



ACT/SAT: Which Test is Right for Me

Kaplan Test Prep

October 18, 2017

Tonight's Agenda

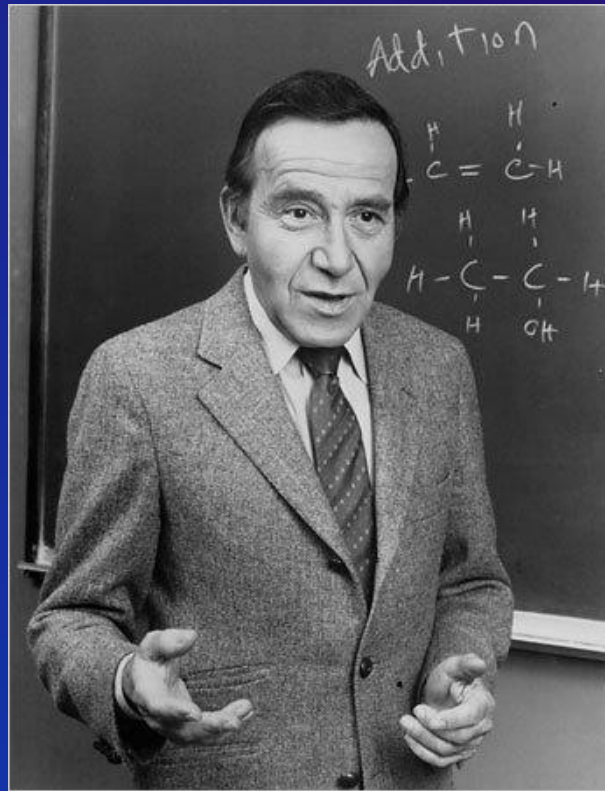
Why do
Admissions
Tests
Matter?

SAT vs ACT

Next Steps



Why do College Admissions Tests Matter?



Stanley Kaplan

Why Admissions Tests Matter:



A good test score can open the door to more colleges and academic scholarships. Merit based scholarships are based on two factors: SAT or ACT scores and high school grades



A large percentage of colleges place considerable or moderate importance on test scores*



Future employers may ask to see an asking entry level applicant's SAT/ACT scores.

*According to a National Association for College Admission Counseling study.

** Korn, Melissa. "Job Hunting? Dig Up Those Old SAT Scores." *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones & Company. March 25, 2014. April 9, 2014.

SAT/ACT Which Test is Right for me?

POP QUIZ



Fact or Myth?

“Well, the SAT is the more widely accepted college admissions test, so I should probably take that one.”

Myth!

The FACT is:

All colleges and universities accept either the SAT or the ACT. Students should prepare to take the test they feel they will score the best on! Many students today are also **taking both the SAT and ACT.**

Fact or Myth?

“I have heard that the ACT is much easier than the SAT”

Myth!

The FACT is:

The ACT is not easier than the SAT, or vice versa. They are both standardized exams that equally test students on critical thinking and reasoning, just with different styles. One is not easier than the other.

Fact or Myth?

“I like Science and I do well in my Science classes at school. I should probably prepare for the ACT only since there is a Science section!!”

Myth!

The FACT is:

While there is an ACT Science section, it does not test students on Biology or Chemistry content. Rather, students are tested on their reasoning and logic with questions that are based on science passages, data, and graphs. A few questions may require science knowledge, but the section is meant to test students on their reasoning skills.

Fact or Myth?

“My target school doesn’t require an essay score from the SAT or ACT, but I have heard it’s a good idea to take the optional essay at least once....”

Fact!






Even if a student’s target school isn’t “requiring” an essay section score on the application, it is still a good idea for students to sit for the optional essay at least once.

