number of Test-Optional Schools 2005-2015

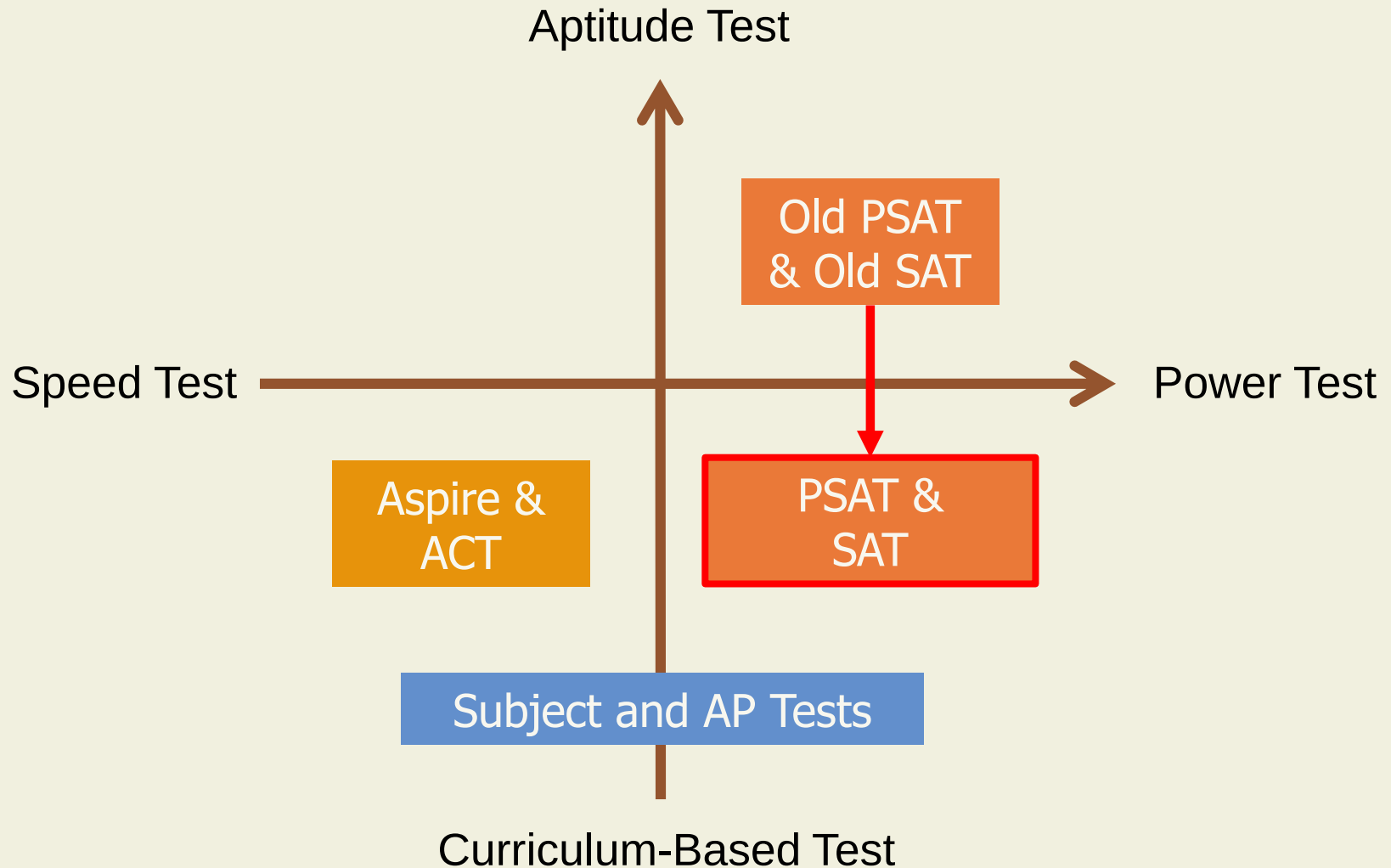


Why the SAT/ACT? – Consistent Curve

