

# 2007/2008

## SEPTEMBER 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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**15:** ACT test date (available only in Ariz., Calif., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind., Md., Mich., Mo., Nev., N.Y., N.C., Ore., Pa., S.C., Tenn., Texas, and Wash.)

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## OCTOBER 2007

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**6:** SAT and SAT subject test date  
**17, 20:** High schools may administer the PSAT  
**27:** ACT test date

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## NOVEMBER 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**3:** SAT and SAT subject test date

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## DECEMBER 2007

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**1:** SAT and SAT subject test date  
**8:** ACT test date

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## JANUARY 2008

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27	28	29	30	31		

**26:** SAT and SAT subject test date

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## FEBRUARY 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	

**9:** ACT test date (but no tests scheduled in New York)

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## MARCH 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**1:** SAT test date

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## APRIL 2008

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**12:** ACT test date

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## MAY 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**3:** SAT and SAT subject test date

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## JUNE 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30					

**7:** SAT and SAT subject test date  
**14:** ACT test date

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**WE TOOK OFF JULY AND AUGUST AND SO SHOULD YOU!**

# PSAT/SAT/ACT

**U.S. News** A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TEST TAKING

## JUNIOR YEAR

PSAT	SAT	SAT Subject Tests	ACT
<p><b>WHEN:</b> October 17 or 20. Check at your school for registration deadlines.</p> <p><b>HOW:</b> The school sends home notices to sign up, usually in September.</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$12.</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> Maybe you took it in 10th grade, maybe not. Either way, your 11th-grade scores will reveal the current state of your test-taking strengths and weaknesses. And it's the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship (if your scores are high enough, you'll be entered into the competition). Also, if you love getting mail, check the box to announce yourself to colleges across the land.</p> <p><b>DIDJA KNOW:</b> These scores will not go to any college. Ever.</p> <p><b>PREP:</b> If you took the PSAT in the 10th grade and your sophomore scores suggest you're in the running for a National Merit Scholarship (ballpark: 90th percentile and up) or you're eager to improve those 10th-grade numbers, you might consider a prep book, course, or tutor. If you haven't taken the test before, you should at the very least try the practice test in the registration packet you get from your high school counselor, so your score will give you the truest feedback rather than point up your unfamiliarity with the test.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEP:</b> Results come in December. Look at your scores, look at schools you're thinking of applying to, and decide whether you need to make a big leap. Then it's time to consider: prep class or individual tutor. And not to scare you, but the best tutors book up—gulp—a year in advance.</p>	<p><b>WHEN:</b> Juniors typically take the test in the spring. The '08 dates: January 26, March 1, May 3, or June 7 (register by December 26, January 29, April 1, and May 6, respectively). For students unable to take a Saturday test for religious reasons, a Sunday test is given the day after.</p> <p><b>HOW:</b> Register online at <i>collegeboard.com</i> or by mail with the "SAT Registration Booklet" (available at your guidance counselor's office). Online registration opens in June for the coming school year. Early birds have a better chance of nailing the testing locale of their choice. Dawdlers can register late but must pay a \$21.50 late fee. And you risk not getting a place at the nearest testing center. You can also show up on test day and try for standby. Be there before 7:45 a.m. Bring a registration form and its envelope, and credit card info or checks to cover the regular and \$36.50 standby fees.</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$41.50.</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> Need you ask?</p> <p><b>DIDJA KNOW:</b> It's perfectly normal to take it again in the fall of senior year.</p> <p><b>PREP:</b> If your PSAT score showed weaknesses, try to correct them with a class or private tutor. Just as important: Sleep well the night (and week) before. Sleep deprivation can harm word retrieval, among other things.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEP:</b> Results usually come in about three weeks. If you'd like to go higher, figure out what kind of prep you'll need for your next go-round, either later in the spring or in the fall of senior year: fine-tuning by a tutor or a major overhaul via prep class.</p>	<p><b>WHEN:</b> October 6, November 3, December 1, January 26, May 3, and June 7 (register by September 10, October 2, 30, December 26, April 1, and May 6, respectively).</p> <p><b>HOW:</b> Register online or by mail with the SAT Registration Booklet.</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$18 registration fee, plus an additional \$8 for each subject test and \$19 for each language test.</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> Because very selective schools may want two or even three (Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and a few others).</p> <p><b>DIDJA KNOW:</b> Some schools are making subject tests optional since the SAT II writing test was eliminated and a writing section was added to the regular SAT. Also, check the <i>collegeboard.com</i> calendar ASAP—not all tests are offered on each date.</p> <p><b>PREP:</b> Several weeks before the test, try a diagnostic test in the College Board's book, <i>Real SAT Subject Tests</i>, sold via Amazon and other vendors. If you've got big gaps, try a prep book for the subject matter. You may even be able to find a prep class (but it'd have to be a popular subject like biology. There will most likely be <i>nihil</i> for Latin lovers). A tutor can help you organize yourself but can't really reteach a whole year's worth of knowledge.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEP:</b> If you think you did horribly, compared with your practice test, you can cancel by sending a fax or overnight letter that the College Board receives by the Wednesday after the test. Otherwise, if you asked for scores to be sent to your schools, there's no stopping them. If you didn't do as well as you'd hoped, you can retake the tests. Or pick another subject.</p>	<p><b>WHEN:</b> September 16 (offered only in some states on this date, listed on the flip side), October 28, December 9, February 10, April 14, and June 9 (register by August 18, September 22, November 3, January 5, March 9, and May 4, respectively).</p> <p><b>HOW:</b> Register online, by phone, or by mail (details are at <i>act.org</i>).</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$29 without writing, \$43 with writing.</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> It's a fact: ACT is better for some kids. No trick SAT-style questions. No vocab section. No wicked math problems. Taking the ACT early on lets you compare your results with your PSAT score (you can convert an ACT score into SAT-speak at <i>collegeboard.com/sat/cbsenior/html/stat00of.html</i>). Decide which test will be the one you focus on (provided the colleges you apply to are test flexible).</p> <p><b>DIDJA KNOW:</b> You can opt to keep your scores private, which the SAT won't ever let you do.</p> <p><b>PREP:</b> Your guidance counselor should have a sample test. Or see whether there's a local prep class.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEP:</b> Scores are usually available online within 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> weeks. If ACT is the test for you and you'd like to push your score up, look at the straightforward and helpful <i>Real ACT Prep Guide</i> (\$25, including shipping, at <i>act.org</i>, or check with your school's guidance center). But if you're happy with the scores, send 'em to the schools you're applying to. All you need do is fill out an online request form or send a letter of request. Each score report costs \$7 for regular processing or \$13 for priority speed.</p>

