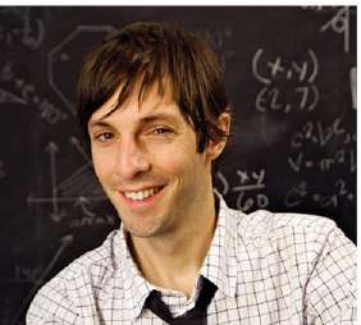


REVOLUTION
transforming education

PSAT-SAT-ACT

Montgomery High School, September 29, 2014



For more information, and to
receive the special
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R...

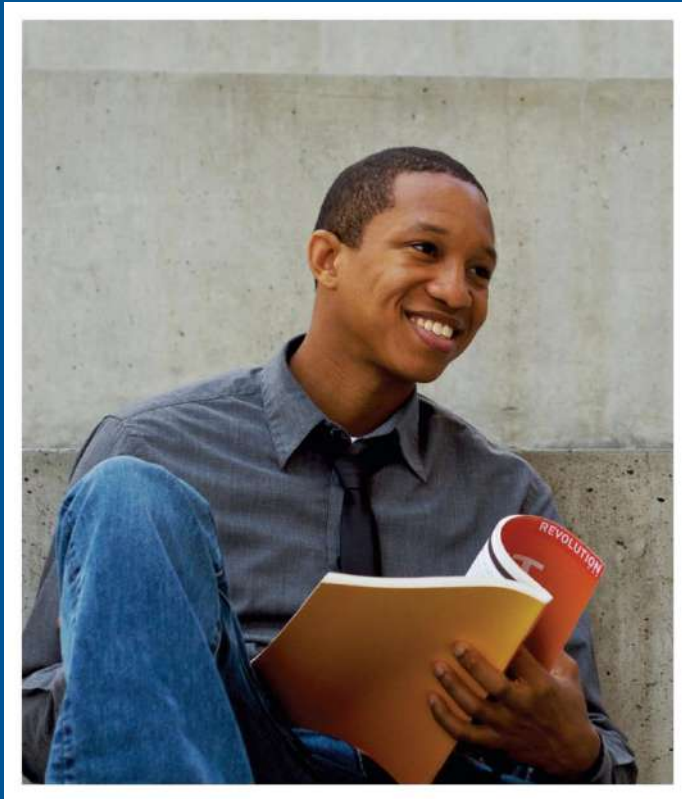
Fady Bishai

Senior Regional Manager

Fady.Bishai@revolutionprep.com

856.834.0710

What we'll cover tonight



1. What is the PSAT
2. Interpreting your PSAT results (when you get them)
3. Using the structure of the PSAT/SAT/ACT to your advantage
4. Why does the test matter, anyway?
5. Next Steps: Testing timeline and prep options

What is the PSAT?



- Practice version of the SAT
- For sophomores: The first exposure to college admissions testing
- For juniors: A chance to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program
- For everyone: A chance to find out “where you stand” so that you can prepare effectively for the real SAT



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The National Center for Fair & Open Testing

The **National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest)** works to end the misuses and flaws of standardized testing and to ensure that evaluation of students, teachers and schools is fair, open, valid and educationally beneficial.

[Learn more about us and our mission.](#)

Spotlight

8 Ways To Fight High-Stakes Testing Infographic Now Available

New: January 23, 2013: FairTest has created a single page infographic highlighting some points from our **Eight Ways to Fight High-Stakes Testing Fact Sheet**. See it and download a full sized printable PDF of it at <http://fairtest.org/8-ways-to-fight-infographic>

[Read more...](#)

Common Core Assessments: More Tests, But Not Much Better.

New FairTest fact sheet explains that the looming multi-state standardized tests are "vaporware"--still more hype than substance--and are unlikely to be much of an improvement over current tests. Many school infrastructures will not be able to handle the computer load, and the high stakes will continue to damage children, teachers and schools.

[Read more...](#)

Sign the National Resolution on High-Stakes Testing NOW!

Join more than 11,000 individuals and 400 organizations who have already signed.

FairTest finds that nearly 850 four-year colleges do not use the SAT I or ACT to admit substantial numbers of bachelor degree applicants.