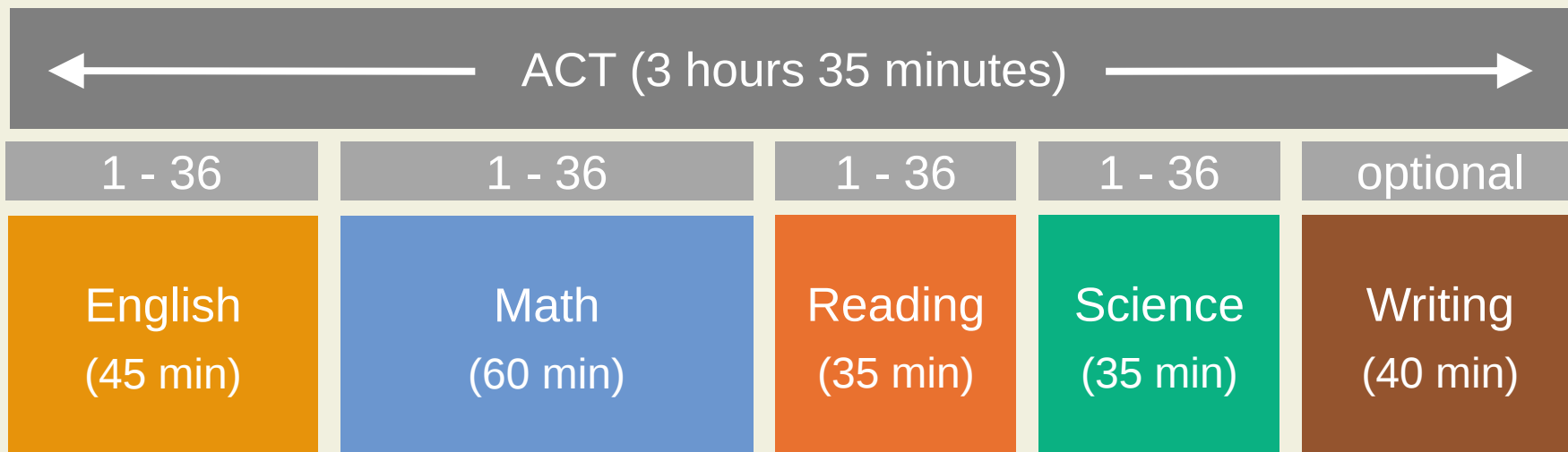
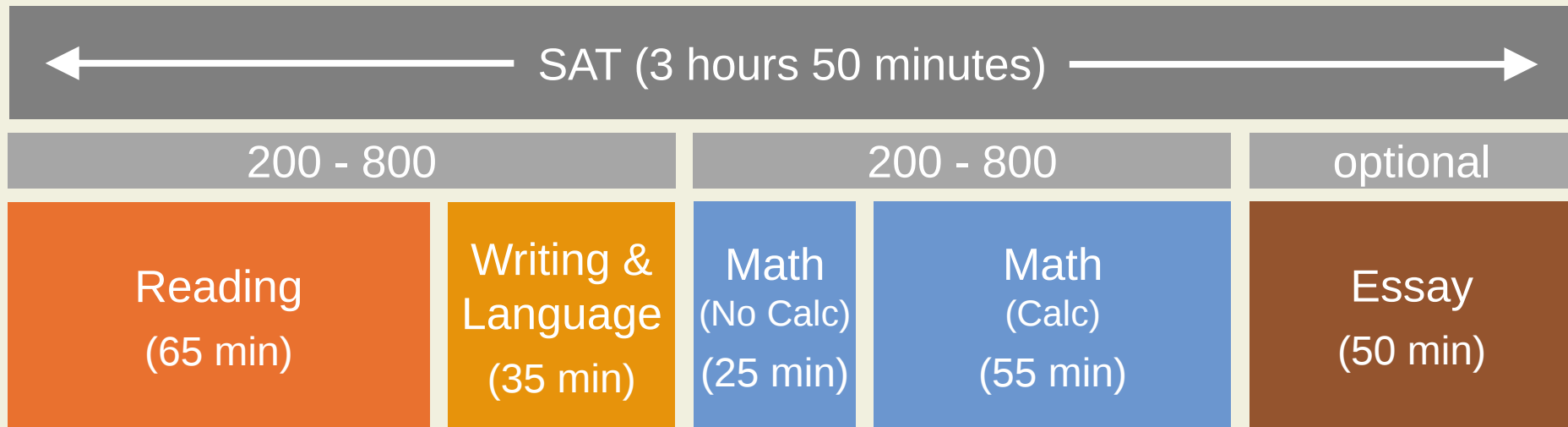
SAT Math Scores – 2014



