



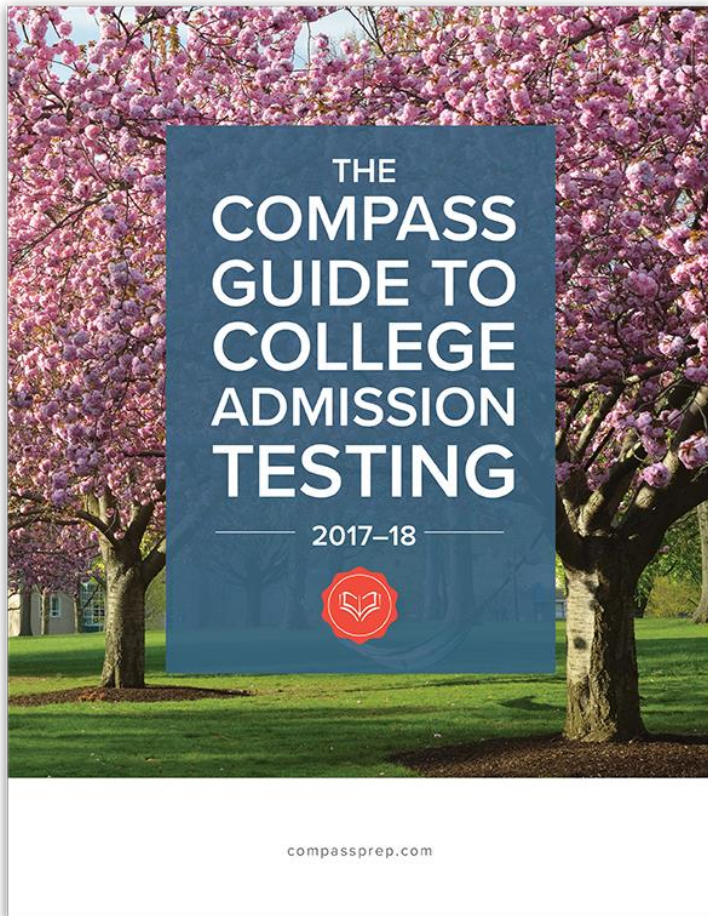
Navigating College Admission Tests

Acalanes High School

Bruce Reed
Co-Founder

Compass Education Group

Beyond Tonight's Presentation



[www.compassprep.com/
schools/acalanes](http://www.compassprep.com/schools/acalanes)



Please fill out this form to receive information on practice test opportunities and other helpful resources.

Student Name

School

Class Year

Parent Name

Parent Phone Number

Parent Email Address

Holistic Review

GPA

Rigor

Test Scores

Recommendation Letters

Personal Essay

Interview

AP/IB Scores

Legacy Status

Demonstrated interest

Extracurriculars

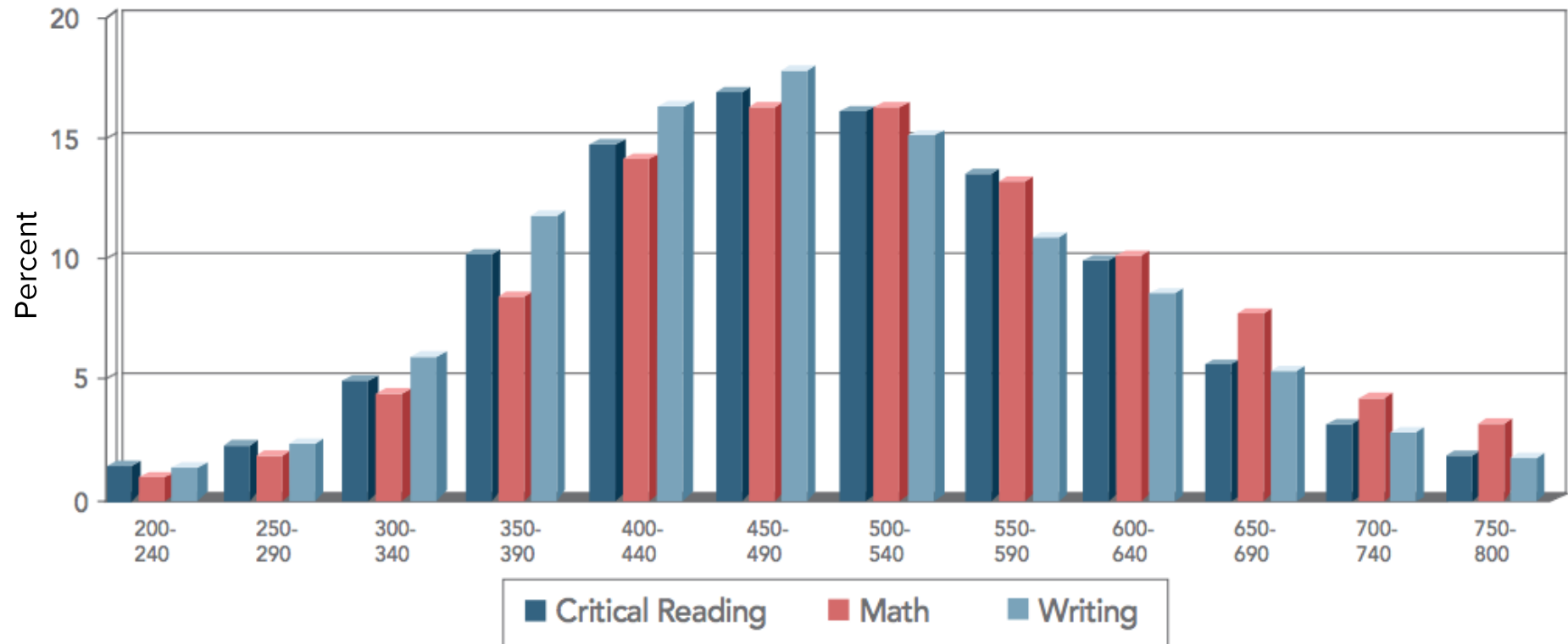
Work / Internships

Class Rank

Financial Need

Mean = Median = Mode

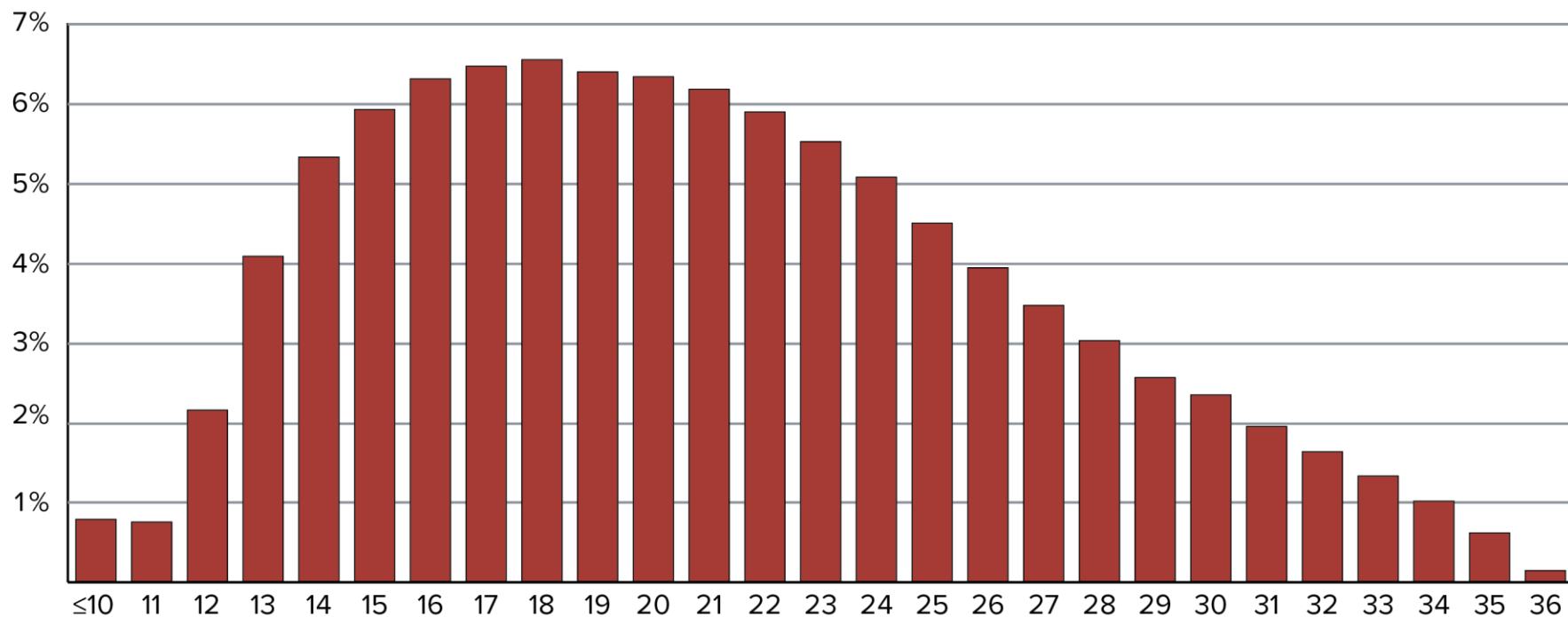
SAT (2015)



