

SAT and ACT

Updated 09/11

Which test(s) should I take?

Students planning to attend a 4-year college or university should take the ACT, SAT (Reasoning Test), or both. Consult a college's website, catalog, or printed materials to determine which test(s) it requires or recommends. **Almost all colleges will accept either the ACT or SAT** for admission to their school. It is recommended that you take both tests or the test with which you are more comfortable. (If you are not satisfied with your scores, you can try taking the other test later.)

Some of the very selective schools require or recommend that students also take 2 or 3 SAT Subject Tests. Up to three SAT Subject Tests may be taken on one test day, but the SAT and SAT Subject Tests must be taken on separate test days. Go to the following website to find out if a school requires or recommends any Subject tests: www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx. (Please note: University of California schools no longer require the Subject tests. However, their new policy states that "some UC campuses recommend that students vying for slots in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency.")

When should I take the test(s)?

It is recommended that you take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring or summer of your junior year. (Students at any age are allowed to take the tests, but your best chance of getting your best scores to use for college is at the end of your junior year. Some students find it useful to take the test earlier so they can get more familiar with it before the end of junior year.) SAT Subject Tests should also be taken in the spring/summer of the junior year or the fall of the senior year.

How do I register for the test(s)?

You may register for the exams via the Internet (the websites are listed on back) or mail. The deadlines listed on back mean that your registration must be submitted online (or postmarked) on or before the date indicated. The most convenient test centers fill up fast, and the late applicants are assigned to less convenient sites, so register early. Registration materials for all tests are available in the Counseling Office.

How can I prepare for the test(s)?

Included on back are some basic test-taking tips for each exam. Students can also prepare for the exams by using practice tests, sample tests and test preparation materials available in the Counseling Office, bookstores, libraries, or the Internet. It is recommended (but not required) that you attend the SAT preparation classes offered at Calvin Christian in April. (Other preparation classes are available at Palomar College and through numerous private organizations.)

What is Calvin Christian's high school code number?

Calvin Christian's Code Number for SAT and ACT: **050-876**

SAT (Reasoning Test) (cost: \$49.00)

SAT Subject Tests (cost: \$22.00 fee plus \$11.00 for each test)

Internet registration: www.collegeboard.com

The SAT Reasoning Test measures aptitude in critical reading, math and writing, while the SAT Subject Test measures abilities in specific subject areas. Scores are given on a scale from 200 to 800 for each test section.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Tests Offered</u>	<u>Regular Deadline Date</u>	<u>Late Registration (Add additional fee)</u>
Oct 1, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	Sep 9, 2011	Sep 21, 2011
Nov 5, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	Oct 7, 2011	Oct 21, 2011
Dec 3, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	Nov 8, 2011	Nov 20, 2011
Jan 28, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	Dec 30, 2011	Jan 13, 2012
Mar10, 2012	SAT only	Feb 10, 2012	Feb 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	Apr 6, 2012	Apr 20, 2012
Jun 2, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

Taking the SAT:

You get one point for each question you answer correctly, and you lose a fraction of a point for each question you answer incorrectly. You neither gain nor lose points for questions you omit.

As you go through the test, mark questions that seem too difficult or take too much time and return to them if time allows. Remember, you get just as much credit for correctly answering easy questions as hard ones.

When you know that one or more choices can be eliminated, guessing from among the remaining choices should be to your advantage.

Many students who do well on the SAT omit some questions.

ACT (cost \$34.00 + \$15.50 for the optional Writing test)

Internet registration: www.actstudent.org

The ACT tests skills in English, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional). Scores are given on a scale from 1 to 36 on each test and overall (composite). Scores for the optional writing test will be given on a scale from 2 to 12. **For a list of colleges that require the optional Writing test, go to www.actstudent.org/writing/index.html.**

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Deadline Date</u>	<u>Late Registration (Add additional fee)</u>
Sep 10, 2011	Aug 12, 2011	Aug 26, 2011
Oct 22, 2011	Sep 16, 2011	Sep 30, 2011
Dec 10, 2011	Nov 4, 2011	Nov 18, 2011
Feb 11, 2012	Jan 13, 2012	Jan 20, 2012
Apr 14, 2012	Mar 9, 2012	Mar 23, 2012
Jun 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 18, 2012

Taking the ACT:

There is no penalty for guessing on the test; a student's raw score on each test is simply the number of correct responses. Thus, it is to each student's advantage to **answer every question**. (But avoid wild guessing. Try to eliminate one or more of the multiple choice options first; then guess from among the remaining choices.)