Dimensions of Standardized Testing



SAT/ACT – Similar in Structure





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.

Greater emphasis on understanding main idea and author's intent

Inclusion of Data Graphics

48 seconds / question

36 seconds / question

SAT/ACT – Writing & Language / English

ACT

In 2009, Libbrecht and Arnold's experiments revealed that triangular snowflakes begin with the same process of chemical bonding and forms a⁸ hexagonal shape. The triangular shape is an illusion resulting from one significant addition to the process dust.⁹

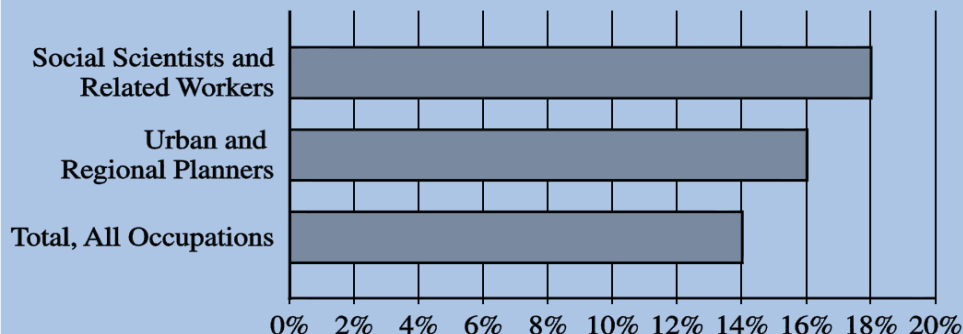
8. F. NO CHANGE
G. were they to form
H. if they formed
J. form
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. process is
C. process:
D. process;

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

13 minutes per passage

Data Graphics

ACT

Quick, efficient reading for comprehension

$8\frac{3}{4}$ 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?



$$\frac{dx}{\sqrt[3]{x}} = \frac{dx}{\sqrt[6]{x^3} + \sqrt[6]{x^2}} = \left[\begin{array}{l} \sqrt[6]{x} = E \\ x = E^6 \\ dx = 6E^5 dt \end{array} \right] = \frac{6t^5}{t^3 + t^2} dt$$

$$\frac{6t^5}{t^3 + t^2} = 6 \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t + 1} - \frac{1}{t + 1} \right) dt = 6 \left(t^2 - t + 1 - \frac{1}{t + 1} \right) dt$$

$$6 \left[\frac{t^3}{3} - \frac{t^2}{2} + t - \ln |t + 1| \right] + C =$$

$$= \left[\frac{(\sqrt[6]{x})^3}{2} + \sqrt[6]{x} \cdot \ln |\sqrt[6]{x} + 1| \right] + C$$