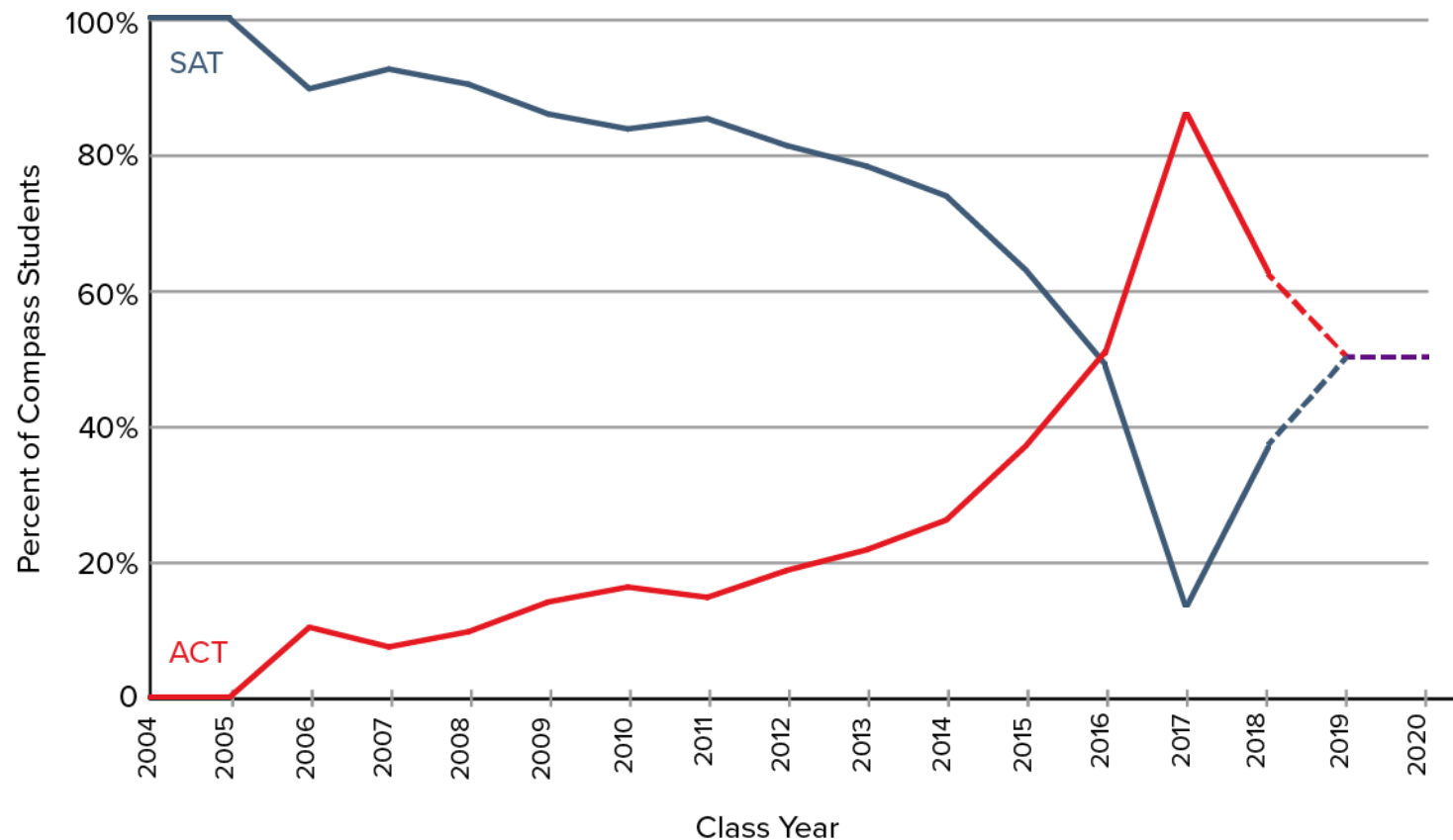
Different Test, Same Story

ACT

Class of 2017



Test Prep Trends at Compass



Competitive Similarities

- ✓ No “guessing” penalty (**Both**)
- ✓ Long sections; text heavy exams (**Both**)
- ✓ “Optional” essay at the end (**Both**)
- ✓ Calculator (**Both**) & non-calculator Math (**SAT**)
- ✓ Tests “Science skills” (**ACT Section; SAT mixed in**)
- ✓ Broad survey of HS math and verbal skills (**Both**)
- ✓ Scale accounts for minor difficulty differences (**Both**)
- ✓ Colleges no longer the only users of the test (**Both**)

Structural Similarities

New PSAT

4 Sections; 2 Hours and 45 Minutes

Reading 60 min	Writing and Language 35 min	Math without Calculator 25 min	Math with Calculator 45 min
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New SAT

4 Sections + Essay; 3 Hours and 50 Minutes













Reading 65 min	Writing and Language 35 min	Math without Calculator 25 min	Math with Calculator 55 min	Optional Essay 50 min
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ACT

4 Sections + Essay; 3 Hours and 35 Minutes

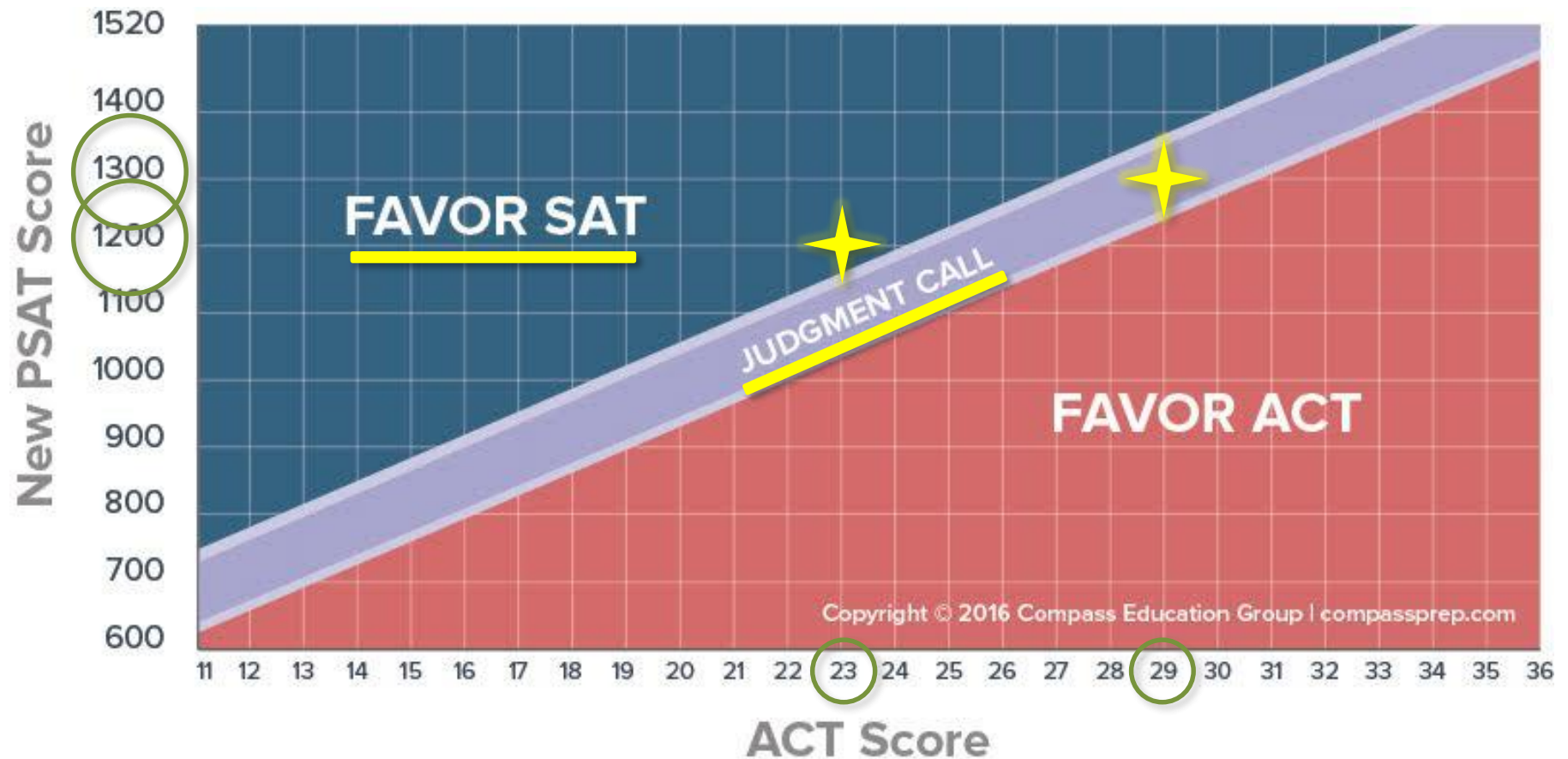
English 45 min	Math 60 min	Reading 35 min	Science 35 min	Optional Essay 40 min
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Weighing Math Topics Differently

Algebra	Geometry			SAT	ACT
Simplifying Equivalent Expressions	Data and Probability	Area and Perimeter			
Exponential Change	Geometry	Area and Perimeter Visualizations			
Quadratic Formulas	Geometry	Area and Perimeter Triangles			
Parabolas	Geometry	Area and Perimeter, and Mode			