[See the searchable listing of schools.](#)

[Find out how and why colleges go Test Optional](#)

What's New at FairTest

- 8 Ways To Fight High-Stakes Testing Infographic
- Pop Quiz on Testing: Are You Keeping Up?
- FairTest Statement of Support for Seattle Teachers' Test Boycott

[Read more](#)

Members of the Media:

+++++
REVOLUTION

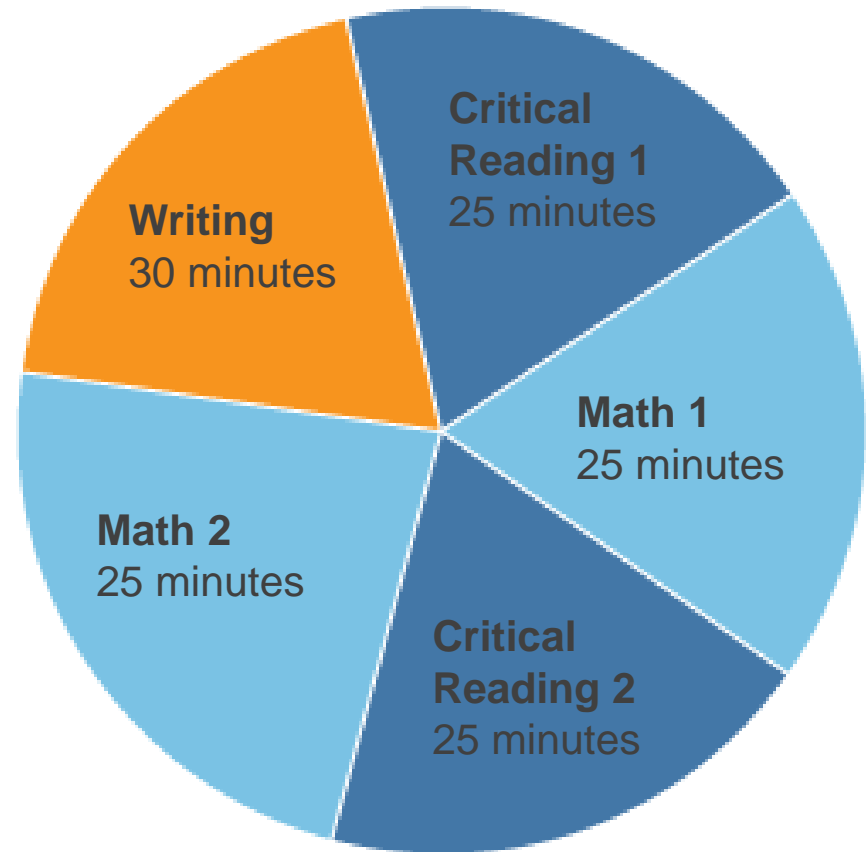
Understanding the Score Report

PSAT Exam 8A				
Angelique Alcantara				
336089				
READING	MATH	WRITING	TOTAL	
45	52	55	152	

- Section scores – range from 20-80
- Total score – sum of the Math, Reading, and Writing section scores