Mathematics

SAT/ACT – Math

SAT

Narrow and Deep

Algebra – about 60% of Math

No-Calculator Section

83 seconds / question

ACT

Broad and Shallow

Algebra – about 30% of Math

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

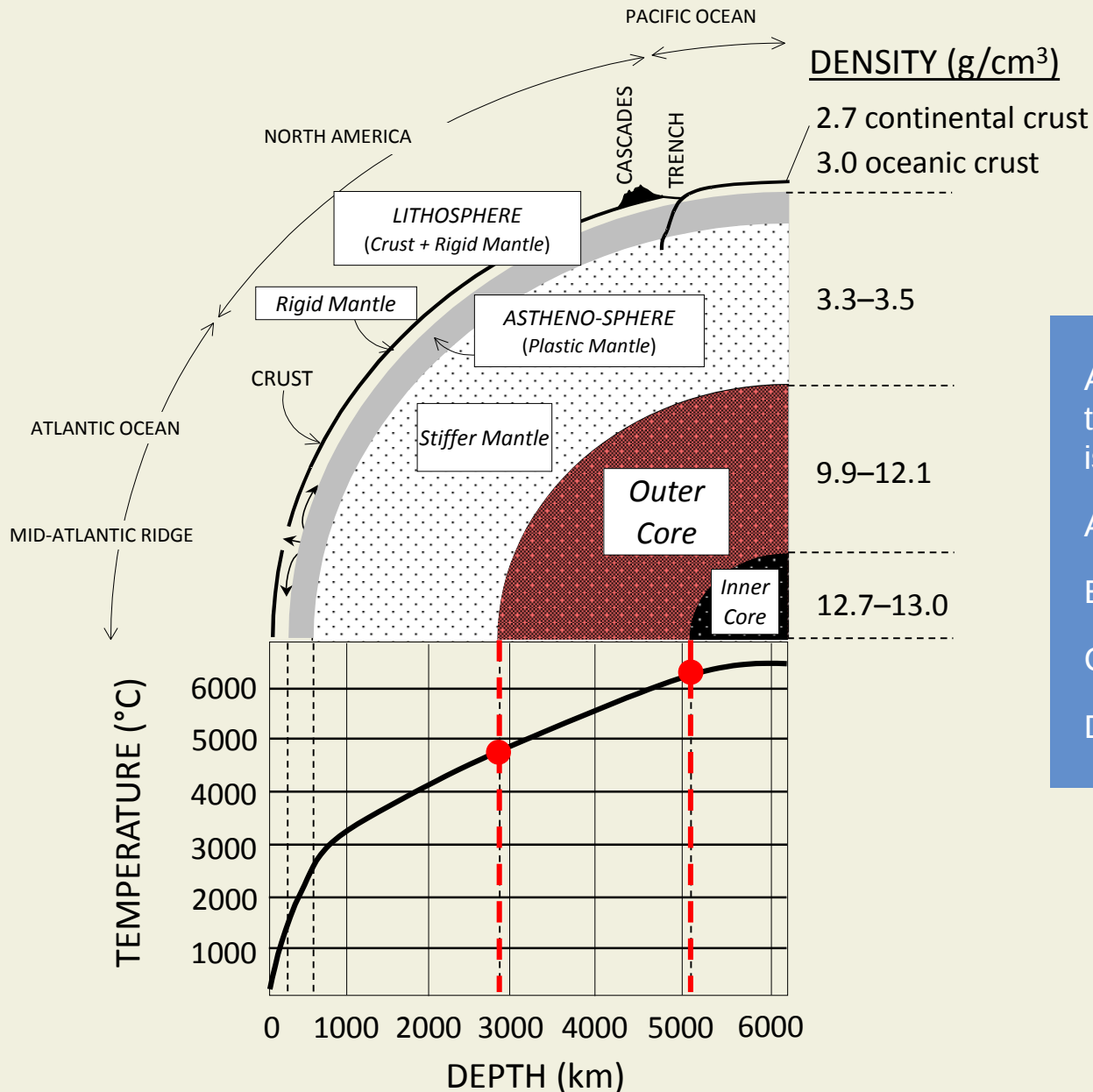
No Science section, but 21 science-related questions appear throughout the test.

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.

