

College Admission Testing 101

Adam Ingersoll Co-Founder & Principal, Compass Education Group

Highlights of *Guide to Testing*:

SAT & ACT Score Ranges at Popular Colleges	pp. 12-18
SAT vs ACT Score Comparison/Concordance	pp. 19-27
Test Calendar and Timeline Recommendations	pp. 30-33
SAT Subject Test Requirements and Policies	pp. 62-69
Reporting, Withholding, and Combining Scores	pp. 76-77

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HERE LIES
FREDERICK
JONES

VERBAL - MATH
680 720

R. Chew



"Try and tell me what's bothering you—use your S.A.T. words."

Flexibility \leftrightarrow Complexity

Admission Testing Questions to Consider

What and Why

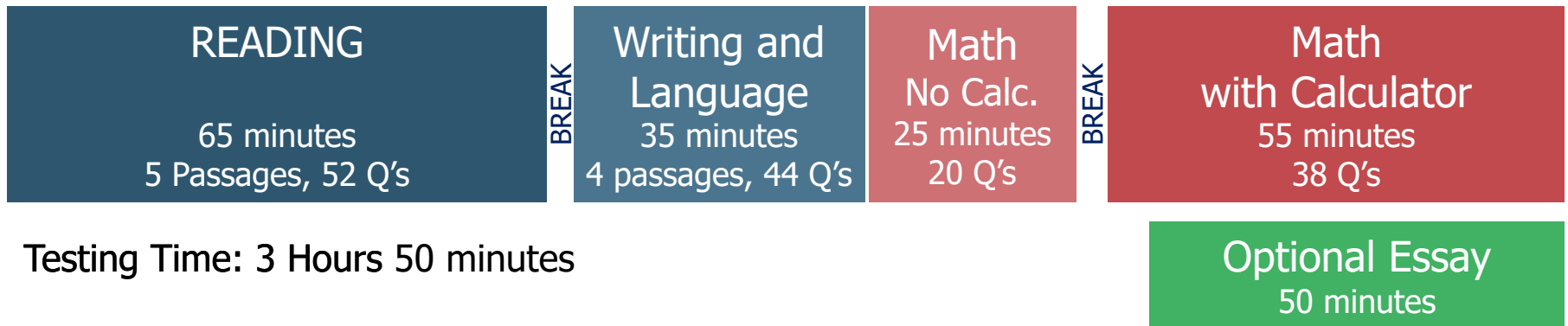
- Should I take the SAT, ACT, or both?
- Is the SAT Writing / ACT Essay necessary?
- Do I need Subject Tests? Which ones?
- Is the PSAT relevant? What does it portend?

When and How

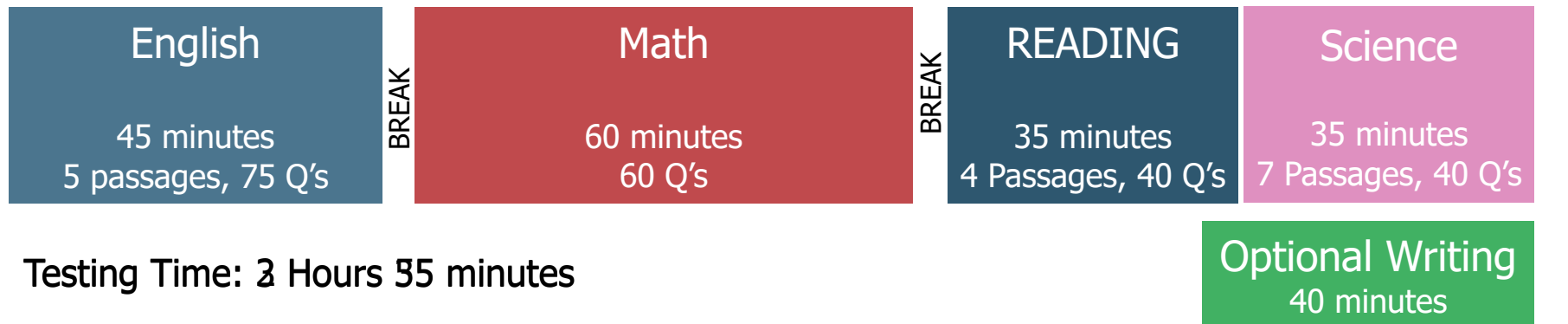
- When should I begin/end my testing & prep?
- How many times should I test?
- Which colleges require reporting **all** scores?
- Do colleges combine scores across dates?