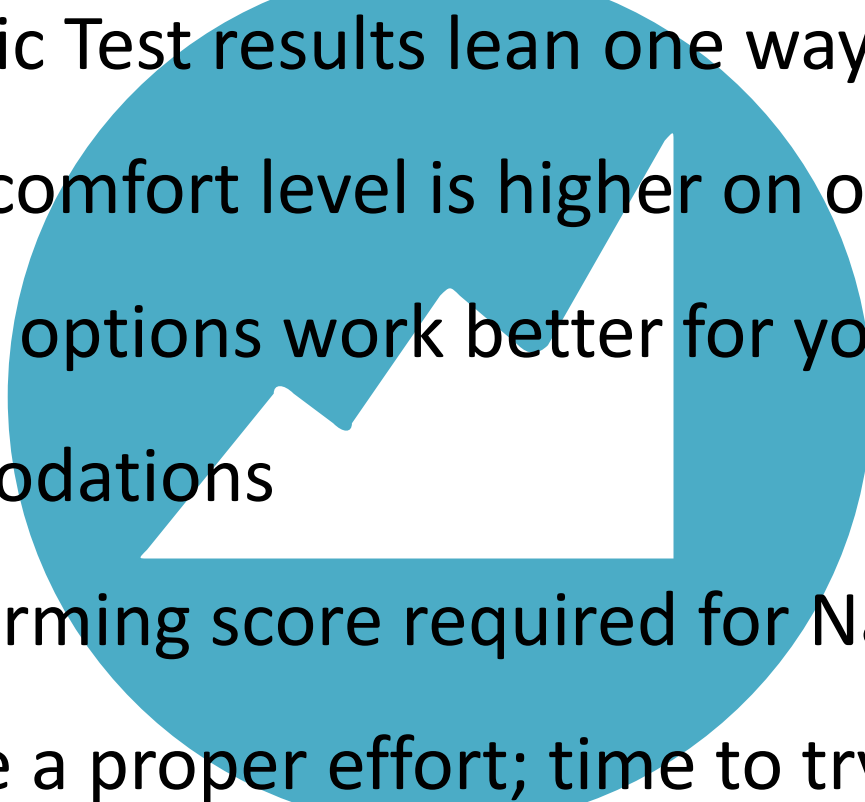
See **pages 46-47** of Compass Guide

P/SAT vs ACT Comparison



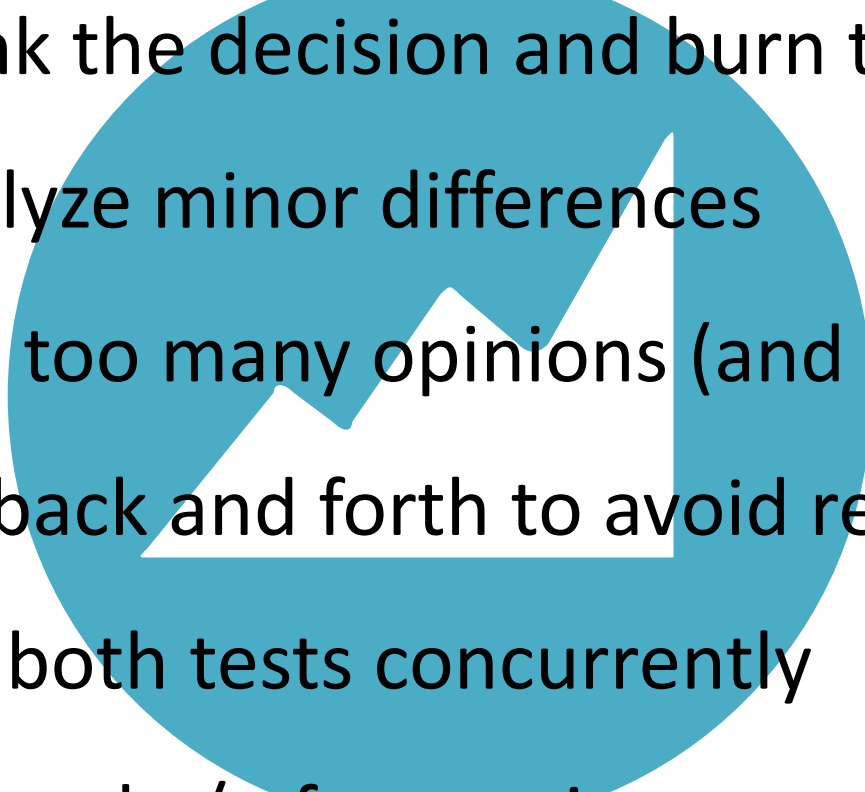
Good Judgment



- 
- ✓ Diagnostic Test results lean one way
 - ✓ Student comfort level is higher on one
 - ✓ Test date options work better for you
 - ✓ Accommodations
 - ✓ SAT confirming score required for National Merit
 - ✓ Gave one a proper effort; time to try the other

Poor Judgment



- 
- ✓ Overthink the decision and burn time
 - ✓ Overanalyze minor differences
 - ✓ Listen to too many opinions (and myths)
 - ✓ Bounce back and forth to avoid real issues
 - ✓ Prep for both tests concurrently
 - ✓ Test too early / often; quit too soon

2007: 44 COLLEGES REQUIRE THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

AMHERST	COLUMBIA	HAVERFORD	UC DAVIS	UVA
BARNARD	CONNECTICUT COLLEGE	HOLY CROSS	UC IRVINE	VASSAR
BOSTON COLLEGE	CORNELL	MIT	UCLA	WASHINGTON & LEE
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	DARTMOUTH	POMONA	UC MERCED	WELLESLEY
BRANDEIS	DUKE	PRINCETON	UC RIVERSIDE	WESLEYAN
BROWN	FRANKLIN OLIN	RICE	UC SAN DIEGO	WILLIAMS
BRYN MAWR	GEORGETOWN	SWARTHMORE	UC SANTA BARBARA	WPI
CALTECH	HARVARD	TULANE	UC SANTA CRUZ	YALE
CARNEGIE MELLON	HARVEY MUDD	UC BERKELEY	UPENN	

2017: 4 COLLEGES REQUIRE THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

	CORNELL	MIT		
CALTECH				
	HARVEY MUDD			

“Recommend” or “Consider” Subject Tests

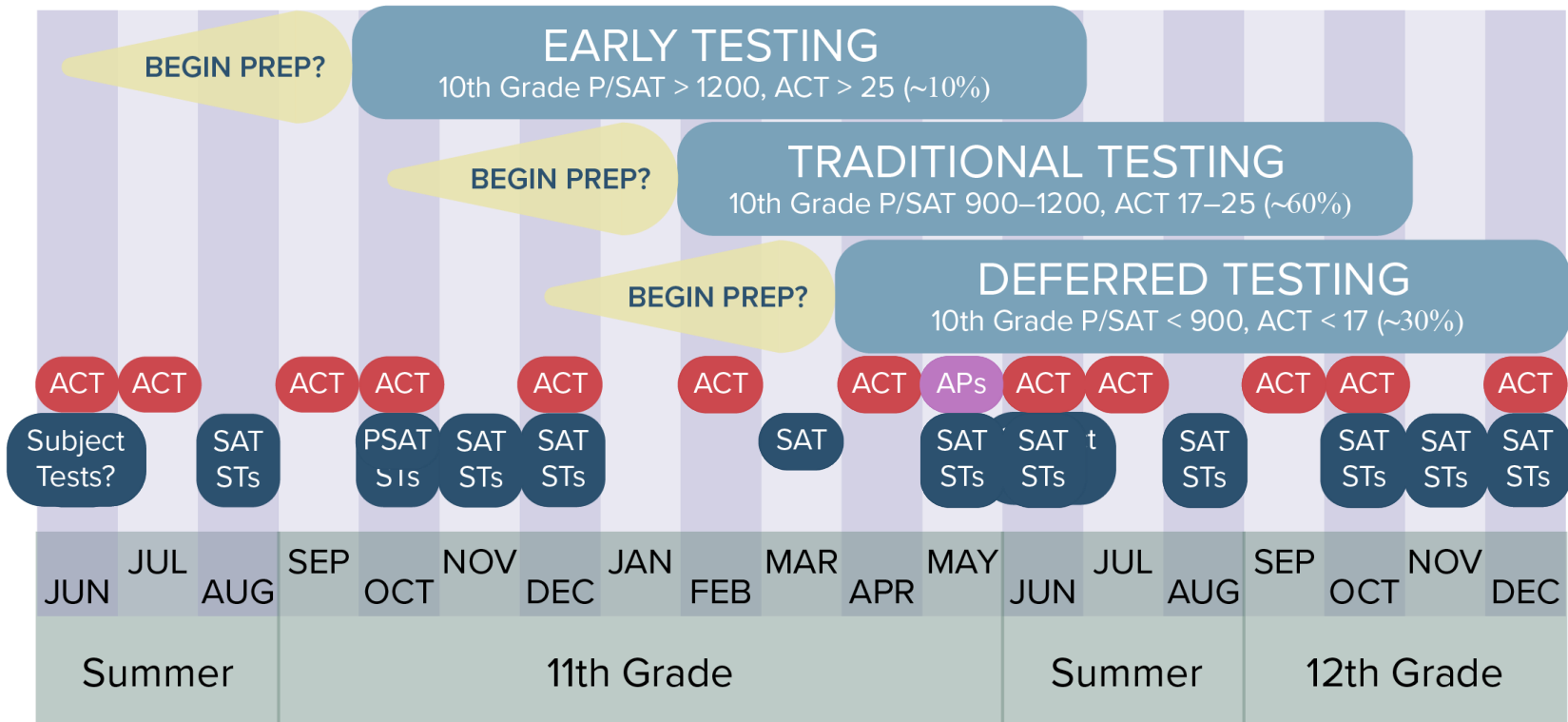
Amherst
Babson
Barnard
Bates
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin
Brandeis
Brown
Bryn Mawr
Bucknell
Carleton
Case Western
Claremont McKenna
Colby
Colorado College
Columbia
Connecticut College
Cooper Union
Dartmouth
Davidson
Duke

