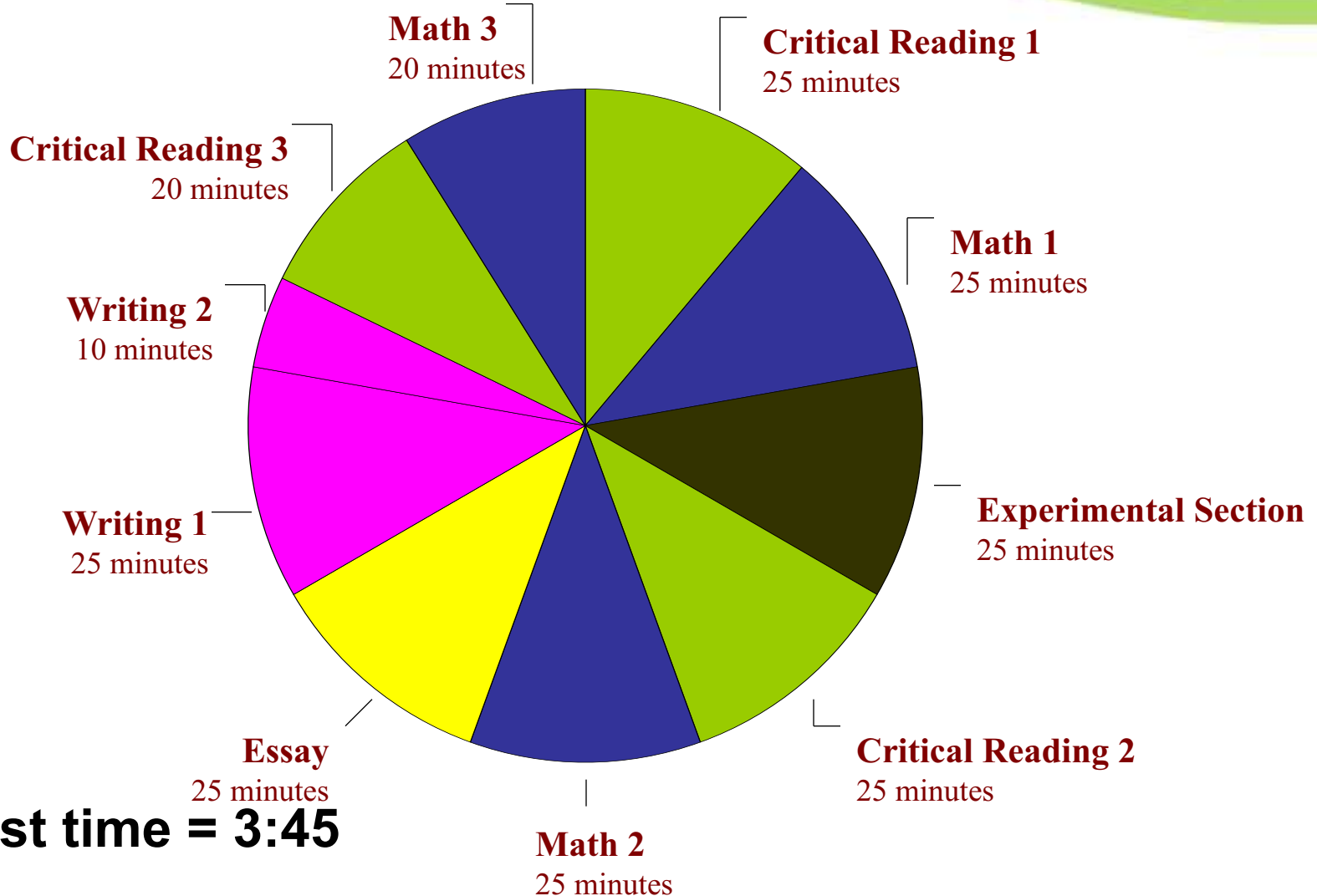


SAT & ACT Results' Night

*What you need to know now
about the SAT and ACT.*

Presented by Sylvan Learning.