SAT vs ACT: Length and Structure

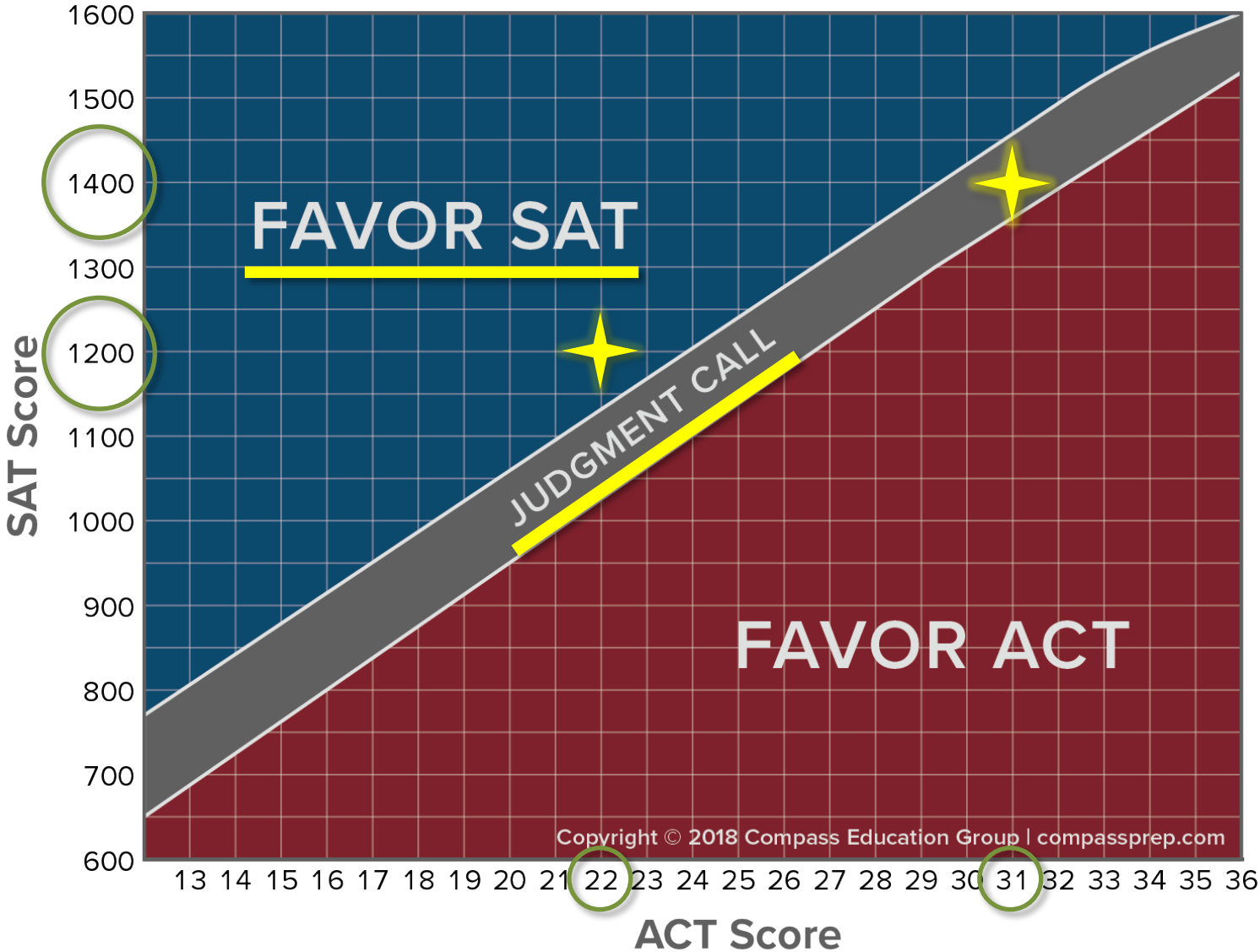
SAT



ACT



SAT vs ACT Comparison



ACT Math: Content & Pacing



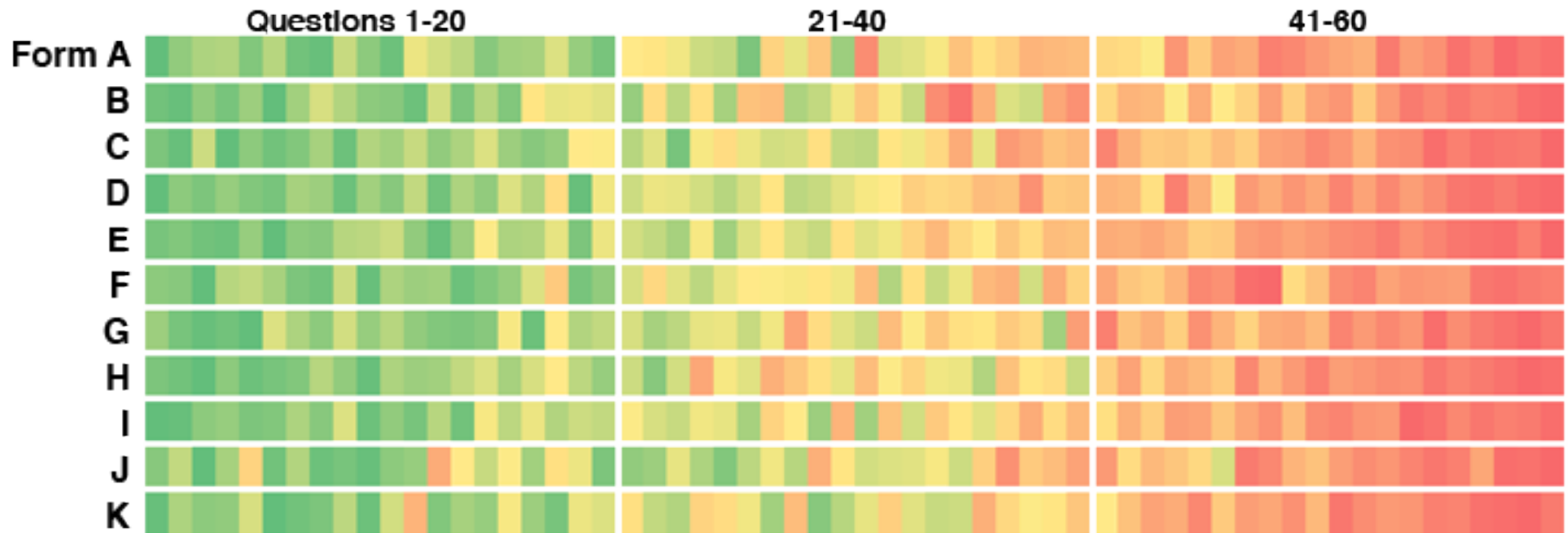
Content:

- 60 questions in 60 minutes
- Content breakdown
 - 23% Pre-Algebra
 - 17% Elementary Algebra
 - 15% Intermediate Algebra
 - 15% Coordinate Geometry
 - 23% Plane Geometry
 - 7% Trigonometry

Pacing Concerns:

- Average 1 minute per question*
- Difficulty escalates steadily throughout
- Problems at the end are much harder but worth same points
- Rushing and cherry-picking can be dangerous

ACT Math: Difficulty Distribution

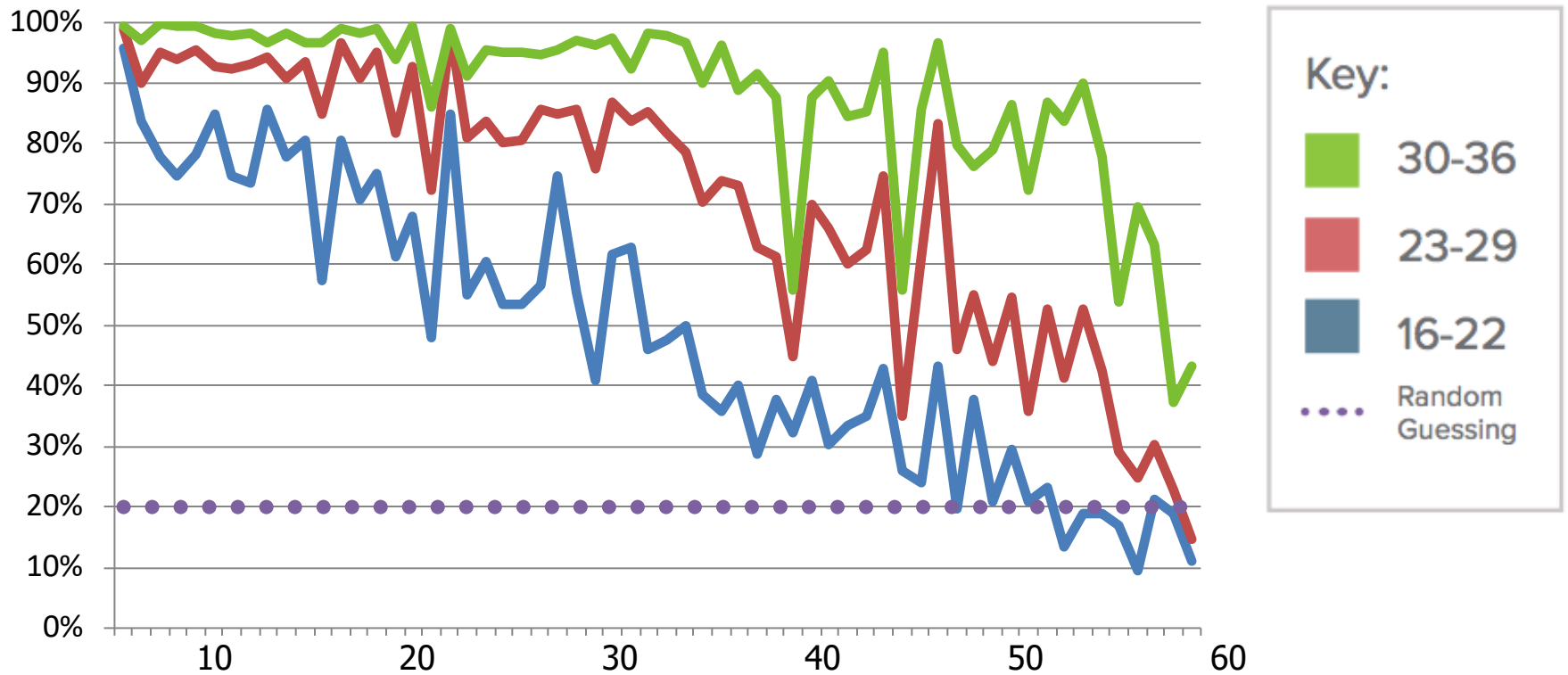


Data reflects performance of several thousand first-time ACT takers on eleven different tests.