- Opens up the possibilities to applying to other schools who may require the essay
- You cannot take just the essay portion at one time. You will have to sit for the whole SAT / ACT again


SAT vs ACT

SAT Overview


SAT Overview

Category	Features
The SAT	400-1600 scoring, 3 hours without essay
 Reading	65 minutes, 52 questions
 Writing	35 minutes, 44 questions
 Math	25 minutes, 20 questions, no calculator
 Math	55 minutes, 38 questions, calculator
 Essay	Requires reading a passage, describing development of argument, 50 minutes long


SAT Overview

Category	Features
 <p>Evidence-based Reading & Writing Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading and Writing combined <p><u>Reading details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No sentence completions• Passage topics include US and World Literature, History/Social Studies, and Sciences (500 - 750 words)• 65 minutes <p><u>Writing and Language details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on extended prose (400 - 500 words)• 35 minutes

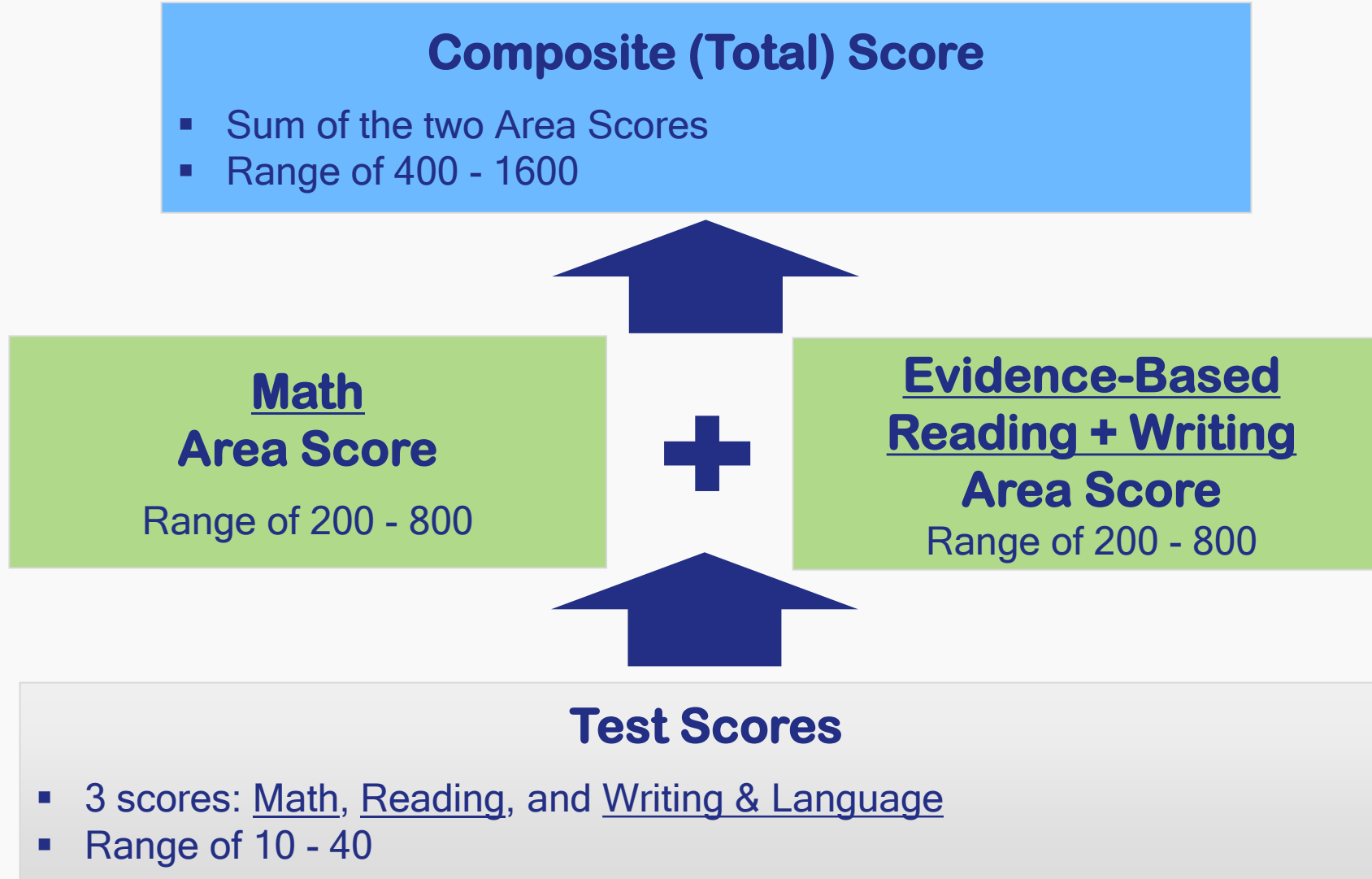
SAT Overview

Category	Features
 Math Section	<p><u>Three areas of concentrated focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem solving and data analysis• “The Heart of Algebra”• “Passport to Advanced Math” <p>55 minutes with a Calculator 25 minutes <u>without</u> a Calculator</p>

SAT Overview

Category	Features
 Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay is <u>optional</u>• 50 minutes• Requires students to analyze a 650-750 word document and explain how the author builds an argument <p>3 Scores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reading✓ Analysis✓ Writing

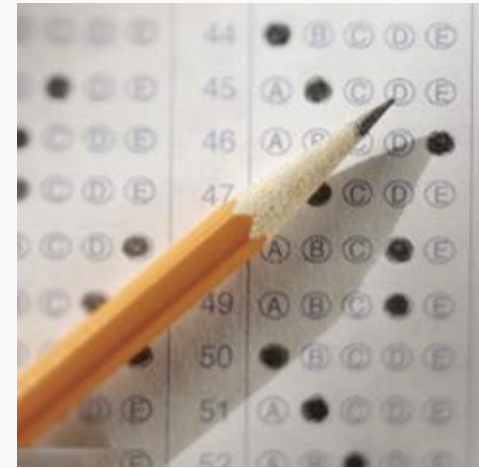
SAT Scoring Details



Scoring SAT

Understanding Scoring






- Correct Answer: +1 point
- Omitted Question: 0 points
- Incorrect Answer: 0 points