SAT Reasoning Test



SAT Scoring



- 1 raw point for each correct answer.
- Loss of 1/4 raw point for each incorrect answer.
- No penalty or gain for omitted questions
- Scaled score 200-800.
- Overall score is the **sum** of 3 sections.
- Can take test multiple times and take the highest score overall or sometimes from each section and combine for the best score (cherry-picking).
- Essay score between 2-12.

Breaking Down the 2015 SAT

- SAT Critical Reading
- SAT Mathematics
- SAT Writing

SAT Critical Reading: What is it Really Testing?

- **Passage Based Reading**
 - Long, often uninteresting, and dense passages
 - Become as familiar as possible with these types of passages
 - “in line” strategy
- **Sentence Completion**
 - Testing vocabulary

The Official SAT Question of the Day

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, *best* fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

The meeting lasted more than five hours as participants ----- the presentation of the speaker, gradually polarized into factions, and, by the end, were further from ----- than at the start.

- a. aided...harmony**
- b. interrupted...a consensus**
- c. denounced...a scandal**
- d. ended...an argument**
- e. encouraged...disagreement**

(from www.collegeboard.com)

SAT Math: What is it Really Testing?

- **Math**
 - Basic math concepts
 - There is little difficult math on the SAT, but the test itself can be difficult
 - If you are lost with the formulas, find a simpler approach
 - Difficulty level strategy

SAT Math: Example Question.

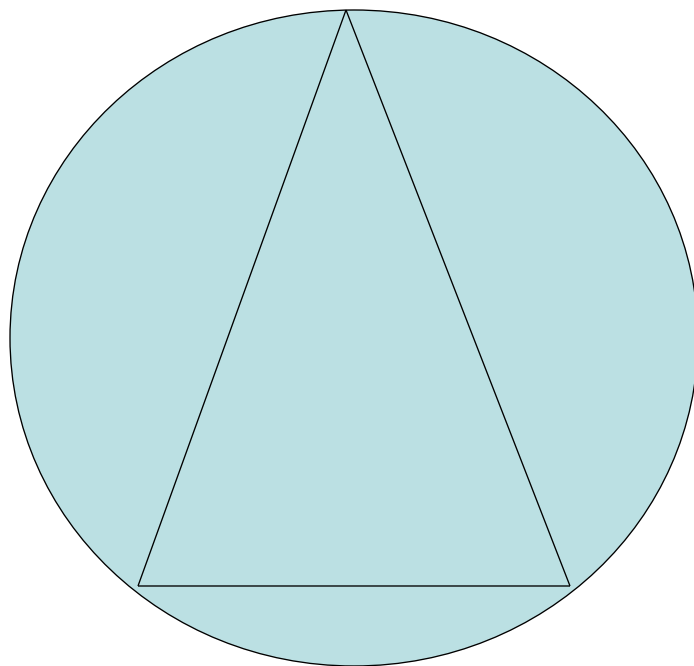


20. What is the maximum number of points a circle and triangle can share?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5
- E. 6

SAT Math: Example Question.

Well, it must be three, right? Too easy!



SAT Math: Example Question.