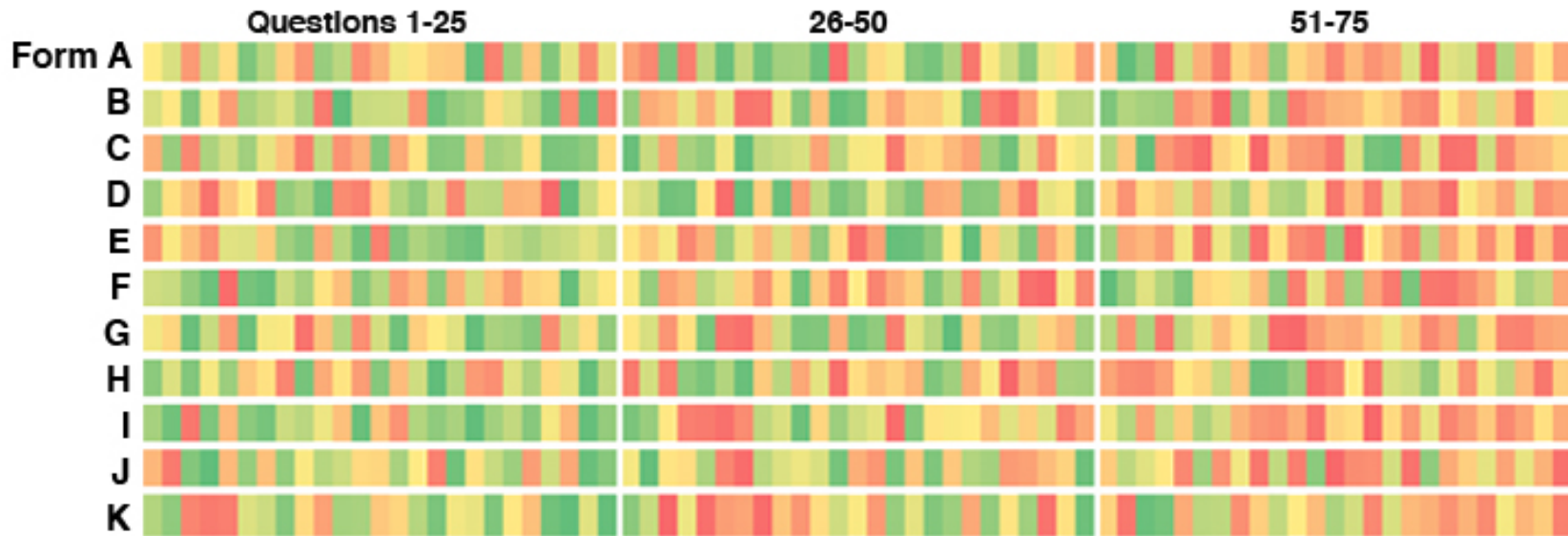
*See Compass Guide **page 45***

ACT Math: Where to Invest Effort

Percentage of Possible Points (By Student Score Range)



ACT English: Difficulty Distribution



Data reflects performance of several thousand ACT takers on 11 different tests.

What Do Test Scores Reflect?



