

The Tests They Are A'Changin...



HOW WE CAN HELP THE CLASS OF 2017 NAVIGATE THE NEW SAT & ACT WITH LESS STRESS AND MORE SUCCESS!



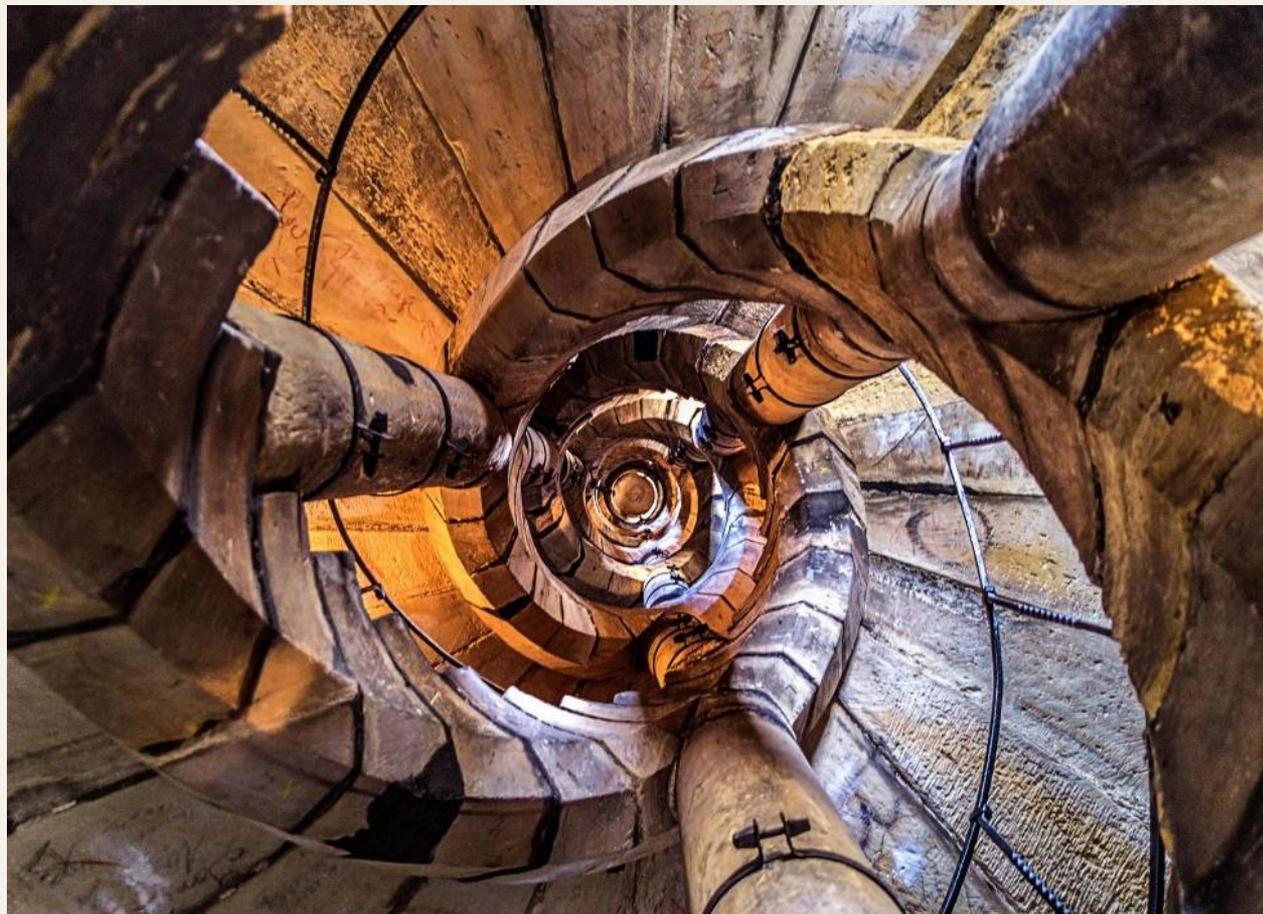
A discussion led by Lauren Gaggioli
Founder of Higher Scores Test Prep
Host of The College Checklist Podcast