The PSAT

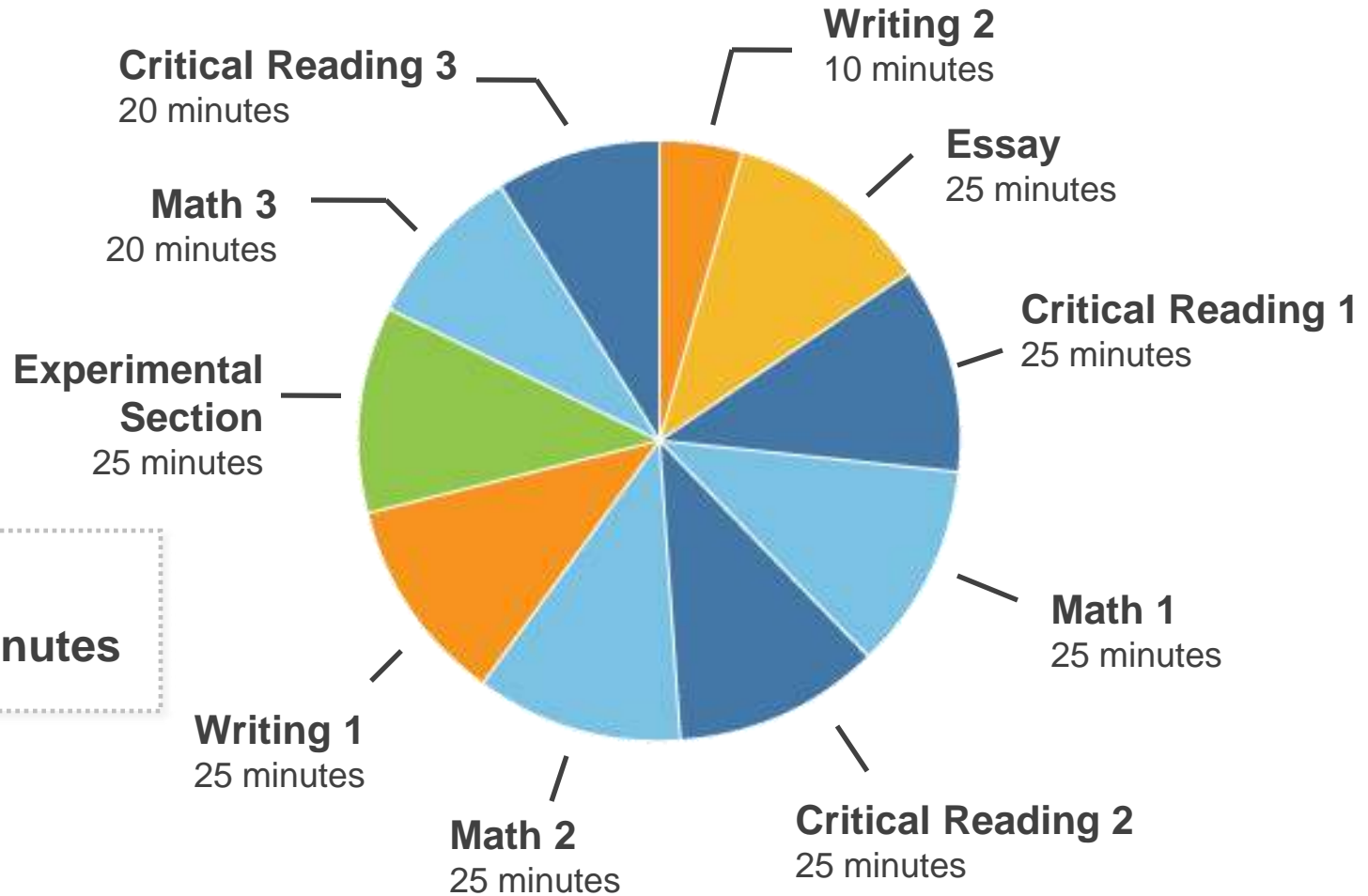
Total Time:
2 hours, 10 minutes



Going from the PSAT to the SAT

- 95+ percent of the same type of content
- There are only three differences between the PSAT and SAT:
 1. The SAT is *slightly* harder
 2. The SAT has a 25-minute essay
 3. The SAT is *much* longer (~4 hrs.)!

The SAT Reasoning Test



Total Time:
3 hours, 45 minutes

SAT Scoring

- Three sub-scores: Math, Critical Reading, and Writing
- Each sub-section is scaled from 200-800
- The national average for each section is roughly 500 (1500 total)

SAT Math

- Math Topics on the SAT
 - Basic math concepts through Algebra II
 - There is no difficult **math** on the SAT, but the **test** itself can be difficult
- Important Tips
 - Never leave an easy question blank
 - Hard problems have hard answers!
 - Accuracy is more important than speed

SAT Writing

- Multiple-Choice Grammar (~70% of score)
 - **Improving Sentences** questions test ability to correct sentences with mistakes
 - **Error Identification** questions test ability to identify common grammatical errors
 - **Improving Paragraphs** questions test understanding of proper diction, usage, organization, and grammar
- Essay (~30% of score)
 - Looks for strong opinion and good organization
 - State your position, then back it up with relevant examples

SAT Critical Reading

- Passage-based Reading
 - Long and dense passages
 - Best way to improve skill is through repeated practice with an active reading strategy
- Sentence Completions
 - Process of elimination is key!