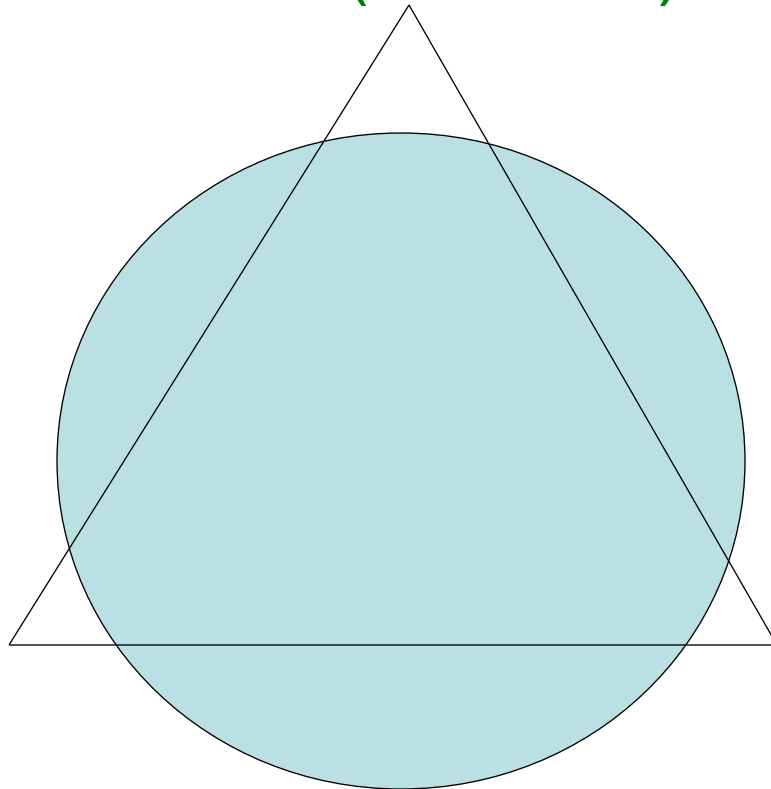


20. What is the **MAXIMUM** number of points a circle and triangle can share?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5
- E. 6

SAT Math: Example Question.

The answer is **SIX**. (choice E).



SAT Writing: What is it Really Testing?

- **Improving Sentences**
 - Tests ability to correct sentences with mistakes
 - Tests ability to identify most effective and grammatically correct expression of ideas
- **Essay**
 - Looks for strong opinion and good organization
 - No “right” or “wrong” answers, but opinion should be backed by appropriate examples from: personal experience, current events, history, etc.

SAT Writing: Example Essay Prompt.



Carefully consider the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment that follows.

Cell phones have arguably made it easier for people to stay in touch. Some warn, however, that having a cell phone on vacation is a big mistake because it allows people to contact you at a time when you are simply trying to relax and have a good time.

Assignment: Are advances in technology making the world a better place? Plan and write an essay in which you convey a point of view on the issue presented. Make sure you support your position with reasoning and examples from your reading, studies, personal experiences, or observations.

SAT Scores Mean Scores in Recent Years.



Year Reading Math Writing

2006 503 518 497

2008 500 514 493

2010 500 515 491

2012 496 514 488

2014 497 513 487

SOURCE: The College Board

Redesigned SAT (2016): Overview



- 3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
- Components
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
 - Reading Test
 - Writing and Language Test
 - Math (calculator and calculator-free parts)
 - Essay (optional)
- Score ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay
- Essay results reported separately

Redesigned SAT (2016): Important Features



- Continued emphasis on reasoning alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness and success.
- Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact.
- Essay tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text
- **Rights-only scoring** (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).

The “Other Animal” Out There: The ACT.



Subject	# of Questions	Time
English	75	45 min.
Mathematics	60	60 min.
Reading	40	35 min.
Science Reasoning	40	35 min.
Essay (optional)	1	30 min.

Total Test Time: 2:55 – 3:25

ACT Scoring



- 1 raw point for each correct answer
- No penalty for incorrect answers
- No penalty for omitted questions
- Scaled scores range from 1-36
- Composite score is the average of individual scores of 4 subtests
- The optional essay is scored separately and ranges from 2-12

Breaking Down the ACT

- ACT English
- ACT Math
- ACT Reading
- ACT Science
- ACT Writing-optional

ACT English: What is it Really Testing?

- **Usage/Mechanics – 40 Questions**
 - Punctuation – 10 questions
 - Grammar and Usage – 12 questions
 - Sentence Structure – 18 questions
- **Rhetorical Skills – 35 Questions**
 - Style – 12 questions
 - Organization – 11 questions
 - Strategy – 12 questions

ACT Math: What is it Really Testing?

- **Math**
 - Math skills from Basic Math through Trigonometry
 - There is no order of difficulty within the Math section of the ACT

ACT Reading: What is it Really Testing?

- One passage from each area:
 - Prose fiction – short story or excerpt from longer fictional work
 - Humanities – art, music, literature, theatre
 - Social Studies – History, politics, sociology
 - Natural science – Biology, chemistry, astronomy
- Followed by 10 questions

ACT Science: What is it Really Testing?