**THE
COLLEGE
CHECKLIST**



TODAY'S AGENDA

1. The New SAT
2. The New ACT
3. Considerations for
the Class of 2017
4. Suggested
(Stress-Reducing)
Testing Timelines
5. Q&A Time



Lauren Gaggioli

Higher Scores Test Prep & The College Checklist Podcast



- 7+ years of experience with in-home SAT & ACT tutoring
- International Baccalaureate Full Diploma Recipient & AP Scholar
- Graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (B.F.A. with Honors)
- I am a #2 pencil nerd [Thanks Dad...]
- Most recent scores: 2380 (Dec. '14 SAT) & 33 (Oct. '14 ACT)
- Passion for sharing knowledge

Deep breath! We've got lots to cover...



Don't worry about taking
copious notes.

This slide deck + PDF
handouts for yourself and
your students available at:

www.HigherScoresTestPrep.com/CWL

The New New SAT: A History Lesson



- The SAT was a 1600 point exam for many, many years.
 - In 2005, the 1600 SAT became the 2400 SAT.

This has been referred to by many as the "new" SAT.

- In March 2016, the current 2400 SAT is being replaced by a new 1600 SAT which will look nothing like the original 1600 SAT.

I fondly (and sassily) refer to this as the new new SAT.

How is the SAT changing?



College Board has announced it will be making 8 key changes to the SAT.

8 Key Changes

1. Relevant Words in Context
2. Command of Evidence
3. Essay Analyzing a Source
4. Focus on Math that Matters Most
5. Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts
6. Analysis in Science and in History/Social Science
7. Founding Documents & Great Global Conversations
8. No Penalty for Wrong Answers

To hear about the questions associated with these changes, visit www.higherscorestestprep.com/25

How will the new SAT be scored?



2400 SAT

Available until January 2016

3 Section Scores (200-800)

- Reading
- Math
- Writing*

**Writing score is a composite of a student's grammar and essay subscores.*

1600 SAT

Available starting March 2016

2 Section Scores (200-800)

- Evidence-Based Reading & Writing
- Math

3 Test Scores (10-40)

- Reading
- Writing & Language
- Math

2 Cross-Test Scores (10-40)

- Analysis in Science
- Analysis in History/Social Science

But wait! There's more!



1600 SAT

Available starting March 2016

2 Section Scores (200-800)

- Evidence-Based Reading & Writing
- Math

3 Test Scores (10-40)

- Reading
- Writing & Language
- Math

2 Cross-Test Scores (10-40)

- Analysis in Science
- Analysis in History/Social Science

7 Subscores (1-15)

- Relevant Words in Context
- Command of Evidence
- Expression of Ideas
- Standard English Conventions
- Heart of Algebra
- Passport to Advanced Mathematics
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis

3 Essay Subscores (2-8)

- Essay Reading
- Essay Analysis
- Essay Writing

Oh! One more thing...



Behold the
mighty...

**TOTAL
SCORE**

Myths about the 1600 SAT



Myth #1: No guessing penalty means this test will be easier. (Yippee!!)

The guessing penalty encourages students to be cautious and thorough. From my vantage point, I foresee this will make it harder for anxious or slipshod students to improve.

Myth #2: Students won't have to study vocabulary. (Yippee!!)

Wrong! While the words may be more common, the definitions won't be the obvious ones. Again, this may make life harder for students.

Myth #3: An optional essay means students won't have to write. (Yippee!!)

Sorry. Bad news again. If a college requires you to take the essay, it is not optional for you. (Translation: unless you're 100% sure you won't apply to a college that requires it, you should take it.)

Myths about the 1600 SAT



Myth #4: The new SAT is an easier test and everyone will do well!

This is the most dangerous myth of all.

The first iterations of practice questions are very similar to AP questions. The language is dense and the tasks are tough.

Even with prep (free or otherwise), students – most especially those who are not studying at the AP level – will struggle.

Timeline for Resources + Testing Changes



Resources

Available Now - Practice questions

March 2015 - One (1) practice PSAT/NMSQT exam (PDF)

May 2015 - Khan Academy's Prep goes live

July 2015 - College Board's Official Study Guide is released

Changes to the Tests

October 2015 – Class of 2017 takes the new PSAT/NMSQT

January 2016 – Final administration of the current (2400) SAT

March 2016 – First administration of the new (1600) SAT



WARNING!