SAT Scoring

- One raw score point gained for each correct answer
- $\frac{1}{4}$ raw point taken away for each incorrect multiple choice answer
- No penalty or gain for omitted questions or incorrect answers on grid-ins

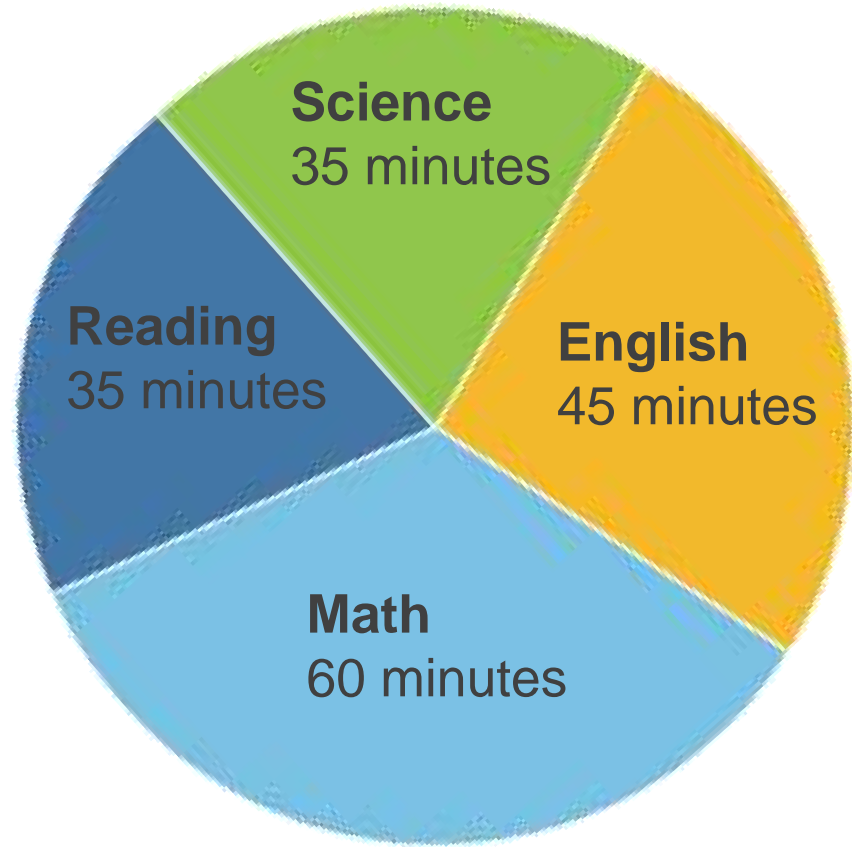
The ACT

- The ACT has four sections: English, Reading, Math, and Science, as well as an optional essay
- Each section is scored on a scale from 1 to 36
- The national average for each section is roughly 21

The ACT

Total Time:
2 hours, 55 minutes

Total Time with Essay:
3 hours, 25 minutes



Understanding the Score Report

ACT Exam 7D						
Sarah						
187424						
ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	ESSAY	COMPOSITE	
26	27	27	22	6	26	

- Revolution ID number & form code
- Section scores – range from 1-36
- Essay score – ranges from 2 to 12
- Total score – average of the four section scores

The Reading Test

- Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities & Natural Science
- 4 long passages, 2 key strategies

Reading Test Strategies

1. Two-Track Mind
2. Eliminating Wrong Answers
3. Questions on the ACT deal with MAIN IDEAS and PEOPLE
4. THINK BIG PICTURE!

The Science Test

- Not a science test!
- Ability to interpret charts and graphs

Passage I

Measles is an extremely contagious viral infection spread by the respiratory route. Figure 1 shows the course of measles from time of exposure to recovery from the infection.

After recovery from measles, the infected individual develops immunity or resistance to re-infection. Figure 1 shows the development of immunity indicated by the antibody level.

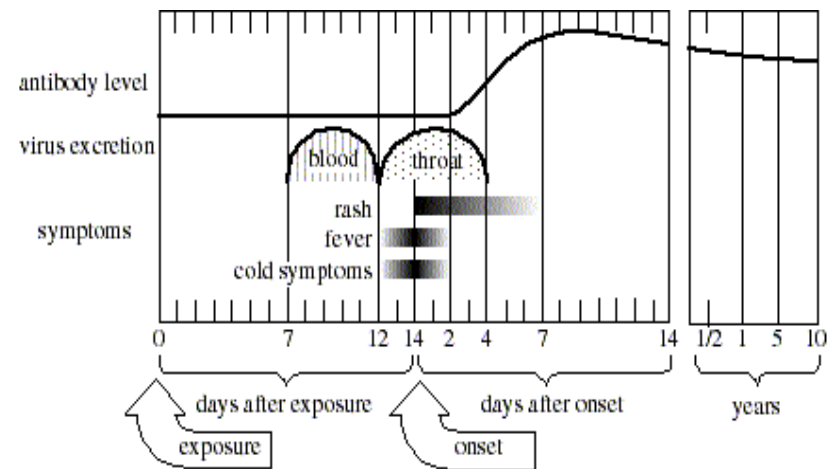


Figure 1

The “Optional” Essay

- 30 Minutes
- One essay prompt asking you to take a position
- Prompts are typically about a school-related issue