Tests rarely require knowledge of specific 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

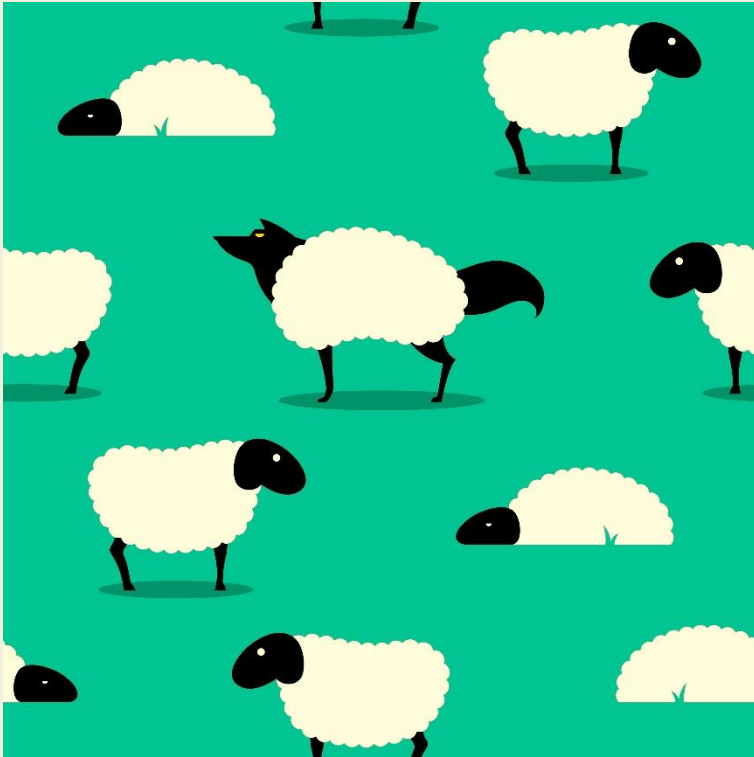
SAT/ACT – Essay/Writing

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

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.

Subject Tests – Plan Ahead!

Required by only the most selective colleges.

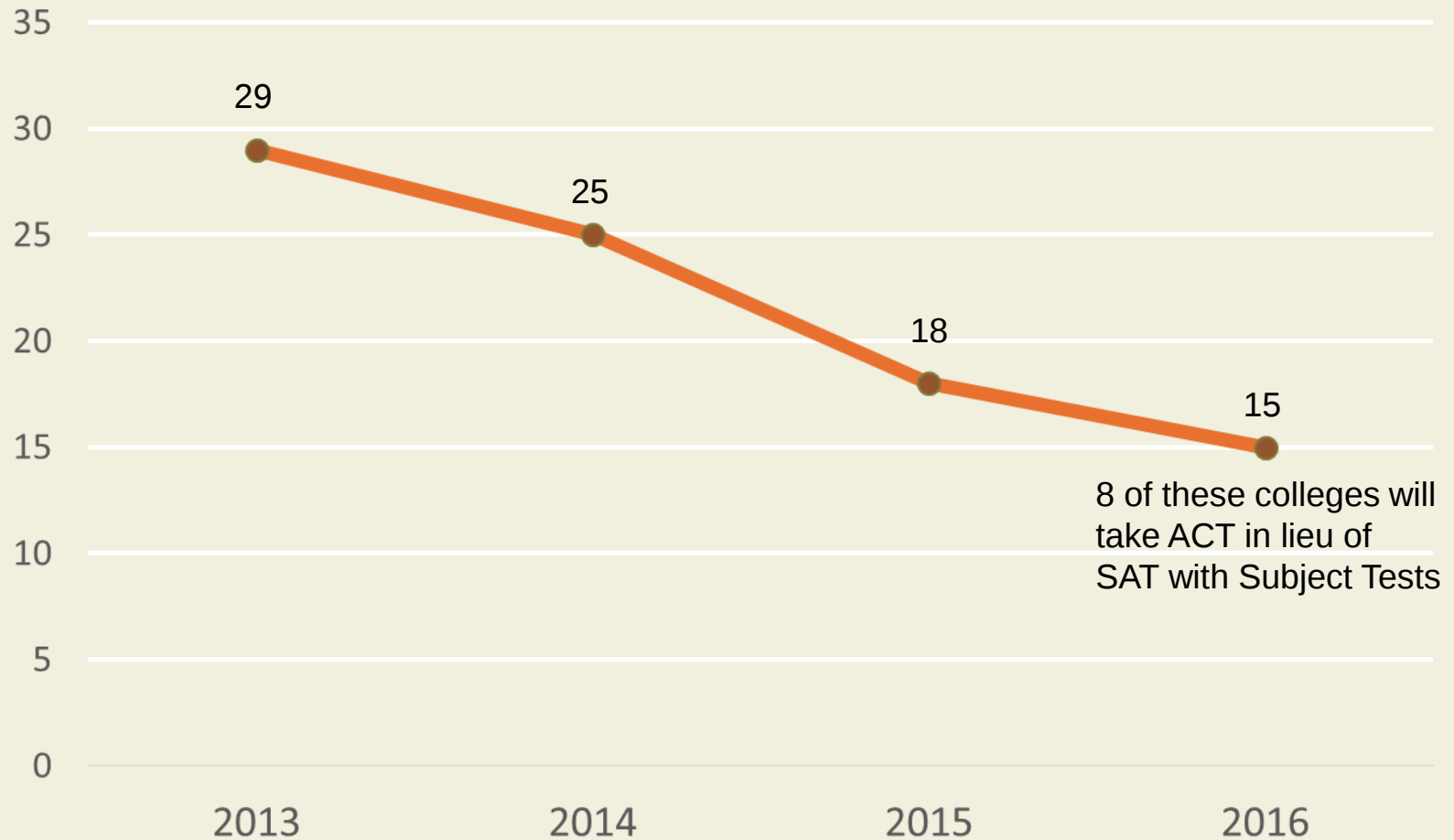
Some colleges will accept the ACT in lieu of the SAT and Subject Tests.