**Beware of
faulty test prep
products.**

Many companies are taking advantage of the stress and anxiety around the new SAT to make a quick buck.

Avoid all third-party test materials until January 2016.

Personally, I'm committed to holding off even longer than that...

To see my favorite test prep books, visit higherscorestestprep.com/amazon

The New ACT



“Innovation and continuous improvement without the need for radical change.”

The shift in the ACT began in Spring 2013.

- Math has become more difficult. Emphasis on more challenging statistics and probability questions.
- The reading section now includes a dual reading passage.

More changes coming in Fall 2015.

- An “enhanced” writing test will be implemented beginning this fall with new scoring.
- New scoring goes into effect. New scores include:
 - STEM Score
 - Career Readiness Indicator
 - Test Complexity Indicator
 - English Language Arts Score (ELA)

More scoring changes to come in 2016 to align with Common Core Standards.



WARNING!

**Beware of
faulty test prep
products.**

Unfortunately, there's very little real ACT prep material available.

The current official ACT book is outdated, but hopefully we will get a new book this summer!

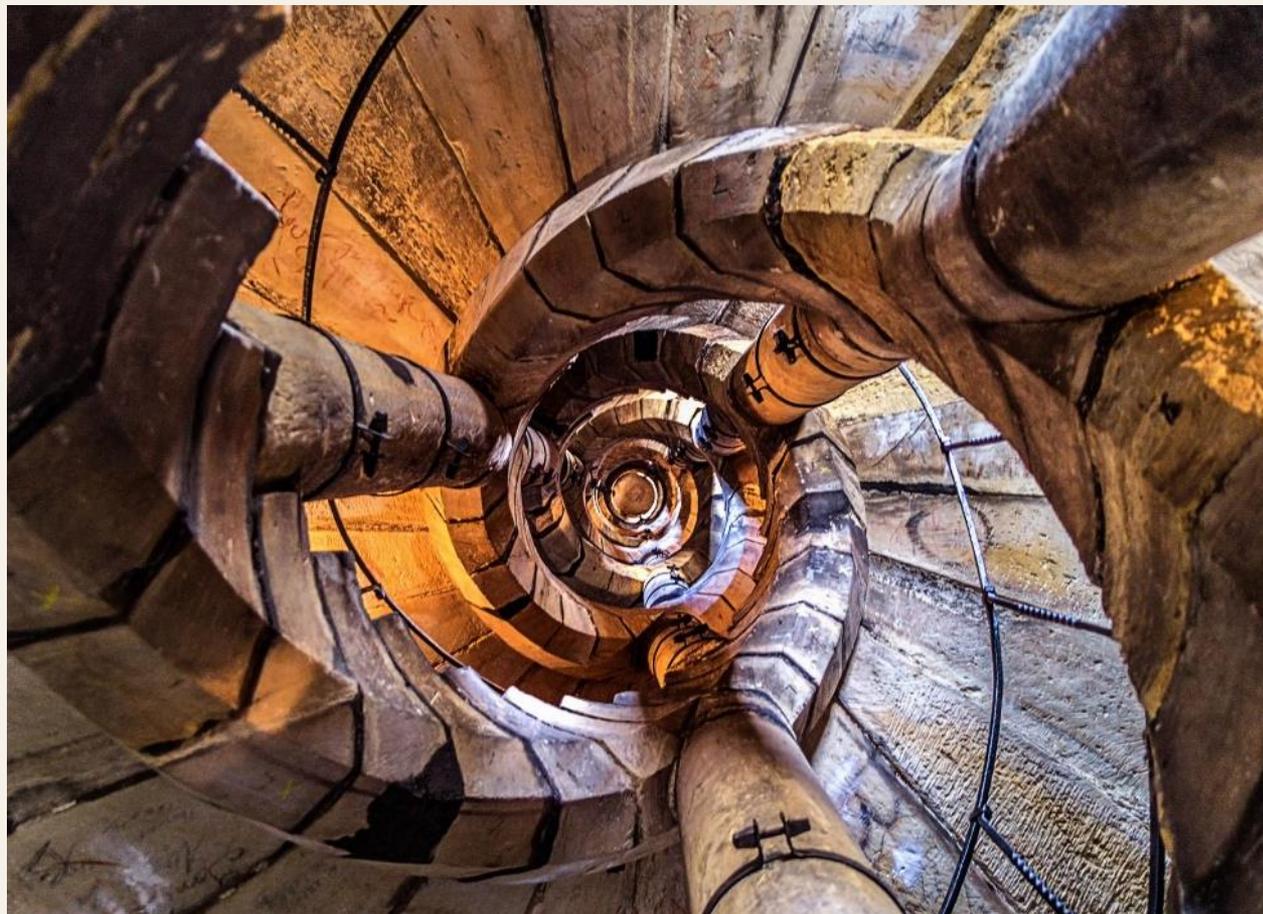
Until then, I'll use McGraw-Hill's 10 Practice ACTs to supplement the official materials.