Emory
Franklin Olin
George Washington
Georgetown
Hamilton
Harvard
Haverford
Holy Cross
Ithaca
Johns Hopkins
Kenyon
Lafayette
Macalester
Miami (FL)
Michigan
Middlebury
Mills
Northwestern
Notre Dame
NYU
Oberlin
Occidental

Pomona
Pratt Institute
Princeton
Reed
Rice
RPI
Scripps
Smith
Stanford
Stevens Institute
Swarthmore
Tufts
Tulane
Union
UC Berkeley
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC Riverside
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz

U of Delaware
U of Georgia
UNC
U of Rochester
UPenn
USC
UVA
Vanderbilt
Vassar
Wake Forest
Washington & Lee
Wash U St. Louis
Wellesley
Wesleyan
William & Mary
Williams
WPI
Yale

Testing Timelines

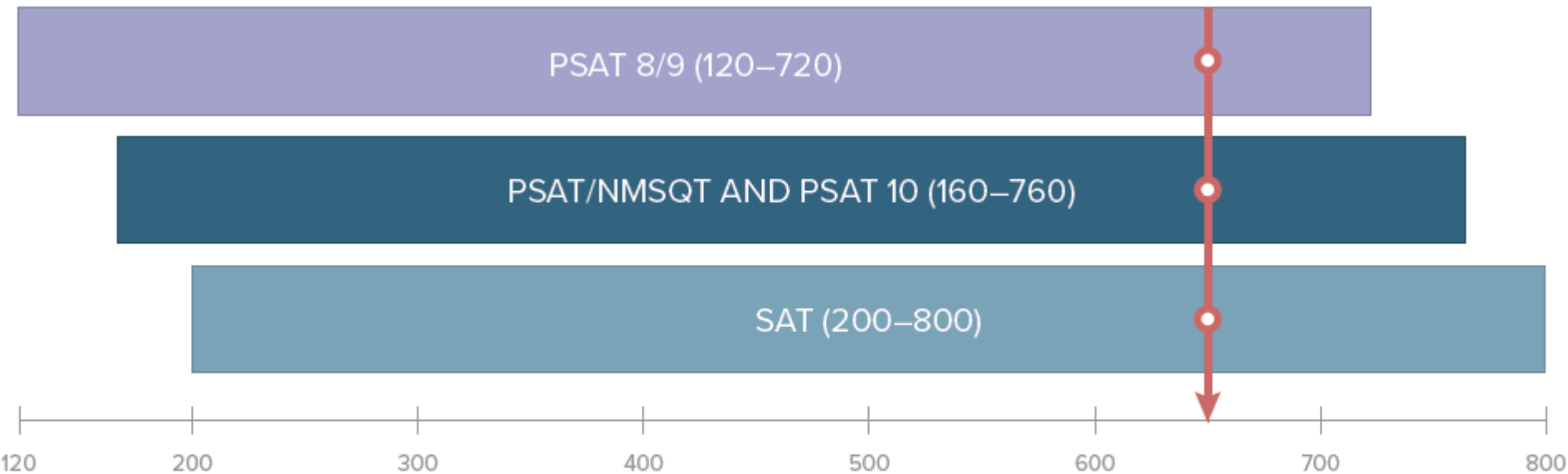


April ACT	
English	26
Math	27
Reading	27
Science	23
Composite	26

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

Vertical Alignment

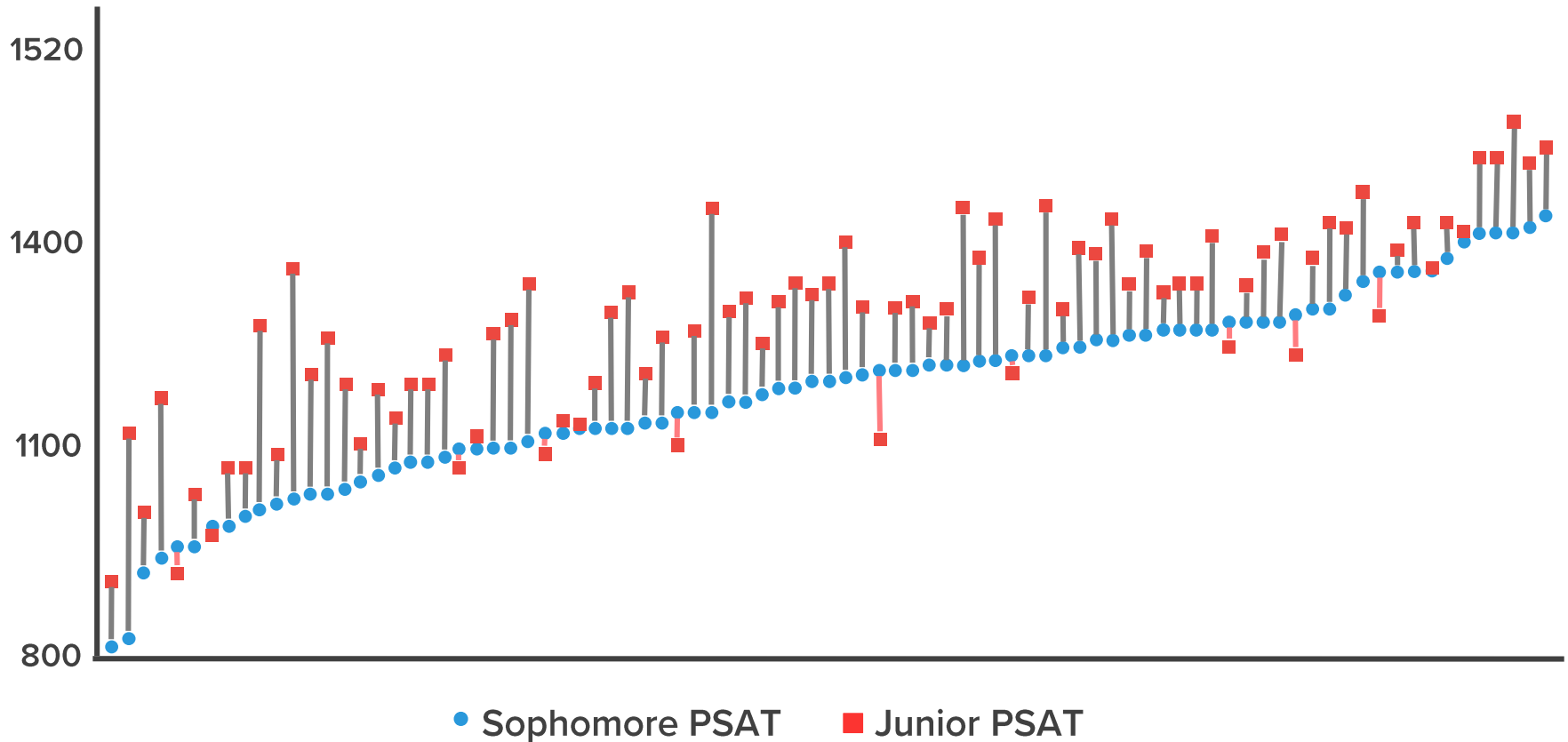


A score of 650 on the PSAT 8/9 would predict that a student would have scored a 650 on the PSAT 10 or the SAT had the student taken those exams at the same time.

See **page 30** of *Compass Guide*

PSAT Gains – Sample Class

Score Change Sophomore to Junior Year



What Do Test Scores Reflect?

Content
Knowledge

Command of
Strategies

Optimal Time
Management

Emotional
Control

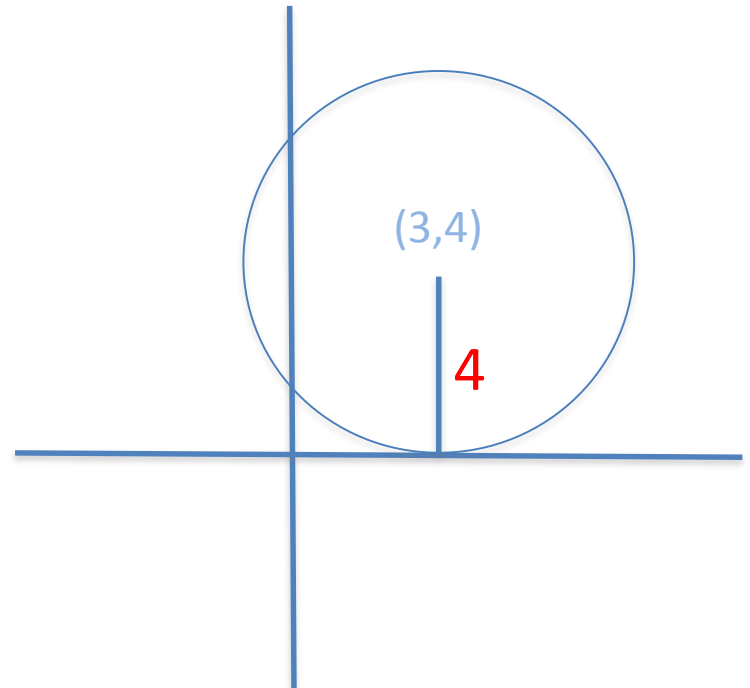
Content Knowledge

$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

Center: (h, k)

Which of the following is an equation of a circle with its center at $(3, 4)$ and tangent to the x -axis in the standard (x, y) coordinate plane?