- **Science**
 - 7 Science passages followed by 5-7 questions each
 - Topics include biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy, meteorology, physics
 - 3 types: Data Representation, Research Summary, Conflicting Hypotheses

ACT Writing: What is it really testing?

- There is no “right” or “wrong” answer
- Take a strong stand
- Developed essay to include: opening paragraph, body paragraphs, closing paragraph
- 3 “academic” examples
- Avoid hypothetical examples

ACT Scores

Mean Scores in Recent Years.



Year	Comp.	English	Math	Reading	Science
2006	21	21	21	21	21
2008	21	21	21	21	21
2010	21	21	21	21	21
2012	21	21	21	21	21
2014	21	20	21	21	21
Indiana	21.9	21.1	21.9	22.3	21.6

ACT vs. 2015 SAT



- Scores based on total correct answers
- Scaled between 1-36 per section
- Overall score is average of 4 sections
- “Score Choice”
- Essay optional

Scores based on correct answers minus incorrect answers
Scaled between 200-800 per section
Overall score is sum of sections
“Score choice”
Essay is mandatory

Which Test to Take

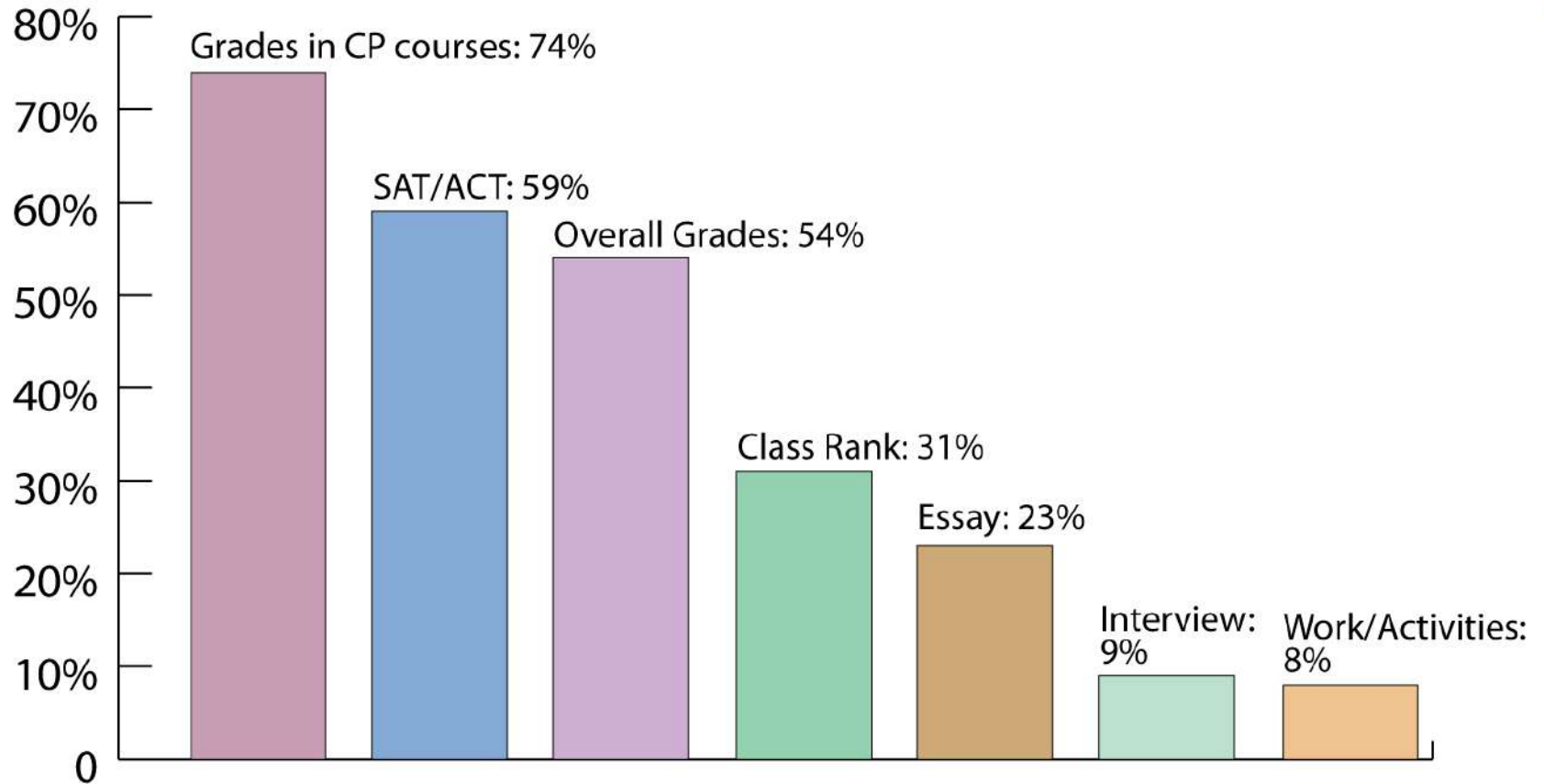
Factors to Consider

- ***The one that the student does better on!***
- Testing schedule
- In general, SAT favors strong verbal students while the ACT seems to favor strong math and science students
- Test anxiety issues? The score penalty for the SAT may increase anxiety

What is a Good Score?

- Depends on the following:
 - The school to which you are applying.
 - The scores of the other students applying to that school.
 - How cheaply you want to go to that school.
- A list of SAT and ACT scores for popular schools is included in your packet.

College Admissions Factors



Why Entrance Exams are Important



For Colleges

Creates level playing field

Adjusts for grade inflation

Helps predict student success

For Students

Chance to make up for sub-par effort in high school

Chance to earn scholarships \$\$\$\$\$\$

Chance to separate one student from another

How Much Does College Cost per Year?

- **Public universities:\$20,000**
 - Tuition, room and board, books, supplies computers, transportation, labs, other)
