



Office of the Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

- **PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)** - a short form of the SAT Reasoning Exam. The PSAT/NMSQT offers students the opportunity to gain experience taking standardized college admissions exams. For eleventh graders taking the PSAT/NMSQT, the exam can qualify students for National Merit Scholarship Funds.
- **SAT Reasoning Test** - a three-hour exam structured in three parts: Critical reading, Math and Writing. Each section will be scored on a scale from 200-800. Most universities require the SAT Reasoning Test for admission.
- **SAT Subject Tests** - exams are offered in a variety of subjects and are designed to measure specific accomplishments and knowledge in a single field. Most of the exams are multiple-choice. Each SAT Subject Tests are scored on a scale of 200 - 800. Currently, the University of California and some private universities require two SAT Subject Tests (Two exams of your choice: Languages, sciences, history, etc. If math is chosen, only Math level 2 will be accepted by the UC system).
- **ACT (American College Testing Program)** - the exam is divided into four parts: English usage, Mathematics usage, Social Science Reading, and Natural Sciences Reading. There are four scores for the ACT - one for each of the individual exams. The composite score is the score most often used for admission purposes by universities and colleges. The ACT composite score is scored on a scale of 1 - 36. The ACT exam can be used for admissions into most universities and colleges. *Students must choose the writing section in order to qualify for UC admissions if taking this exam.*
- **AP Exams (Advanced Placement)** - AP exams are offered in a variety of subjects. The tests are approximately three hours and combine written, objective, and aural selections. The AP examinations are used as measures of college achievement, and are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. A minimum score of 3 is required to be granted college credit.

Test Taking Strategies for High School Students

Students should take the following exams during the specified month and the SAT Subject Tests if the stated course has been completed.

9th Grade Students

PSAT - October

SAT Subject Tests - June only

World History (Honors or AP preferred)

Biology

Language (completion of 3rd year preferred)

10th Grade Students

PSAT - October

ACT - April

SAT Reasoning Test - May

SAT Subject Tests- June only

Math Level 2 (upon completion of Pre-Calculus)

Biology or Chemistry (Honors or AP preferred)

Language (completion of 3rd year preferred)

11th Grade Students

PSAT/NMSQT - October

ACT - December, February, April

SAT Reasoning Test - November, January, April, May

SAT Subject Tests - June only

Chemistry or Physics (Honors or AP preferred)

Math Level 2 (upon completion of Trig/Math Analysis or Calculus)

Language (completion of 3rd year preferred)

US History (Honors or AP preferred)

12th Grade Students

ACT - October or December (if necessary)

SAT Reasoning Test- October, November, or December (if necessary)

SAT Subject Tests- November or December

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