- ☒ A. $(x - 3)^2 + (y - 4)^2 = 16$
- B. $(x - 4)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 16$
- ☒ C. $(x - 4)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 9$
- ☒ D. $(x - 3)^2 + (y - 4)^2 = 9$
- E. $(x + 4)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 16$



Command of Strategies

If $\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{3}y = 4$, what is the value of $3x + 2y$?

Clue: focus on what the question asks for,
NOT on solving for x and y .

$$6\left(\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{3}y\right) = (4)6$$

$$3x + 2y = 24$$

Answer: 24

Time Management

A *bomb calorimeter* is used to determine the amount of heat released when a substance is burned in oxygen (Figure 1). The heat, measured in kilojoules (kJ), is calculated from the change in temperature of the water in the bomb calorimeter. Table 1 shows the amounts of heat released when different foods were burned in a bomb calorimeter. Table 2 shows the amounts of heat released when different amounts of sucrose (table sugar) were burned. Table 3 shows the amounts of heat released when various chemical compounds were burned.

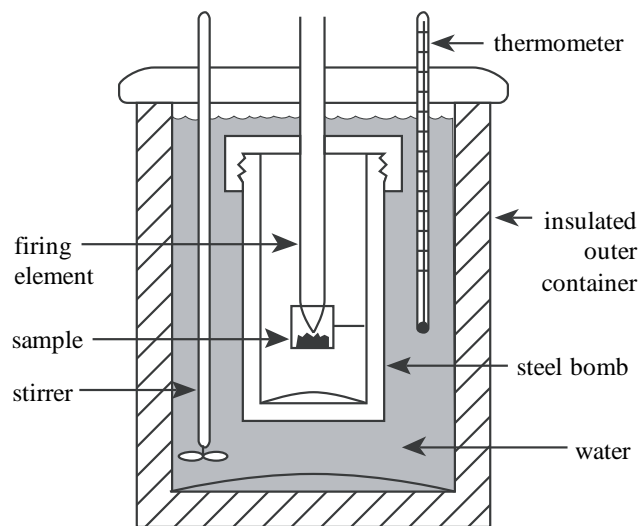


Figure 1

Table 1			
Food	Mass (g)	Change in water temperature (°C)	Heat released (kJ)
Bread	1.0	8.3	10.0
Cheese	1.0	14.1	17.0
Egg	1.0	5.6	6.7
Potato	1.0	2.7	3.2

Table 2	
Amount of sucrose (g)	Heat released (kJ)
0.1	1.6
0.5	8.0
1.0	16.0
2.0	32.1
4.0	64.0

Table 3			
Chemical compound	Molecular formula	Mass (g)	Heat released (kJ)
Methanol	CH ₃ OH	0.5	11.4
Ethanol	C ₂ H ₅ OH	0.5	14.9
Benzene	C ₆ H ₆	0.5	21.0
Octane	C ₈ H ₁₈	0.5	23.9

Time Management

Based on the data in Table 2, one can conclude that when the mass of sucrose is decreased by one-half, the amount of heat released when it is burned in a bomb calorimeter will:

- A. increase by one-half.
- ☒ B. decrease by one-half.
- C. increase by one-fourth.
- D. decrease by one-fourth.

Table 2	
Amount of sucrose (g)	Heat released (kJ)
0.1	1.6
0.5	8.0
1.0	16.0
2.0	32.1
4.0	64.0

Emotional Control



Evidence-Based Responses

- 45 ...But we have not come here to laugh, or to talk of fashions—men's and women's. We are here, on the bridge, to ask ourselves certain questions. And they are very important questions, and we have very little time in which to answer them.
- 50 The questions that we have to ask and to answer about that procession during this moment of transition are so important that they may well change the lives of all men and women for ever. For we have to ask ourselves, here and now, do we wish to join that procession, or don't we? On what terms shall we join that procession? Above all, where is it leading us, the procession of educated men? The moment is short; it may last five years; ten years, or perhaps only a matter of a few months longer. . . . But, you will object, you have no time to think; you have your battles to fight, your rent to pay, your bazaars to organize. That excuse shall not serve you, Madam.
- 60

1. Woolf characterizes the questions in lines 53-57 ("For we . . . men") as both

- A) controversial and threatening.
- B) weighty and unanswerable.
- ☒ C) momentous and pressing.
- D) provocative and mysterious.

2. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 46-47 ("We . . . questions")
- B) Lines 48-49 ("And . . . them")**
- C) Line 57 ("The moment . . . short")
- D) Line 62 ("That . . . Madam")

ACT English: Difficulty Distribution



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

ACT Math: Difficulty Distribution

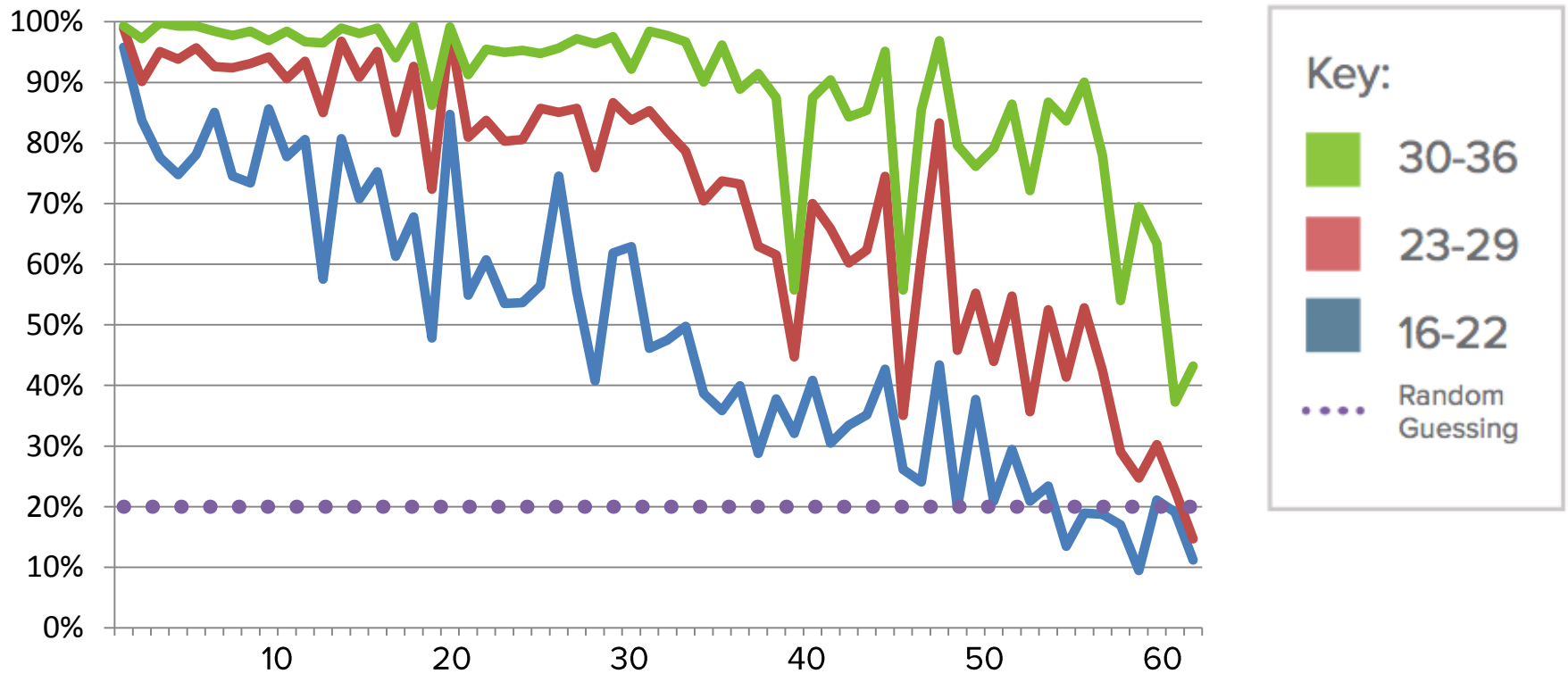


Data reflects performance of several thousand ACT takers on 11 different tests.