- **Private universities:\$40,000**
- **Elite private universities:\$50,000+**

The Best Part-Time Job Out There For High School Students.



- Most schools offer annual merit-based scholarships from \$1,000 to \$10,000 or more based in part on SAT & ACT scores.
- A Sylvan Prep course is 34 hours, including the practice tests.
- Independent study and homework - 34 hours.
- Three actual exams taken - 12 hours. (80hrs.)
- (\$4,000-\$40,000+) / 80hrs = \$50 to \$500 per hr.

College is Worth It!

- Estimated lifetime earnings by education level:
 - High school grad: \$1,300,000
 - Some college: \$1,600,000
 - Bachelor's degree: \$2,400,000
 - Professional degree: \$4,400,000

*Source: US Census Bureau.

When Do You Take The SAT or ACT?

- Sophomore Year, Spring Semester at the earliest.
- Junior Year at the latest for a first-time test.
- Senior Year, October at the latest to be eligible for merit scholarships.

How Can Sylvan Help? SAT/ACT Prep



- **Comprehensive SAT/ACT Prep Class** – Our group course meets for 6-8 weeks. It includes 2 practice tests and instruction in all areas of the SAT/ACT that covers strategies and concept review. 3 of 4 students who take this prep course have raised their SAT score 160 points or more and their ACT composite score 4 points or more. **\$695.**
- **Individual SAT/ACT Tutoring** – Individualized instruction for as few or as many hours desired is available at both centers.

How Can Sylvan Help? HS and College Prep



- **Advanced Reading Skills**
- **Study Skills**
- **Writing Skills**
- **Math Skills: Pre-Algebra through Calculus**
- **Homework Support: Math, Sciences, Social Studies, Language Arts, Foreign Languages**

Resources



Greenwood Sylvan

Kassie Knerr, Center Director

8729 US Highway 31 S.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

317-888-0438

sylvan1801@comcast.net

Franklin Sylvan

Shawn Sullivan, Center Director

598 Ironwood Dr. (on US 31 S.)

Franklin, IN 46131

317-346-6604

franklin@gosylvan.com

Other Useful Resources:

www.collegeboard.com

www.act.org

nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search