To see my favorite test prep books, visit higherscorestestprep.com/amazon



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Considerations for the Class of 2017



Most colleges will accept 3 tests for the Class of 2017:

- Current (2400) SAT
- New (1600) SAT
- ACT

Keys to Success

1. Get started early.
2. Keep it simple.



Testing Best Practices



1. Never ever take an official exam as “practice” test.
 - Very few students are happy with their first efforts.
 - Bad scores may end up on students’ applications.
2. Select the test carefully.
 - Choose the test that is right for the student.
 - If your families need help, higherscorestestprep.com/bootcamp.
 - For free test decision & timeline counseling, visit higherscorestestprep.com/help.
3. Select the test dates carefully.
 - Students should have a game plan for testing by the middle of sophomore year.
 - SAT & ACT scores are valid for 5 years.
 - *This will not apply to the old SAT for the Class of 2018 and higher.*

Testing Best Practices



4. Prepare diligently.
 - Set a time frame (no more than 2 months) and a study schedule (2-3 sessions per week).
 - Use official test materials whenever possible.
 - Take full-length practice tests as a part of practice.
5. Take the selected exam on 2 back-to-back test dates with a 3rd date in reserve.
 - The second exam will be a security blanket on the student's first test.
 - Students will remember the strategies they learned during preparation and can build upon them between test dates.
 - If students are diligent, they can be done with testing as quickly as possible.
6. Don't forget to factor in SAT Subject Exams. (May & June test dates for Soph. & Jr.)
 - Some schools still require or strongly recommend SAT subject exams. Don't leave out of the testing timeline conversation.

Potential Test Options



No New SAT Please!

Sophomore Year

2400 SAT: May, June

Junior Year

2400 SAT: October, November, December, January

AND/OR

Junior Year

New ACT: September, October, December,
February, April, June

Going for National Merit?

Junior Year

New PSAT: October

New SAT: May, June

AND (optional)

Junior Year

New ACT: December, February, April

Students who opt to take the
current SAT must lock in their final
score by January 2016.

Sample Testing Timelines



Student #1

Sophomore with a 3.4 GPA who's enrolled in Alg. 2

Goal: Avoid the new SAT!

May & June SAT with 3rd test in the fall.

OR

October & November SAT with 3rd test in January.

OR

ACT in November & December with 3rd test in spring or in September or October of senior year.

Student #2

Sophomore with a 2.8 GPA who's enrolled in Alg. 1

Goal: Avoid the new SAT!

February & April ACT in junior year with 3rd test in the fall of senior year.

Student #3

Sophomore with a 4.2 GPA who's enrolled in Alg. 2

Goal: Be named a National Merit Finalist

Take the PSAT in October. Take the new SAT in May, June, and/or early in senior year.

Testing Timeline Resources



SAT & ACT Dates : higherscorestestprep.com/testdates

6 Steps to the Perfect Testing Timeline : higherscorestestprep.com/42

A Warning to the Class of 2017 : higherscorestestprep.com/warning

It's Q&A Time!



Don't forget to download this slide deck + other helpful resources for your students at:

www.HigherScoresTestPrep.com/CWL

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to CollegeWeekLive for hosting this webinar!

- You can use High School Connect to invite colleges to meet with your students. Email hsc@CollegeWeekLive.com to learn more.
- If you are watching live, be sure to complete the survey at the end to secure your CEU contact hour.
- If you are viewing the presentation On Demand, be sure to take the quiz as soon as the session ends.

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