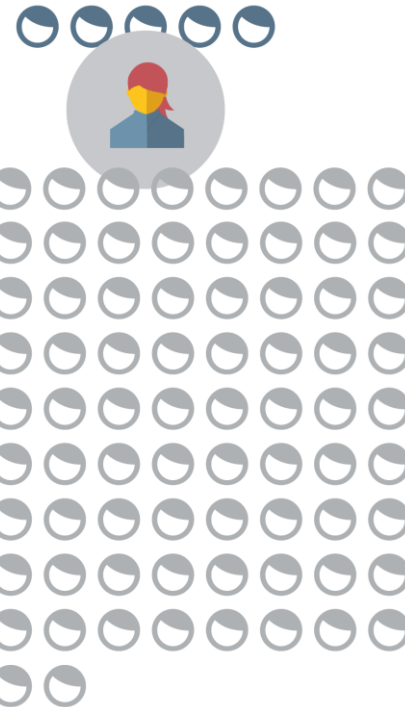
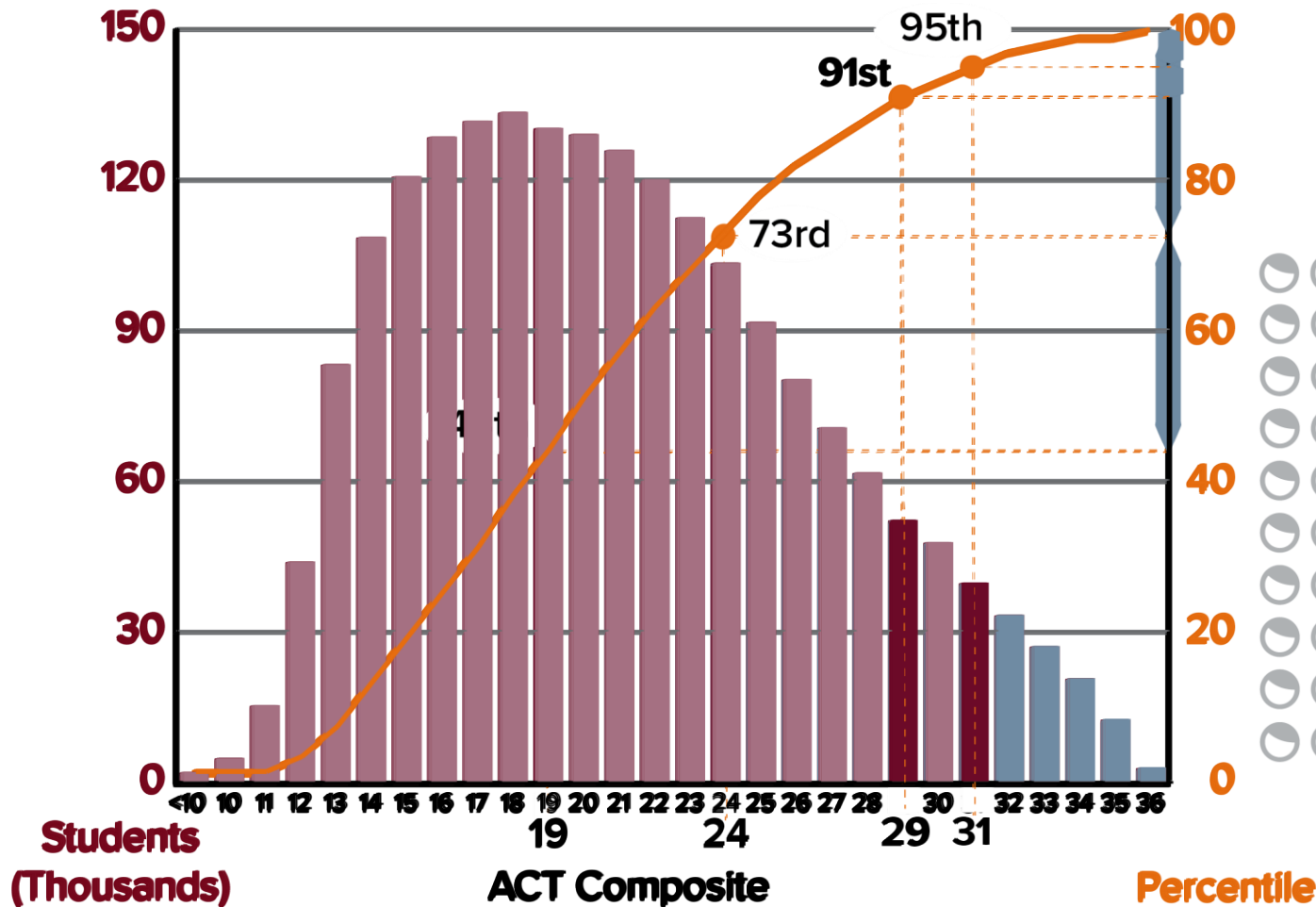


Least Effort

Percentage of Possible Points (By Student Score Range)



