

SAT Subject Tests Frequently-asked Questions

What are Subject Tests?

Most colleges require standardized tests for admission. Standardized tests can include the SAT Reasoning Test or the American College Test (ACT). SAT Subject Tests are also used to make admission decisions at some colleges, and those who require them generally ask for two tests. Subject Tests are one-hour multiple-choice exams about specific subjects you have studied. Students may take one, two or three Subject Tests on any test date. Subject Tests are best taken at the end of particular courses that cover the test topics. A chart of available Subject Tests and who should take them appears in this handout.

Subject Tests are given by The College Board and you must pay a fee and register well in advance to take them.

Why should I take Subject Tests?

Because students grow and change throughout high school they cannot identify the colleges that will interest them in senior year. You may decide to apply to colleges that require Subject Tests, so it is wise to have taken them in case they are needed. The goal is to take subject tests when you are taking courses that prepare you for them so that additional, out-of-school preparation is not necessary.

When should I take Subject Tests?

The ideal time to take a Subject Test is in June of the year in which you complete the subject. If another obligation prevents you from taking a Subject Test in June you can take it in May, though you may not have completed the curriculum.

Subject Tests and SATs are given on the first Saturday of October, November, December, January, March or April, May and June of each year. Cold Spring Harbor High School is a test center in October and June only. May and June test centers fill quickly, so register at least two months in advance. Students with disabilities should register three months in advance.

What if I do not do well on my Subject Tests? Who will see my scores?

Do not be concerned about whether or not you will do well; just do the best you can. The chances are that you will take other Subject Tests while in high school, and you will be able to choose which of your Subject Test scores to send to colleges in senior year. In the meantime your scores will remain in your file, where they are available only to you and to your counselor. You do not have to worry that the scores will be sent anywhere because you are the only person who can pay the College Board to send them.

How do I register for Subject Tests?

Registration is done online at www.collegeboard.org website. You must establish an account to register. The account you establish will be used throughout high school to register for all SATs and Subject Tests. You will need the Cold Spring Harbor 6-digit School code: 331437

SAT Subject Tests: What they are and when to take them

Colleges who require SAT Subject Tests will typically ask for two in addition to the SAT or ACT. Students are encouraged to consult with their teachers about readiness and are advised to consider outside preparation before registering for any Subject Test. Consultation with your school counselor is also recommended, as standardized testing is but one part of an overall academic plan. All tests except Languages with Listening are given several times per year. Students must register and pay testing fees online at least 6 weeks in advance of any testing date except June, which requires at least 12 weeks advance registration due to extremely heavy demand in our region. Students with disabilities who receive pre-approved test accommodations should allow 12 weeks in advance of any registration. ***Most colleges allow students to choose whether and which Subject Test scores to report when college applications are submitted. Many colleges do not require Subject Tests for admission.***

Visit www.collegeboard.com/subjecttests for more info.

SUBJECT TEST	WHO SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING THE TEST	EARLIEST RECOMMENDED TEST DATE
Literature	Students with superior ability to analyze literature	not before December of junior year
United States History	Students completing AP US History	May or June of the year the course is completed
World History	Students completing AP World History or AP European History	June of the year the course is completed
Math Level 1	Students completing Algebra 2	June of the year the course is completed
Math Level 2	Students completing Precalculus	June of the year the course is completed
Biology E – ecological emphasis or Biology M – molecular emphasis	Students completing AP Biology or Molecular/Genomic Biology	May or June of the year the course is completed
Chemistry	Students completing Chemistry Honors or AP Chemistry	May or June of the year the course is completed
Physics	Students completing AP Physics 1 & 2 or AP Physics C	May or June of the year the course is completed
Languages: Reading only French German Italian Latin Modern Hebrew Spanish	Students completing Level IV who are strong readers in the target language	Not before June of the year Level IV is completed unless the student is a native speaker
Languages with Listening Given once per year, in November Chinese French German Japanese Korean Spanish	Native speakers and non-native speakers who consider themselves fluent	Not before June of the year Level IV is completed unless the student is a native speaker