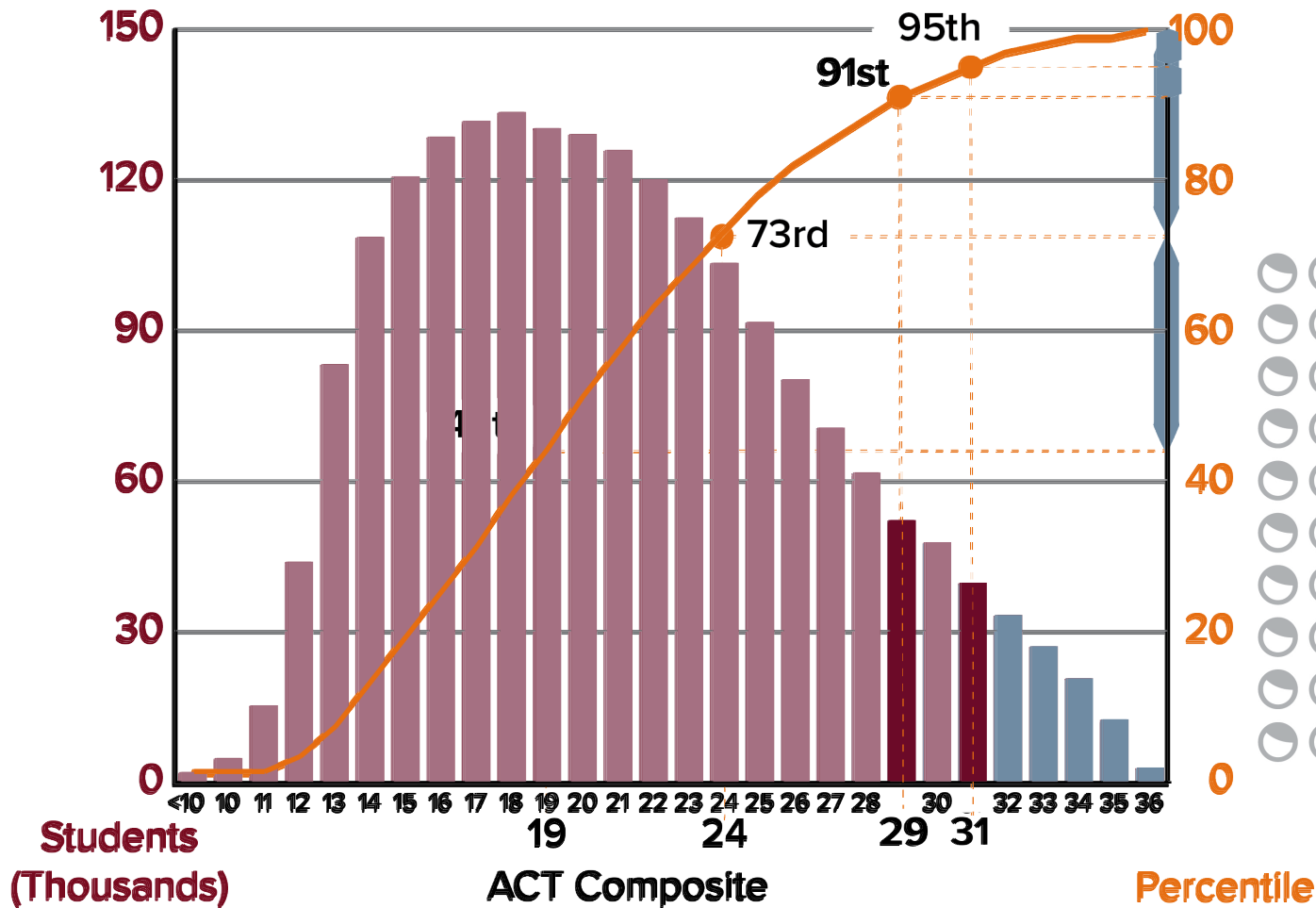
**Content
Knowledge**

**Command of
Strategies**

**Optimal Time
Management**

**Emotional Control
& Mental Discipline**

Setting Scoring Goals



Flexibility \leftrightarrow Complexity

Admission Testing Questions to Consider

What and Why

- Should I take the SAT, ACT, or both?
- Is the SAT Writing / ACT Essay necessary?
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- Is the PSAT relevant? What does it portend?

When and How

- When should I begin/end my testing & prep?
- How many times should I test?
- Which colleges require reporting **all** scores?
- Do colleges combine scores across dates?

Testing Policies

Amherst	Claremont McKenna	George Washington	NYU	U of Rochester
Bates	Colby	Hamilton	Oberlin	UC's
Bennington	Colorado College	Harvard	Pitzer	UPenn
Boston University	Columbia	Harvey Mudd	Princeton	Vanderbilt
Bowdoin	Cornell	Johns Hopkins	Rice	Vassar
Brandeis	Dartmouth	Lafayette	Smith	Wake Forest
Brown	Drexel	Middlebury	Stanford	Washington U in St. Louis
Caltech	Duke	MIT	Swarthmore	Wellesley
Carleton	Emory	Northwestern	Tulane	Wesleyan
Carnegie Mellon	Georgetown	Notre Dame	U of Chicago	Yale

Do I need the SAT/ACT essay?

(pp. 50-55 of Guide)

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Are scores combined across dates?

(Guide pp. 76-77)

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Super-scoring

April ACT	
English	26
Math	27
Reading	27
Science	23
Composite	26

September ACT	
English	29
Math	25
Reading	24
Science	27
Composite	26

Super-scored ACT	
English	29
Math	27
Reading	27
Science	27
Composite	28

Are scores combined across dates?

(Guide pp. 76-77)

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Do I have to send all my scores?

(Guide pp. 76-77)

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Which are Test Optional?

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Brandeis	Dartmouth	Lafayette	Skidmore	Wake Forest
Brown	Drexel	Middlebury	Smith	Washington U in St. Louis
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Do I need to take Subject Tests?

(Guide pp. 62-69)

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Subject Test Options

(Guide pp. 62-69)

- ▲ Literature
- ▲ U.S. History or World History
- ▲ Math Level 2 or Math Level 1
- ▲ Biology (E/M), Chemistry, and Physics
- ▲ Languages: French, Chinese, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin

Do I need to take Subject Tests?