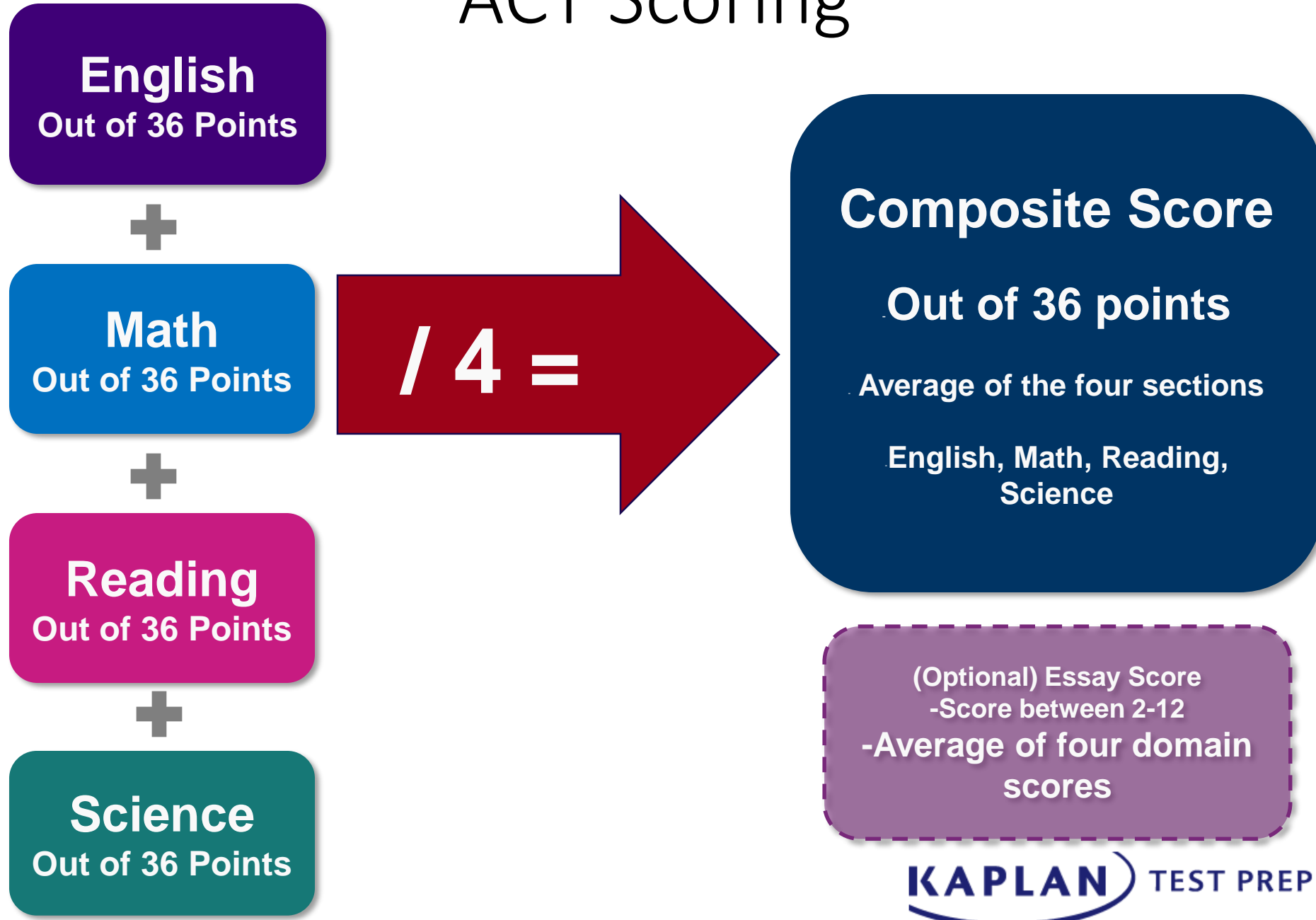
**Answer every question.
If you don't know the answer, guess!
You won't be penalized. Every point helps**

ACT Overview

ACT Overview

Category		Features
The ACT		1-36 scoring, three hours without essay
	English	45 minutes, 75 questions
	Math	60 minutes, 60 questions
	Reading	35 minutes, 40 questions
	Science	35 minutes, 40 questions
	Essay	Requires analysis of 3 different perspectives , 40 minutes long, optional

ACT Scoring



SAT vs ACT Recap

Similarities Between the Tests

SAT & ACT

Both used for college admissions

Used for scholarships + merit-based grants

Can retake several times

Colleges accept both

Typically taken Spring of junior year + Fall of senior year

Approx three to four hours long

Optional essay

No wrong answer penalty

SAT/ACT Which Test is right for me?

SAT and ACT: Notable Differences

ACT?

