

Test Descriptions (in alphabetical order)

ACT

The American College Testing Assessment (ACT) is a comprehensive, guidance-oriented service that assists colleges, high schools, and students in the transition from high school to college. You participate in the program by completing an educational/biographical questionnaire, an interest inventory, and four tests of educational development in English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences. After analyzing the information submitted, ACT prepares reports for use by you, your high school, and colleges in career and college planning, admissions, placement, and academic advisement.

EOCEP

The End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) is a set of examinations administered to students in grades 7 through 12 who are also enrolled in gateway or benchmark courses. The courses are Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Part B, English I, Physical Science, Biology, U.S. History and Constitution. All secondary school students enrolled in any of the courses must participate in the examination program. Each examination will be administered to the students at the end of the semester in which they are scheduled to complete the course. The results from all examinations, except Biology 1, will count as 20% of the students' final grades in the courses.

HSAP

The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) is a criterion-referenced test administered in mathematics and English language arts. The HSAP assesses selected South Carolina academic standards in English language arts and mathematics that students have had opportunity to learn by the end of the tenth grade. The test is administered to all public school students in the second spring after their initial enrollment in the ninth grade. The math and the English language arts tests each have four achievement levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4. A student must score level 2 or higher on each test to pass. Meeting the state standard is a requirement for receiving a South Carolina high school diploma. HSAP must be offered to non-passing students during each fall and spring administration. Graduating seniors have the opportunity to test in the summer after their senior year. For students with severe disabilities, the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt) is administered instead.

InView

The InView is a cognitive abilities test that measure student skills and abilities that are important for academic success. The test measures three critical cognitive factors: verbal, nonverbal, and memory. The InView is given to all students in grade 2 and to any nominated students in grades 3 through 10 to meet part of the state requirements for screening students who qualify for the Academically Advanced Programs.

MAP

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment system, which adjusts the difficulty of the assessment based on the student's performance. MAP tests have the ability to identify skills and concepts that individual students have learned, monitor academic growth over time independent of grade level, and provide teachers with information they can use to enhance teaching and learning. MAP is administered in the fall and spring to all students in grades 2 through 9 in the content areas of reading and mathematics. A Language Usage test is optional. A winter administration is also optional.

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PASS

The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) is a standards-based assessment developed and administered in South Carolina each March and May. The tests measure student progress toward the state's curriculum standards in the areas of writing, English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. PASS is administered statewide to all students in grades 3 through 8. Based on their scores, students are placed into one of three performance levels in each subject tested: Exemplary, Met, and Not Met. For students with severe disabilities, the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt) is administered instead.

PLAN

As a "pre-ACT" test, PLAN is a curriculum-based achievement test that covers skills and knowledge commonly taught in high schools that are also judged important for success in both high school and college. The test consists of English (30 minutes), mathematics (40 minutes), reading (20 minutes), and science reasoning (25 minutes). The content of PLAN tests is closely tied to the achievement tests in the ACT Assessment. Your performance on the PLAN test can be used to predict your success on the ACT Assessment.

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) is a two-hour and ten minute multiple-choice test that measures critical reading and mathematical reasoning abilities important for academic performance in college. PSAT scores can be used to estimate performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, SAT. For eleventh grade students, the PSAT is also the qualifying test for entry into competitions for National Merit Scholarships. It consists of two 25-minute Critical Reading sections, two 25-minute Math sections, and a 30-minute Writing section.

Educated guessing, whereby students can rule out one or more answers for multiple-choice questions, is encouraged. However, students are penalized for incorrect answers, therefore wild guessing is discouraged.

Selected 7th and 8th grade students are invited to take the PSAT in the fall. Students who score 50 or higher on Verbal, Math, or Writing Skills are qualified to be designated as a South Carolina Junior Scholar.

Raven

The Raven's Progressive Matrices is a nonverbal ability measure that assesses abstract reasoning skills. It is administered each fall to all students in grade 2 and to any nominated students in grades 3 through 8. The test items are in the form of geometric pictures, or matrices, which have a piece of their design missing. The student is to choose, from six to eight alternatives, an appropriate piece that best completes or fits into the matrix. The task requires an understanding of the relationships among abstract items, the ability to reason by analogy, and the ability to form comparisons.

SAT I

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a three-hour and forty-five minute, multiple-choice aptitude test. It consists of three Critical Reading sections (two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section), three Math sections (two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section), and two Writing sections (one 35-minute multiple-choice section and one 25-minute essay). The critical reading portion assesses vocabulary acquisition, critical reading strategies, and reading comprehension. The math portion assesses problem solving including arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry. The writing portion

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assesses effective writing abilities, including understanding of the English sentence structure and defining, as well as supporting, a viewpoint. Scores for each section are reported on a scale ranging from 200 to 800 with a composite score range of 600 to 2400.

Similar to the PSAT, educated guessing, whereby students can rule out one or more answers for multiple-choice questions, is encouraged. However, students are penalized for incorrect answers, therefore wild guessing is discouraged.

Selected 7th grade students are invited to take the SAT to determine qualification for the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP).

SAT II

The SAT II is the replacement for what was previously known as the Achievement Tests. You may take up to three subject-area SAT II tests on a given test date. SAT II tests are given on the same date time as the SAT I. It is therefore impossible to take both the SAT I and the SAT II tests on the same test date. You should plan your test-taking schedule accordingly. Subject Tests are one-hour, multiple-choice exams (except the writing test, which has a 20-minute essay section included) in various high school subjects (e.g., American History and Social Studies, Physics, Chemistry, French, Math, World History, etc.). Many competitive colleges require applicants to have taken two or more SAT II tests prior to their application cutoff date. Some colleges require one or more tests for placement purposes (usually the Writing Test and/or one of the Math tests). These tests can be taken at any time prior to enrolling at the college. Your guidance counselor can assist you in determining whether or not you will need to take the SAT II subject-area tests and when you should take them.

TerraNova

The TerraNova is a set of achievement tests that assesses student achievement in science and social studies. The TerraNova tests are norm-referenced tests. This means that students' scores are reported in comparison to a norm group, which is a sample of students chosen from around the country. The test results are reported in terms of a student's national percentile rank (NPR), a number that ranges from 1 to 99 and is used to indicate a student's standing relative to other students in the same grade who took the tests within the same window of time. The TerraNova is administered each fall to all students in grade 5 and to any nominated students in grades 6 through 10 as an achievement test to meet part of the state requirements for screening students who qualify for Academically Advanced Programs.