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Subject Test Policies

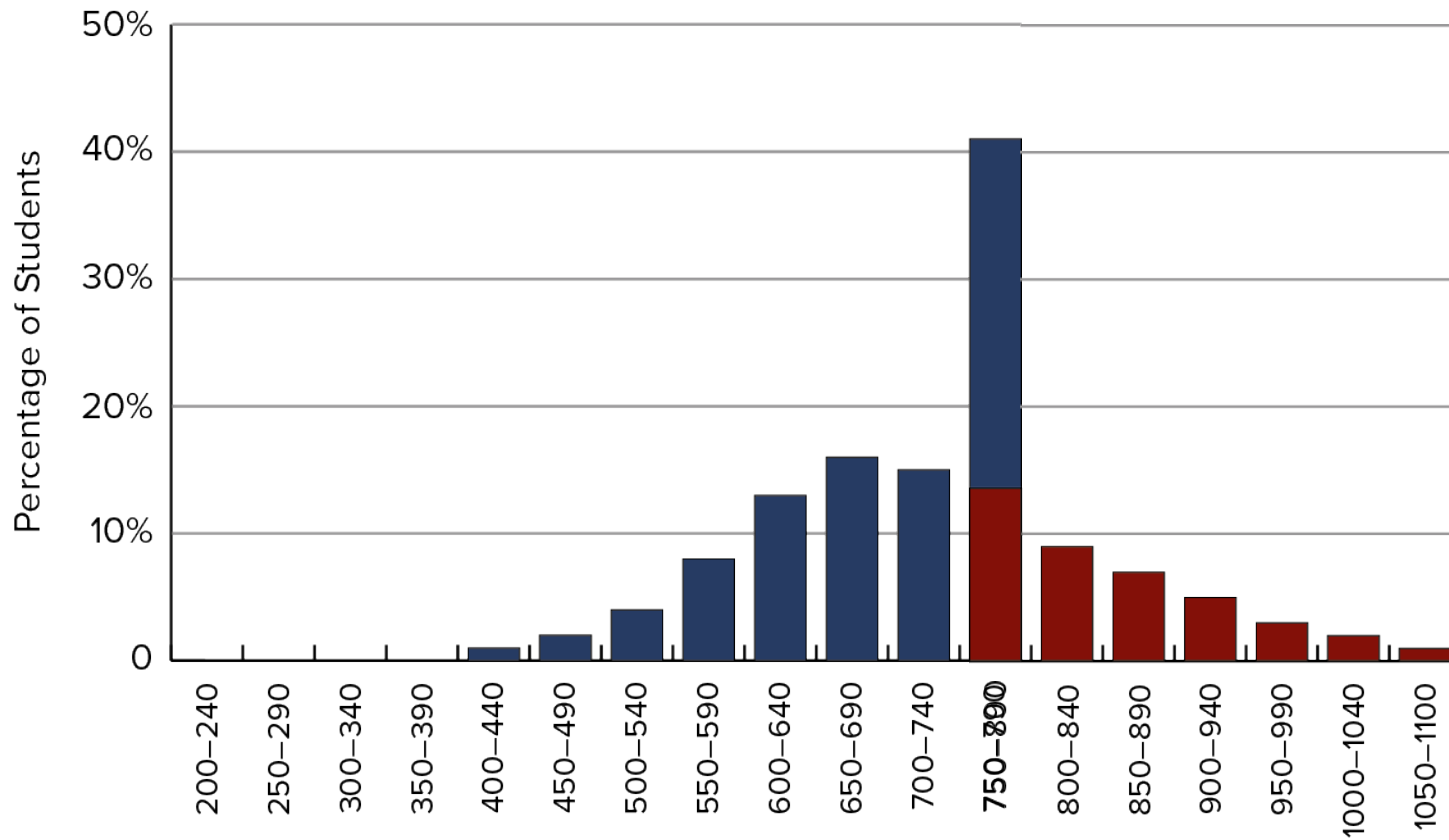
(Guide pp. 62-69)

- ▲ Cannot take SAT and Subject Tests on same date
- ▲ 1 hour per test (up to 3 in one day)
- ▲ **“Guessing Penalty”** is still in effect
- ▲ 200-800 scale
- ▲ “Softer” scale but “Tougher” testing pool

What's a Good Subject Test Score?

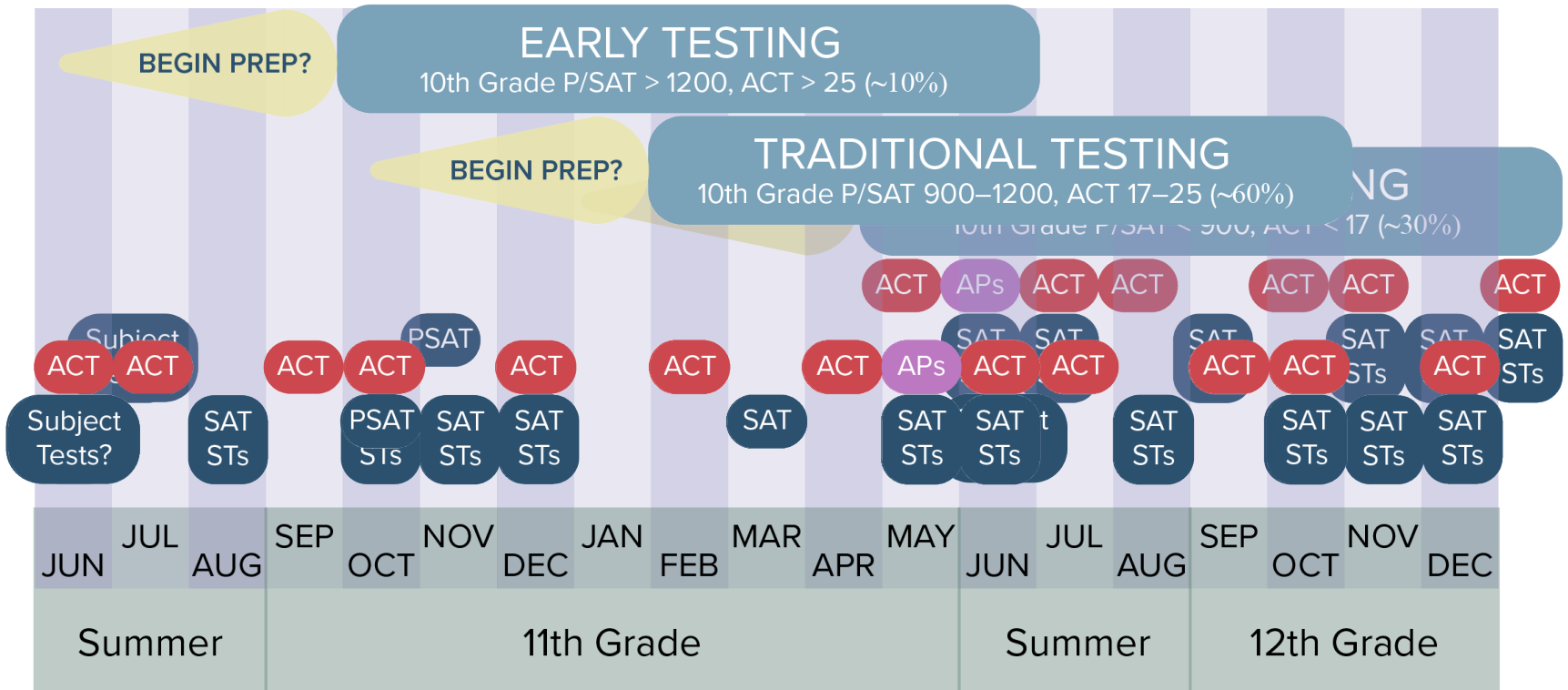
(Guide pp. 62-69)