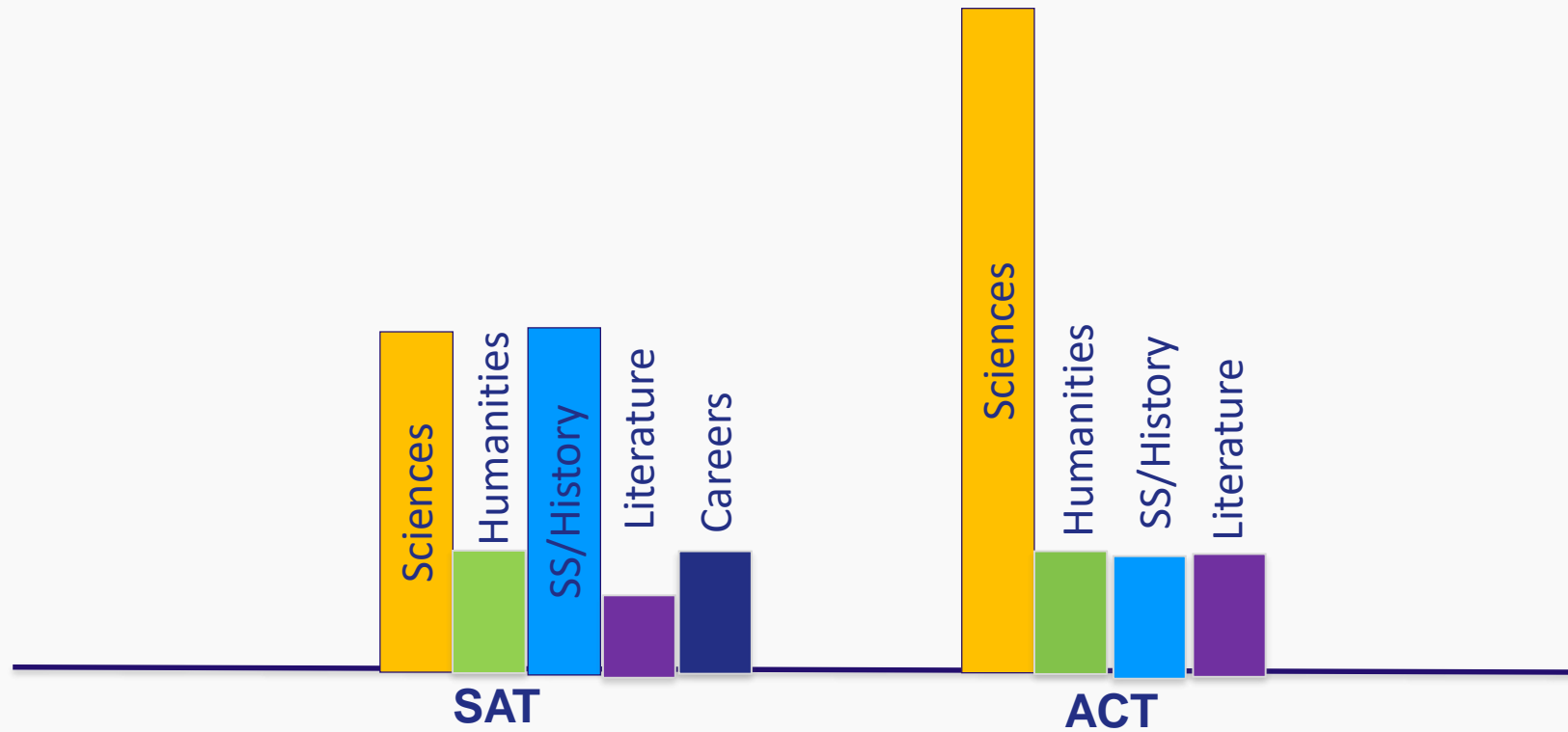
SAT?

What's the Difference?