Setting Scoring Goals

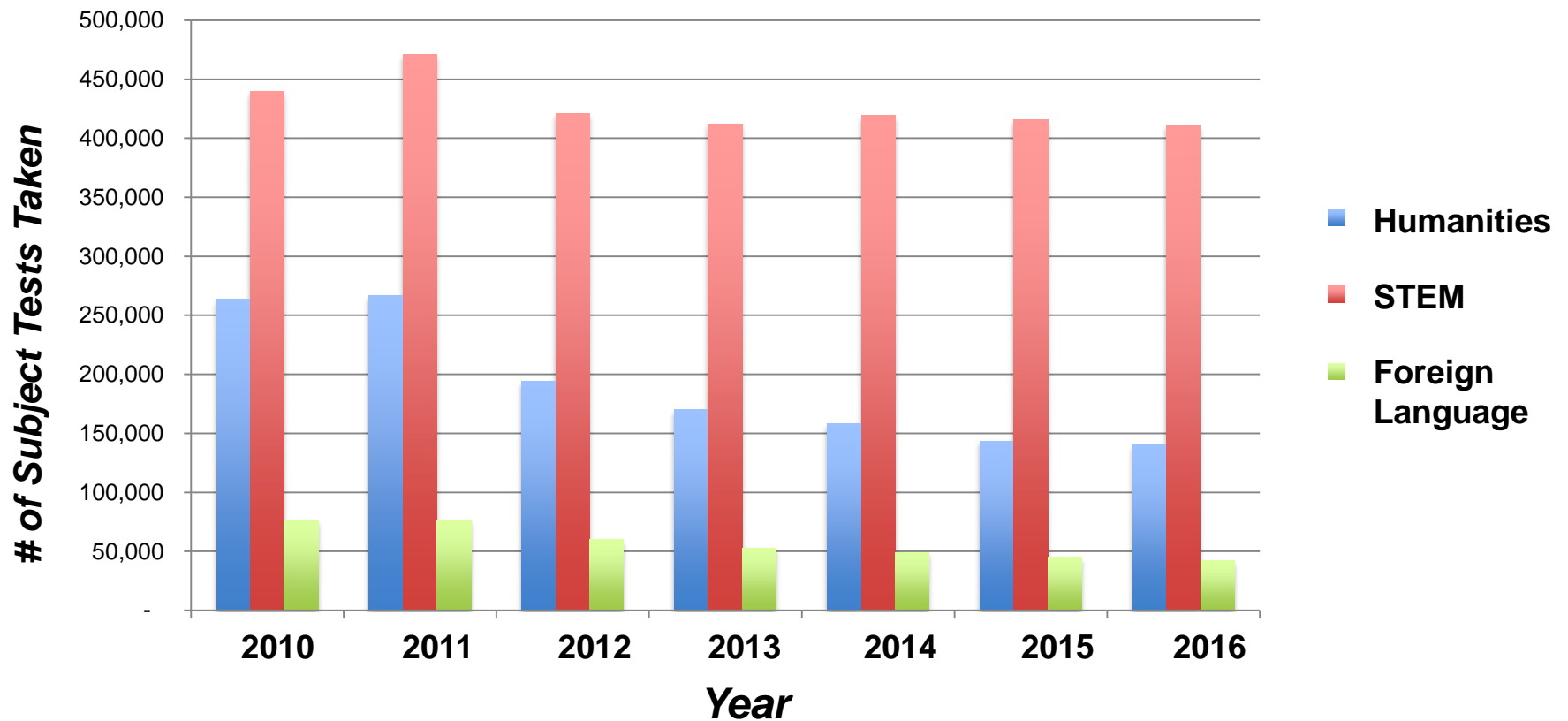




Subject Tests: Options

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

Subject Tests Trends

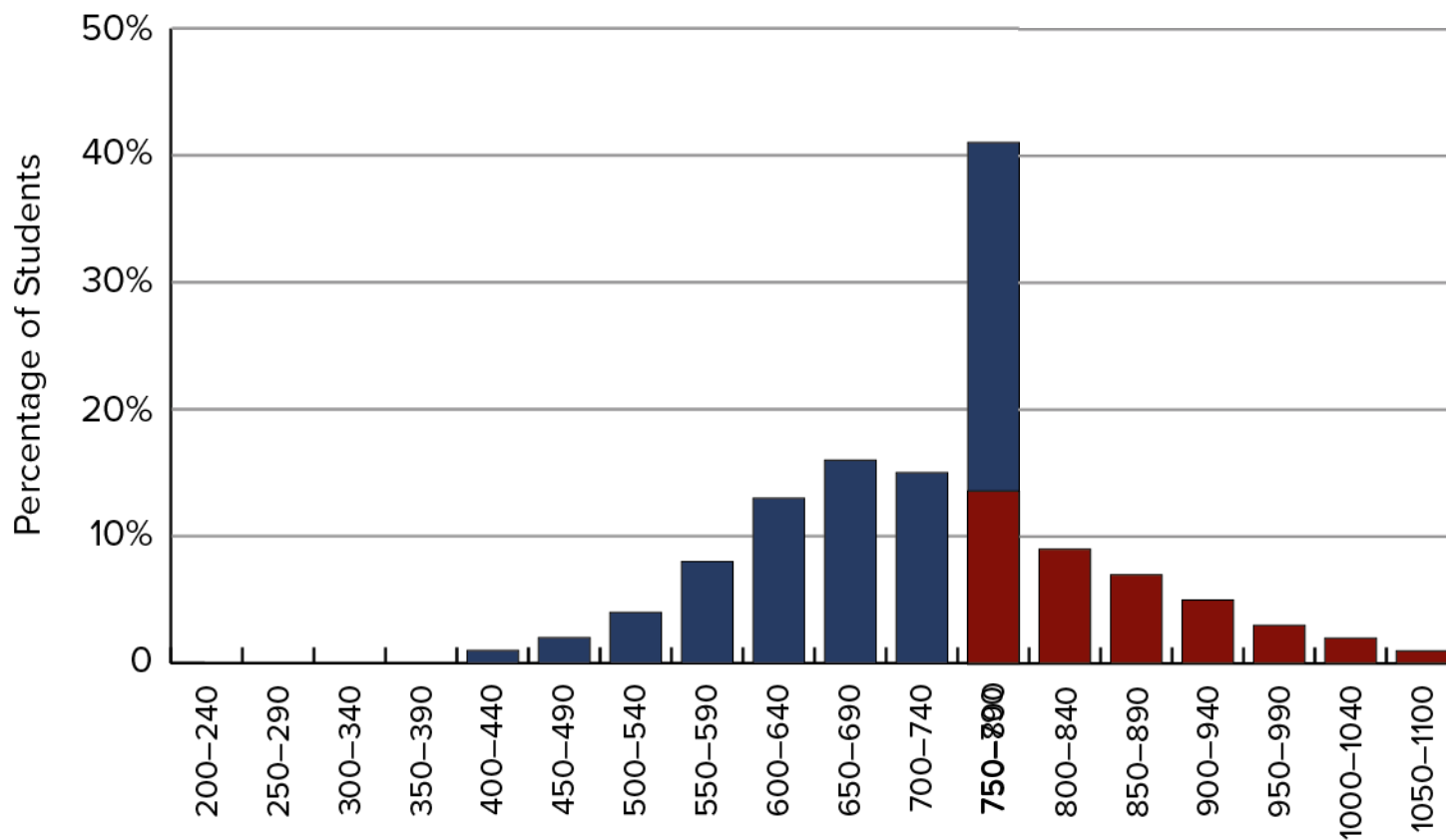


Subject Tests: Status Quo

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

Ignore Subject Test Percentiles

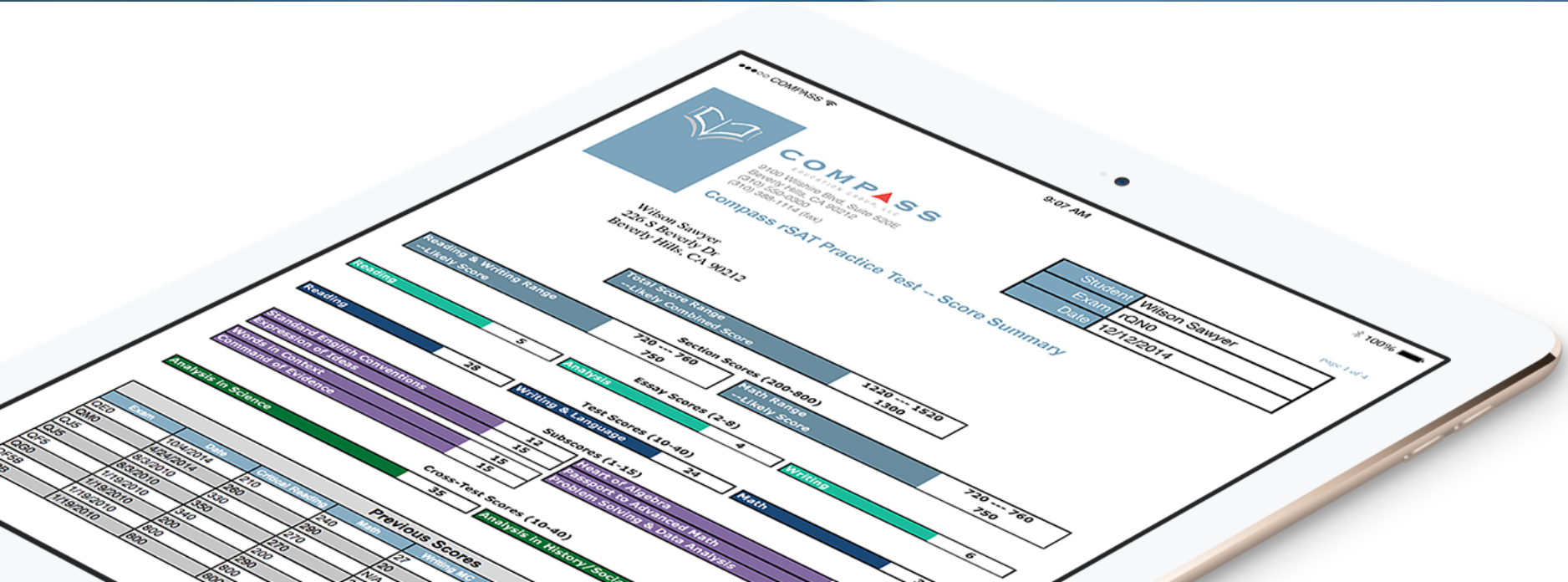
Math Level 2 Subject Test



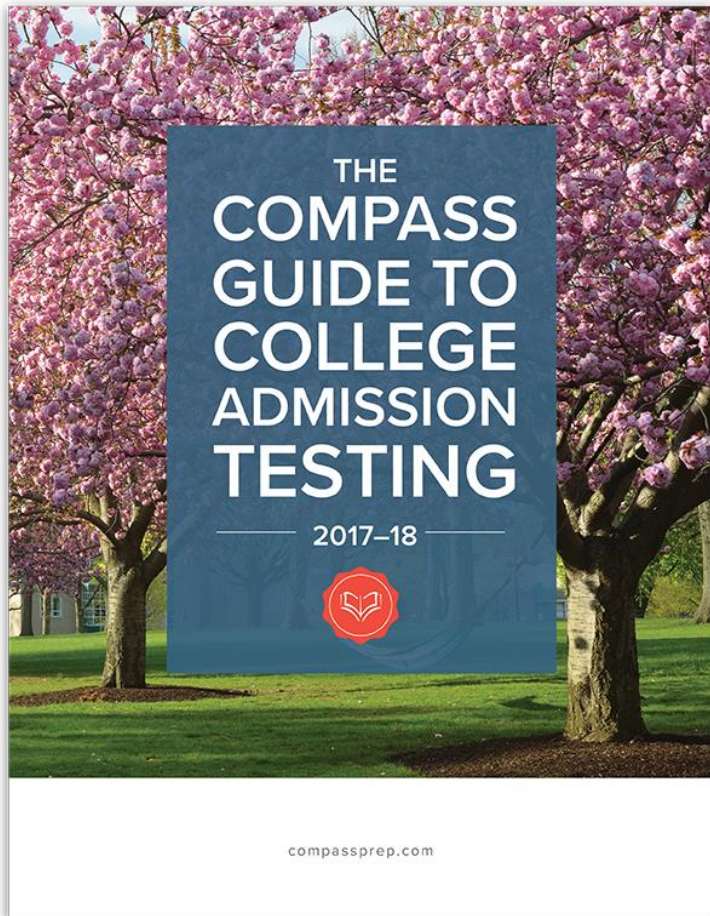
Diagnostic Testing

Compass hosts weekly proctored practice tests
for all college admission tests

East Bay | Marin | Peninsula | South Bay | San Francisco



Counselors' Favorite Pages . . .



"I want every family to receive this terrific resource."