Math Level 2 Subject Test



Testing Timelines

(Guide pp. 30-33)



Individual Support



How we can help:

- Monthly email updates
- Online *Resource Center*
- Proctored practice tests
- Family meeting/consultation
- One-on-one tutoring

How to reach us:

- Return card inside rear cover
- (212) 381-4421
- newyork@compassprep.com
- www.compassprep.com
- 130 W. 25th St in Chelsea

Compass Tutor Team



Patrick G.
Columbia



Shaun G.
Harvard



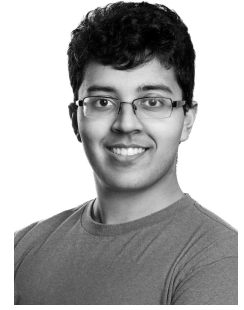
Maia C.
Princeton



Zach F.
Northwestern



Jessica R.
Princeton



Ojas P.
U of Chicago



Aaron L.
Columbia



Paige P.
Brown



Nate N.
Stanford



Jared H.
Princeton



Allison S.
Duke

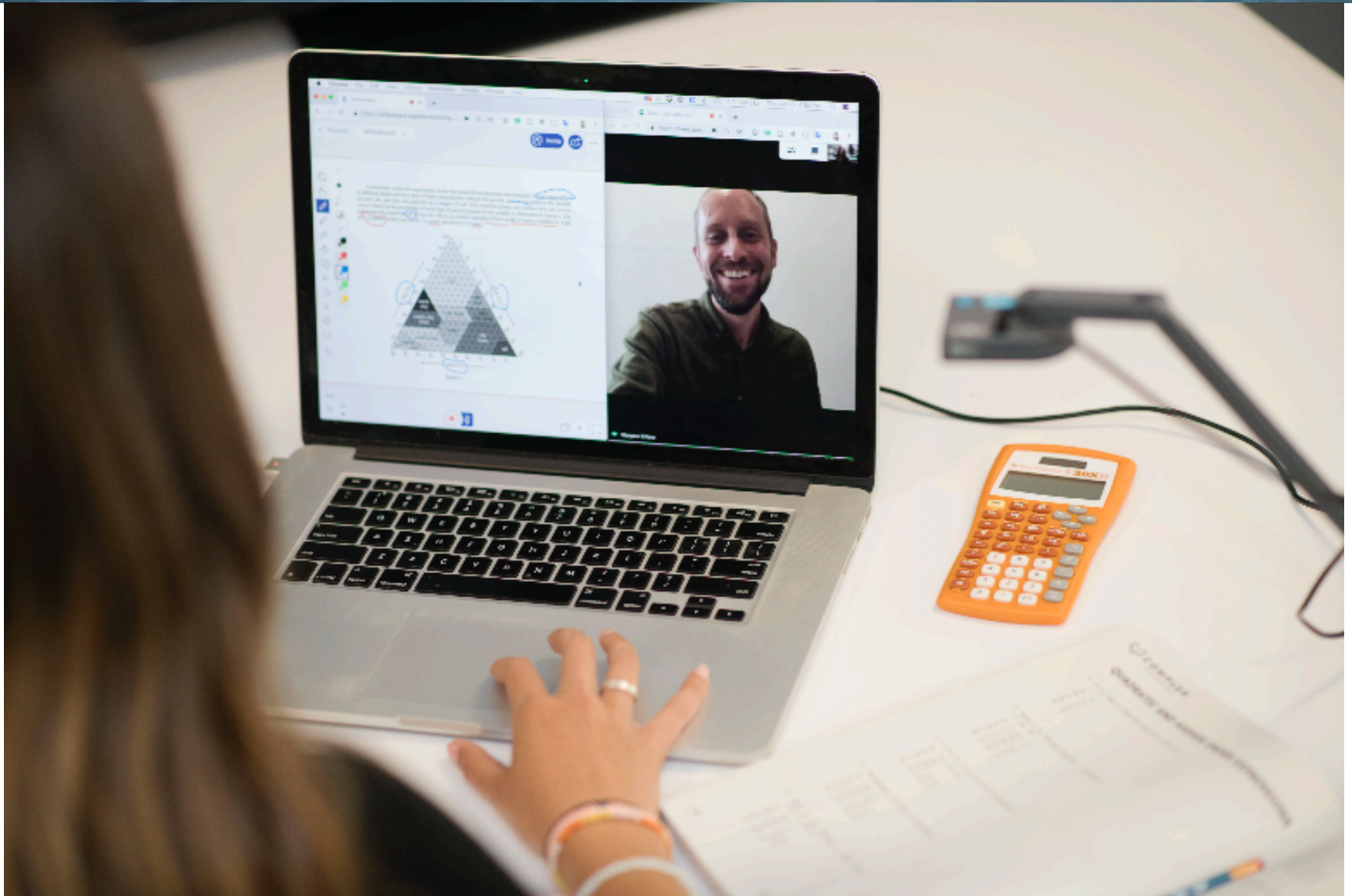


Peter B.
Brown

Online Tutoring Option



Online Tutoring Option



Online Tutoring Option



Next Steps



- ▲ Early vs Traditional vs Deferred Timeline (or hybrid)
- ▲ Establish clear baselines on SAT and ACT
- ▲ Evaluate relevance of Subject Tests
- ▲ Finalize test selection and test dates
- ▲ Determine how you will prepare
- ▲ Maintain perspective



"You're kidding! You count S.A.T.s?"

Q&A



Anne-Marie Chan
Director, New York
Duke, BA; NYU, MBA



Nina Kao
Director, New York
UPenn, BA

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ACT Section Re-testing

**STUDENTS GET
MORE OPTIONS
WITH THE ACT® TEST**

**Your Voice Has Been Heard and
Our Research Agrees**



ACT Section Re-testing

OCT
10
2019

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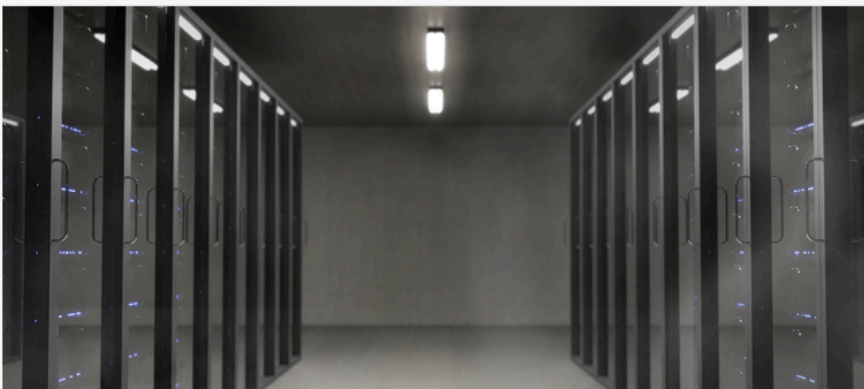


Another Look at the ACT Updates

By Art Sawyer | ACT, College Counseling, For Students, Test Prep | No Comments

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08