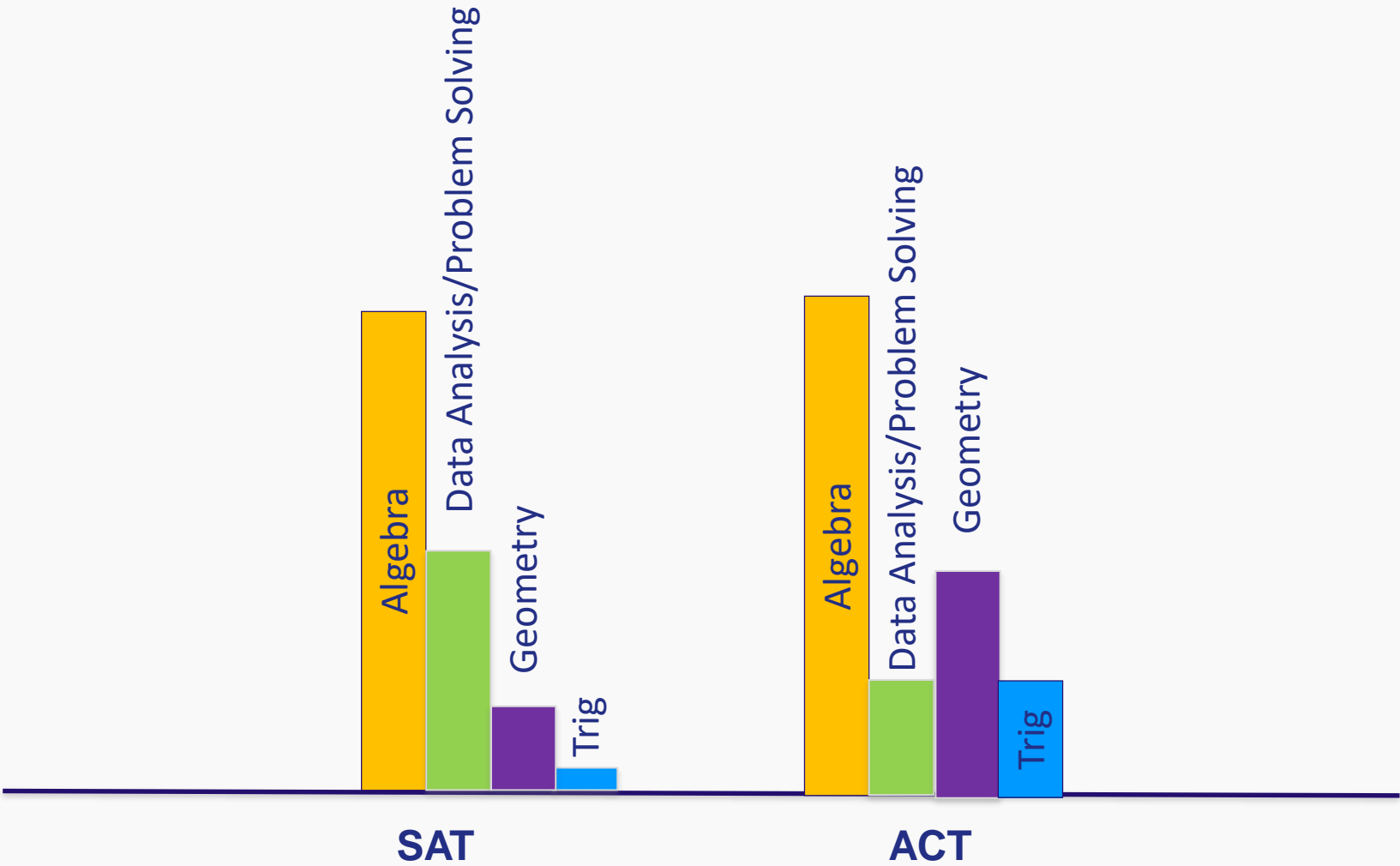
	SAT	ACT
Reading	More Social Studies Reading	More Science Reading
Math	More data analysis	More geometry
	No calculator section	Calculator use allowed
Scoring	50% math, 50% verbal	25% math, 50% verbal 25% science
The best way to know is to take a practice test!		