## SENIOR YEAR

### RETAKE SAT OR ACT IF NEED BE; RETAKE OR TAKE NEW SUBJECT TESTS

<p><b>WHEN:</b> Take the SAT on October 6, November 3, or December 1 (register by September 10, October 2, and October 30, respectively) or take the ACT on September 15, October 27, or December 8 (register by August 10, September 21, and November 2, respectively).</p> <p><b>HOW:</b> Register online, by phone, or by mail.</p>	<p><b>COST:</b> \$41.50 for the SAT, \$37 for SAT language with listening subject tests, \$26 for all other SAT subject tests, \$29 for the ACT without writing, \$43 for the ACT with writing.</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> Last chance to push up those scores. The highest scores are the ones that count, but that doesn't mean schools will ignore weaker scores entirely.</p>	<p><b>DIDJA KNOW:</b> If you're applying early, you need to take the October tests. November is often too late for scores to reach your early-decision school in time. But for those students who are applying regular decision, the November test should be fine, and even December. As a last-minute measure, you might go for January but only if the school has an early '08 application deadline and you check with the admissions office first.</p>	<p><b>PREP:</b> Study, sleep, study, study, sleep, study, sleep.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEP:</b> Recycle those No. 2 pencils into chopsticks or hair ornaments, for you will never ever have to take a standardized college admissions test again (oh, wait, unless you decide to go to grad school . . .).</p>
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