Essay Test Strategies

1. Read the prompt
2. Take a point & STICK TO IT
3. Let I-B-C be your guide!

ACT Math

- Mathematics skills typically acquired through 11th grade:
 - Pre-Algebra
 - Elementary Algebra
 - Intermediate Algebra
 - Coordinate Geometry
 - Plane Geometry
 - Trigonometry

ACT English

- Usage/Mechanics
 - Long prose passages
 - Punctuation
 - Grammar & usage (standard written English)
 - Sentence structure & formation
- Rhetorical Skills
 - Writing Strategy
 - Organization
 - Style

ACT Reading

- Reading Comprehension
 - Direct statements & statements with implied meaning
 - Determining main ideas
 - Making comparisons
 - Understanding sequence of events
 - Drawing generalizations
 - Analyzing author's/narrator's voice and method
- Passage Types
 - Prose Fiction
 - Humanities
 - Social Studies
 - Natural Sciences

ACT Science

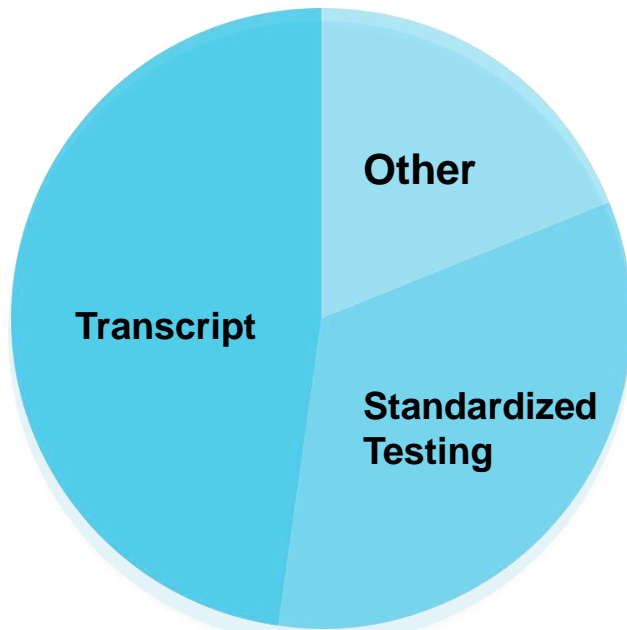
- Science Reasoning
- Three passage formats:
 - Data Representation (graphs & tables)
 - Research Summaries (descriptions of related experiments)
 - Conflicting Viewpoints (expressions of related hypotheses or inconsistent viewpoints)
- Passages cover the following content areas: biology, chemistry, physics and earth/space sciences
- Basic knowledge of scientific terms and concepts needed

ACT Essay

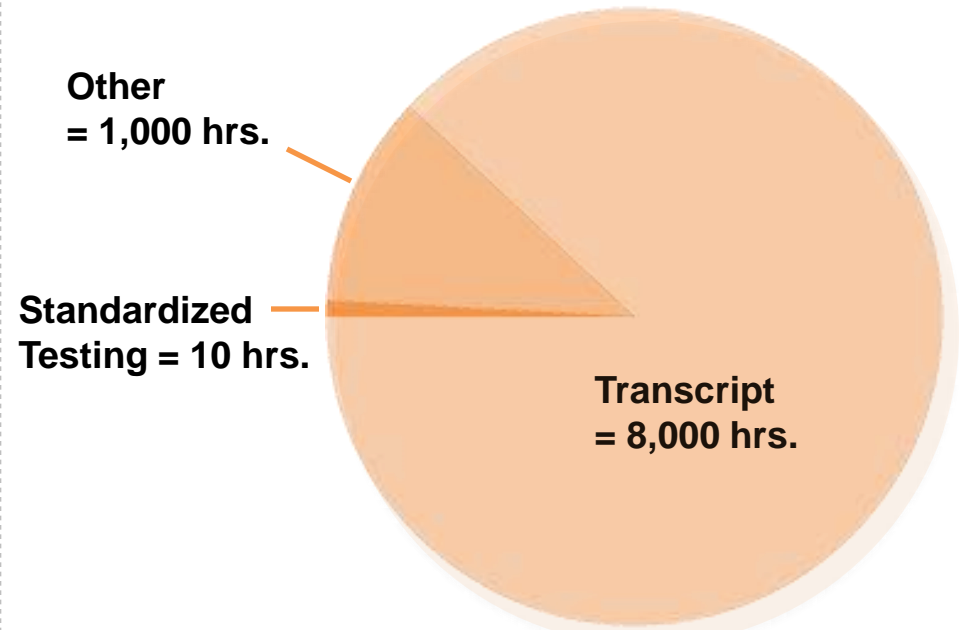
- Writing composition skills:
 - Well-developed point of view
 - Consideration of counter argument
 - Use of specific examples
 - Sentence structure
 - Strong conclusion

