

STANDARDIZED TESTS

PSAT-Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test- 2 hour exam, English, Math, Writing
Not reported to the colleges

October - Sophomore year - take for the practice

October - Junior year - used for National Merit Scholarship Award

(Will not accept sophomore scores)

SAT I-Scholastic Aptitude Test- Reasoning Test - 3 1/2 hour exam -English, Math, Writing

All scores reported to the colleges.

Second half of Junior year - take once or twice

Beginning Senior year - take second or third time if you wish

Sat II- Achievement Tests - 1 hour exam *- Subject Specific

All scores reported to the colleges.

June - freshman, sophomore, junior years

Three SAT II's of your choice from different areas should be taken.

General guidelines - Always take the **June** exam in a year that you are running a strong 90% in a subject class. As you are preparing for your finals and regents, you will also be preparing for the achievements. Do not take the May exam, there will be a month's worth of material you will be responsible for, yet not have studied in class. Do not wait for the following Oct., Nov. or Dec. telling yourself that "I'll study on my own". You will forget a tremendous amount of material the day you walk out of that class for the last time in June. The only circumstance where you could take an exam at a later date is when you are taking an advanced course in that subject, and are totally immersed in that subject matter.

Tests in **Bio, Chem** and **Physics** should be taken at the end of the year you complete those courses. **Bio E/M** refers to a test with emphasis on **Ecological** issues vs. **Molecular Biology**. You decide, the day of the exam, which one you want to take. **Math IC** covers through ~~MQQ~~ **Math II C** covers through Pre-Calculus but not Calculus. These exams allow use of a calculator. **World History** should be taken when you complete your fourth term of Global Studies, usually at the end of your sophomore year. Take the **American History** exam, when you finish that course. If **English Literature** is an area of strength, take that exam at the end of your junior year or the beginning of your senior fall term. **Language Exams** should be taken after as many years of study as possible. Again, only take these tests if they are strong subjects for you.

* Although the achievements are one hour each, and there is a three hour block of time for each exam date, **never take three exams at any one sitting.**

Achievements are your way of showing off to the colleges. You don't want to sit through two exams only to have to fight your way through a third. You'll want to prepare for this exam for three or four months. Take one exam at a sitting. If you must, take two, but planning ahead should help you avoid a three-hour testing.