Administered on SAT dates, but can't do both on same date. Up to 3 Subject Tests on a given date.

Not all types of Subject Tests are given on all test dates.

Demise of Subject Tests?

Colleges Requiring Subject Tests 2013-2016



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 – 2016/2017

PSAT	SAT and Subject Tests	ACT
October 19 or 22, 2016	October 1, 2016	September 10, 2016
	November 5, 2016	October 22, 2016
	December 3, 2016	December 10, 2016
	January 28, 2017	February 11, 2017
	March 11, 2017 (SAT only)	April 8, 2017
	May 6, 2017	June 10, 2017
	June 3, 2017	

Sample Testing Plans

	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Sample Plan #1	• May or June Subject Tests (if appropriate) • Diagnostic SAT and ACT tests during summer between sophomore and junior years	• October PSAT/NMSQT • January SAT • May SAT • June Subject Tests (as needed)	• Final SAT as needed
Sample Plan #2	• May or June Subject Tests (if appropriate) • Diagnostic SAT and ACT tests during summer between sophomore and junior years	• October PSAT/NMSQT • February ACT • April ACT • June Subject Tests (as needed)	• Final ACT as needed

Choose a Starting Date

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

Score Choice

All Scores Required*	Score Choice Allowed*
Barnard	Amherst
Carnegie Mellon	Brown
Colgate	Dartmouth
Columbia	Duke
Cornell	Harvard
Georgetown	MIT
Johns Hopkins	Northwestern
Penn	Princeton
Pomona	Swarthmore
Stanford	Univ. of Chicago
Tufts	Wellesley College
USC and the UC's	Wesleyan
Yale	Williams