Reading Passage Topics

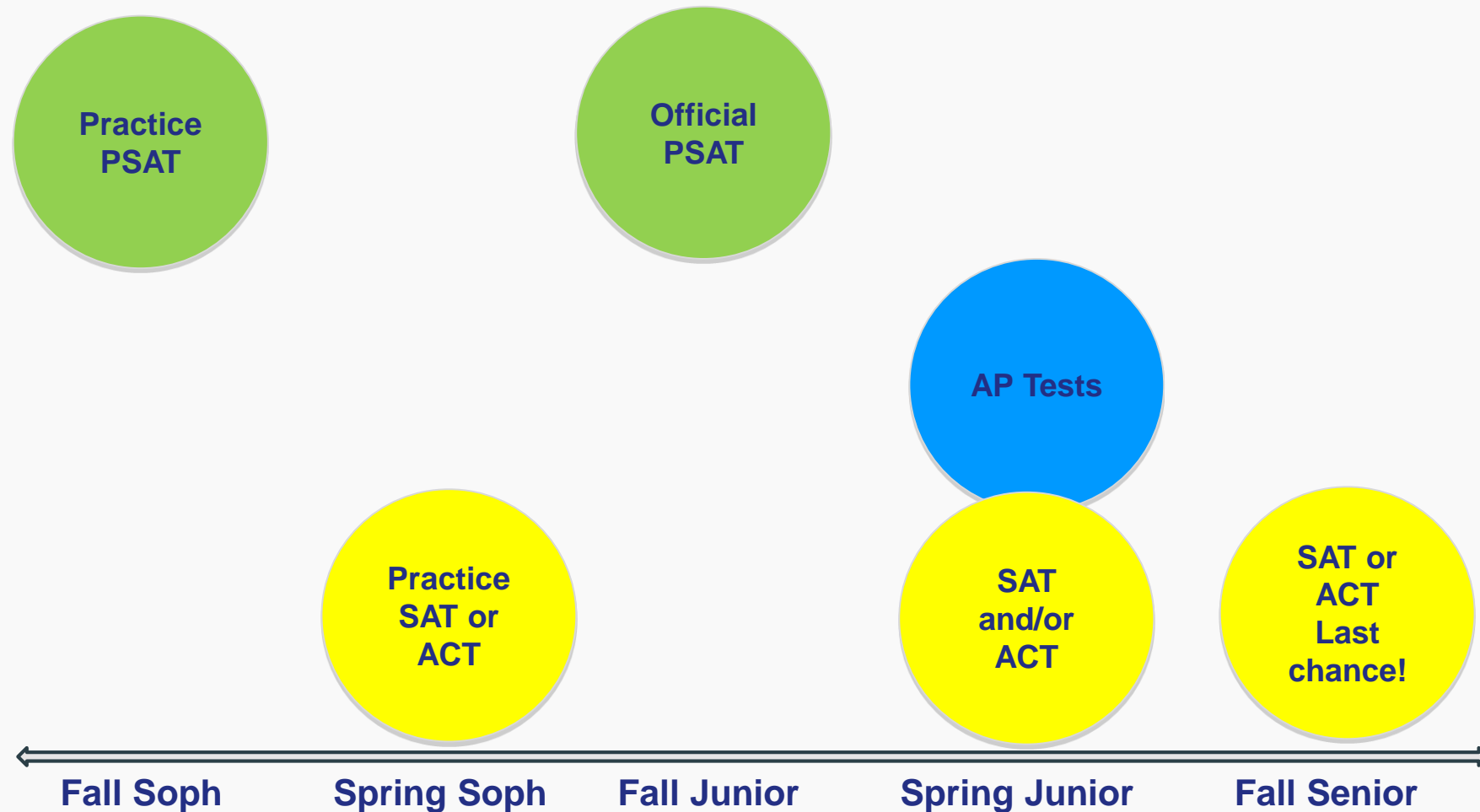


Math Skills Tested



Next Steps

Test Taking Timeline



Your Next Steps

Junior Year

- PSAT in October for National Merit Qualification
- Focus on Academics – this is a critical year!
- Research admissions requirements for target, reach, and safety schools
- **Prep for the SAT or ACT**
- Take AP and Subject Tests

Senior Year

- Take the SAT and/or ACT for the last time
- Take AP and Subject Tests
- Request letters of recommendation
- Complete and send out college applications
- Fill out FAFSA and research scholarships

Combination SAT ACT Practice Test: In person or online



ACT[®] or SAT[®]
Which test is right for you?

FIND OUT

Thank you

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