2019

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ACT Announces Section Retesting, Superscore Reporting, and Online Testing

By Art Sawyer | ACT, SAT | No Comments

Full details:

compassprep.com/blog



What is ACT Section Re-testing?

First, the Answers . . .

- **Starts September 2020**
- **Students may *re-take* sections of their choosing (one or multiple)**
- **Paper version must be taken first, full test**
- **Section re-take only available via computer-based format**

ACT Section Re-testing

But There Are Still Questions . . .

- **Which colleges will accept single-section scores?**
- **Which test centers will offer computer-based testing?**
- **Is it a smart test taking strategy anyway?**

ACT Section Re-testing

➤ *Guidance for students*

- **CLASS OF 2021**
 - **Available senior fall, but...**
 - YOU MUST BE COMFORTABLE WITH DIGITAL TESTING
 - UNCERTAIN AVAILABILITY: TEST SITES AND COMPUTERS
 - STILL WAITING ON FEEDBACK FROM COLLEGES
- **CLASS OF 2022+**
 - **Watch how colleges react; wait for initial administrations**
 - **Anticipate limited availability**
 - **If embraced unilaterally, net effect of section re-testing may be negligible**

ACT Section Re-testing

Adam, I noticed that Compass has been publishing comments about the new options for the ACT we announced recently. We invite you to come to ACT and talk with the team responsible for the ACT to exchange thoughts about how and why we are creating these options.



2:20 PM



ACT Section Re-testing

Hi Adam. This is Jeremy Singer. I wanted to follow up on our conversation yesterday. Do you have time between 3 and 4:30 today to talk?

Name a time. We can meet in front lobby and walk to Starbucks