Superscoring

January	
Reading & Writing	Math
580	570
1150	

May	
Reading & Writing	Math
580	650
1230	

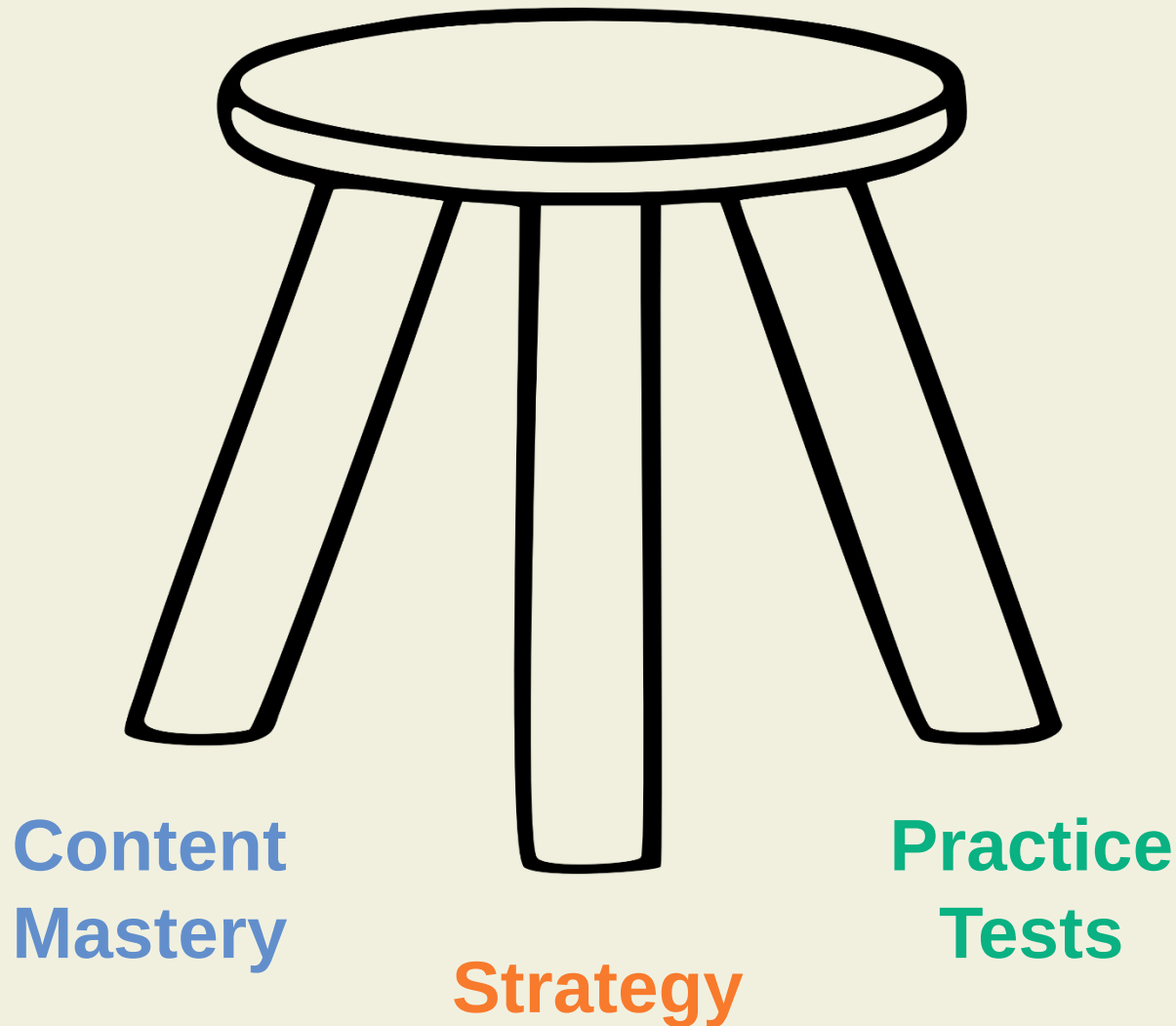
October	
Reading & Writing	Math
640	620
1260	

Superscore	
Reading & Writing	Math
1290	



How Should I Prepare for Them?

Foundations of Test Preparation



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.

Prepping for one test helps prepare for the other.

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

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.

Preparing: Best Practices

- Work hard in school to develop underlying skills.
- Have a SENSIBLE testing plan (tests/test dates/prep).
- Schedule prep so it leads up to the test date.
- Take a diagnostic to identify areas for development. Assessment is key.
- Learn test-taking strategies. Bolster skills.
- Take real practice tests.
- Don't prep for both the SAT and ACT at the same time.
- Preparing for one test doesn't fully prepare you for the other, but it will give you a good head start.

Last, But Not Least...

Maintain perspective.

It's just a test.



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