Sharon Cuseo, Harvard-Westlake School

The Competitive Landscape

College Profiles: New England	Acceptance Rate	Yield	NEW SAT			ACT	% Submitting		Test Optional or Test Flexible
			EBRW 25th–75th Percentile	Math 25th–75th Percentile	Total 25th–75th Percentile	Composite 25th–75th Percentile	SAT	ACT	
Amherst College	14	39	720–780	710–790	1430–1570	31–34	53	49	
Babson College	26	27	640–730	640–750	1280–1480	27–30	76	34	
Bates College	22	42	650–740	620–730	1270–1470	28–32	54	27	TO
Bennington College	63	31	640–740	570–700	1210–1440	26–31	38	6	TO
Bentley University	42	26	600–690	620–720	1220–1410	26–30	83	33	
Boston College	34	26	680–750	660–770	1340–1520	30–33	67	49	
Boston University	33	20	650–720	640–760	1290–1480	27–31	77	38	
Bowdoin College	15	50	730–780	720–780	1450–1560	31–34	42	36	TO
Brandeis University	34	22	670–740	670–780	1340–1520	29–32	62	30	TO
Brown University	9	56	720–790	720–790	1440–1580	31–34	71	44	
Clark University	63	14	650–710	610–700	1260–1410	27–31	51	42	TO
Colby College	23	30	680–750	660–760	1340–1510	29–32	67	45	TF

- ✓ Pages 8-14
- ✓ Middle 50th percentile score ranges
- ✓ 360 Popular Colleges by Region

Popular Testing Timelines

SOPHOMORE SCORE
P/SAT: 900–1200
ACT: 17–25

		SAT	ACT
Junior Year	September		○
	October	○	○
	November	○	
	December	○	○
	January		
	February		○*
	March	●	
	April		●
	May	○	
	June	●	○
Summer	July		○*
	August	○	
	September		●
Senior Year	October	●	○
	November	○	○

Testing Window

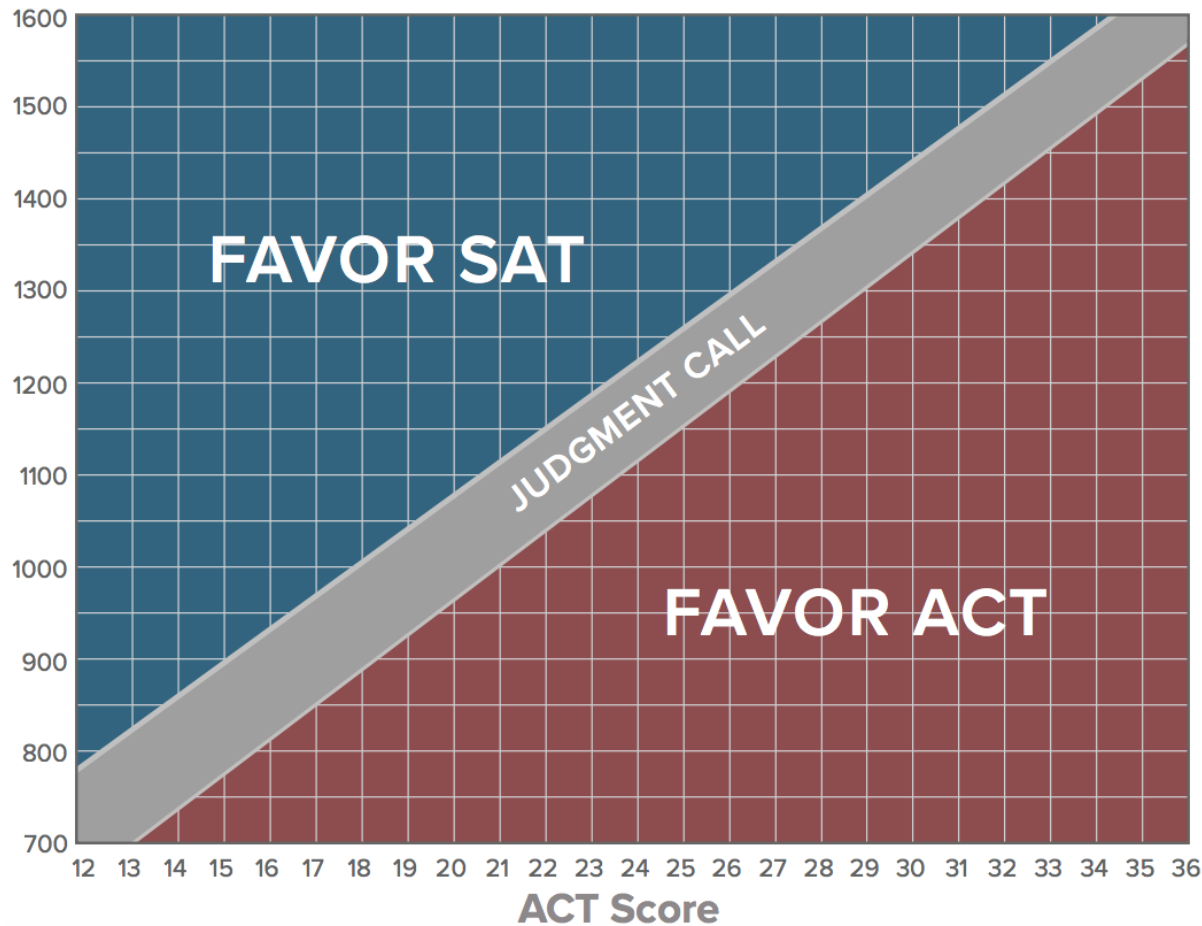
● Most Popular Test Date

● Most Popular Subject Test Date

○ Potential Test Date

- ✓ Pages 16 – 19
- ✓ Long term, comprehensive plans
- ✓ Based on starting scores and goals

Choosing Between ACT & SAT



- ✓ Pages 22 – 27
- ✓ Concordance Table
- ✓ Score Reports Explained

Subject Test Policies

College	Policy
Amherst College	Required: SAT or ACT. Optional essays are recommended. Considered: SAT Subject Tests.
Babson College	Required: SAT or ACT. Considered: SAT Subject Tests.
Barnard College	Required: SAT or ACT. Considered: SAT Subject Tests.
Bates College	Test optional. SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests are considered if submitted.
Boston College	Required: SAT or ACT. Considered: SAT Subject Tests.
Boston University	Required: SAT or ACT. Considered: SAT Subject Tests. Accelerated medical and dental programs require Subject Tests in Chemistry and Math 2. A Subject Test in a foreign language is also recommended for applicants to these programs.
Bowdoin College	Test optional. SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests are considered if submitted. Homeschooled applicants must submit both (A) and (B): (A) SAT or ACT (B) Two SAT Subject Tests.
Brown University	SAT with Essay OR ACT with Writing. Essays are required; Brown recommends, but does not require, the submission of two SAT Subject Tests of the student's choice. Liberal Medical Education Applicants should submit at least one science Subject Test.
Bucknell University	Required: SAT or ACT. Considered: SAT Subject Tests will be considered as "supplemental information."
California Institute of Technology	Required: SAT with Essay or ACT with Writing. Also Required: SAT Subject Test Math Level 2 and one SAT Subject Test in Biology (Ecological), Biology (Molecular), Chemistry, or Physics.

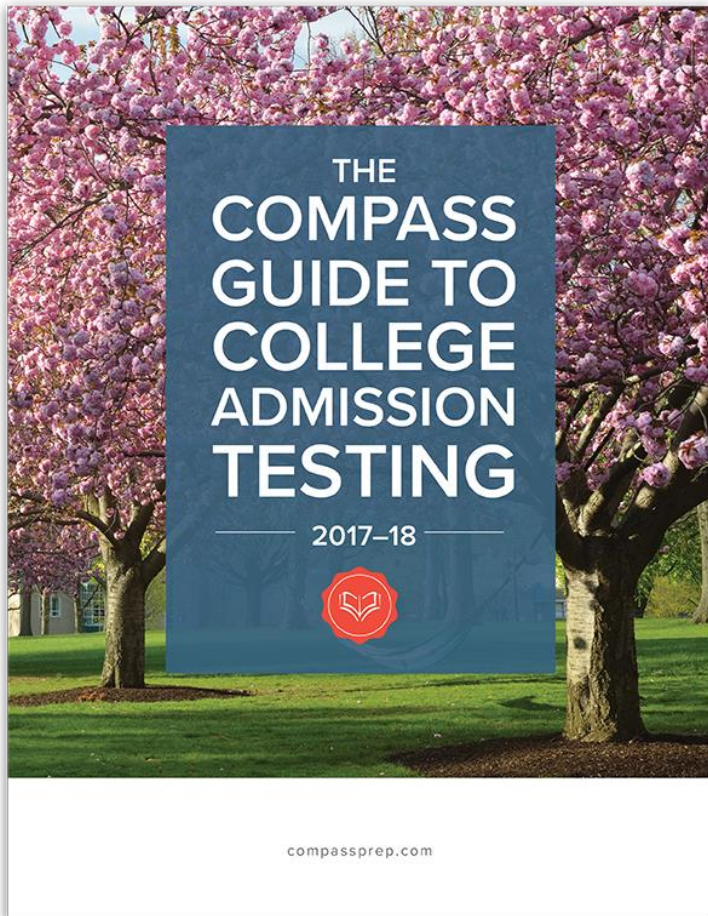
- ✓ Pages 56-61
- ✓ Current Policy by College
- ✓ Content Details for Every Test

Helpful Preparation Resources


2018 Test Dates	Registration	Late Registration	Multiple Choice Score Release ^{††}
March 10th*	February 9th	February 28th	March 23rd–29th
May 5th	April 6th	April 25th	May 18th–24th
June 2nd	May 3rd	May 23rd	July 11th
August 25th*	July 27th*	August 15th*	October 6th*
October 6th*	September 7th*	September 26th*	October 19th*
November 3rd*	October 5th*	October 24th*	November 16th*
December 1st*	November 2nd*	November 21st*	December 14th*

- ✓ **Pages 66 - 87**
- ✓ Test Dates, Registration, Fees
- ✓ Score Submission Policies & Procedures
- ✓ Accommodations
- ✓ Diagnostic Testing & Private Tutoring
- ✓ Tips for Test Day

Q & A



www.compassprep.com/schools/acalanes

 Please fill out this form to receive information on practice test opportunities and other helpful resources.

Student Name		Parent Name
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
School	Class Year	Parent Phone Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Parent Email Address
		<input type="text"/>

In-home Test Preparation | 800-620-6250