Why does testing matter?

Big output



Small input



PSAT vs SAT vs ACT

PSAT	SAT	ACT
2 hours 15 minutes	3 hours 45 minutes	3 hours 25 minutes
no science section	no science section	includes science
no trigonometry	no trigonometry	includes trigonometry
multiple-choice only	includes essay	essay optional
guessing penalty	guessing penalty	no guessing penalty
math accounts for 33% of your score	math accounts for 33% of your score	math accounts for 25% of your score
questions follow order of difficulty	questions follow order of difficulty	random question order
"reasoning" based	"reasoning" based	content-based
big challenge: tricky questions	big challenge: tricky questions, length	big challenge: time crunch!

ACT vs. SAT

ACT	SAT
science reasoning section	no science reasoning section
math includes trigonometry	no trigonometry questions
entirely multiple-choice	non multiple-choice questions included
no guessing penalty	guessing penalty
math accounts for 25% of your score	math accounts for 33% of your score
easy and hard questions mixed within sections	questions go from easy to hard in most sections

SAT to ACT conversion

OLD SAT	ACT	NEW SAT
1600	36	2400
1550	35	2320
1520	34	2280
1470	33	2200
1420	32	2130
1380	31	2070

OLD SAT	ACT	NEW SAT
1340	30	2010
1300	29	1950
1260	28	1890
1220	27	1830
1180	26	1770
1140	25	1710

OLD SAT	ACT	NEW SAT
1070	23	1600
1030	22	1540
990	21	1480
950	20	1420
910	19	1360
870	18	1300

OLD SAT	ACT	NEW SAT
830	17	1240
790	16	1180
740	15	1110
690	14	1030
640	13	960
590	12	880

SAT Subject Tests

- Each test is one hour in length
- Achievement-based tests, measuring knowledge gained from college-level courses in the following areas:
 - **ENGLISH:** Literature
 - **HISTORY:** U.S. History, World History
 - **MATH:** Mathematics Level 1, Mathematics Level 2
 - **SCIENCE:** Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics
 - **LANGUAGES:** Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese, Korean

New SAT/ACT Changes

What does this mean for your
student?

New SAT: Overview

- Redesign incorporates new testing approaches
 - Better assessment of relevant learning areas
 - Better prepares students for success in college and beyond
 - Move away from obscure subject matter and tricky question types
- Real world relevance is key
 - The idea is that the new SAT will focus on subject areas and skills that are more applicable in college and career contexts

When Are Changes Happening?

- New SAT will be administered starting **Spring 2016**
 - Class of 2016 will be the last to take the current SAT
 - Offered in print and via computer (select locations)
- Scores on current SAT will continue to be accepted by colleges until the last administration
- Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT will launch October 2015

New SAT: Revised Sections

ASSESSMENT	EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING	THE ESSAY	MATH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Command of Evidence → Relevant Words in Context → Revising and Editing Skills Applied to Text and Data → Analysis of Sources in Social Studies, Science, and Literature → Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation 	<p>Common prompt applied to different sources.</p> <p>As you read the passage, consider how the author uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence such as facts or examples - Reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence - Stylistic or persuasive elements to add power to the ideas expressed <p>Write an essay in which you explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Math focused on three key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heart of Algebra - Problem Solving and Data Analysis - Passport to Advanced Math → Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts → Multistep and Extended-Thinking Problems

- Critical Reading and Writing are now combined
- Essay is twice as long
- Total time: 3 hours + 50 minute essay (optional)

New SAT: Scoring

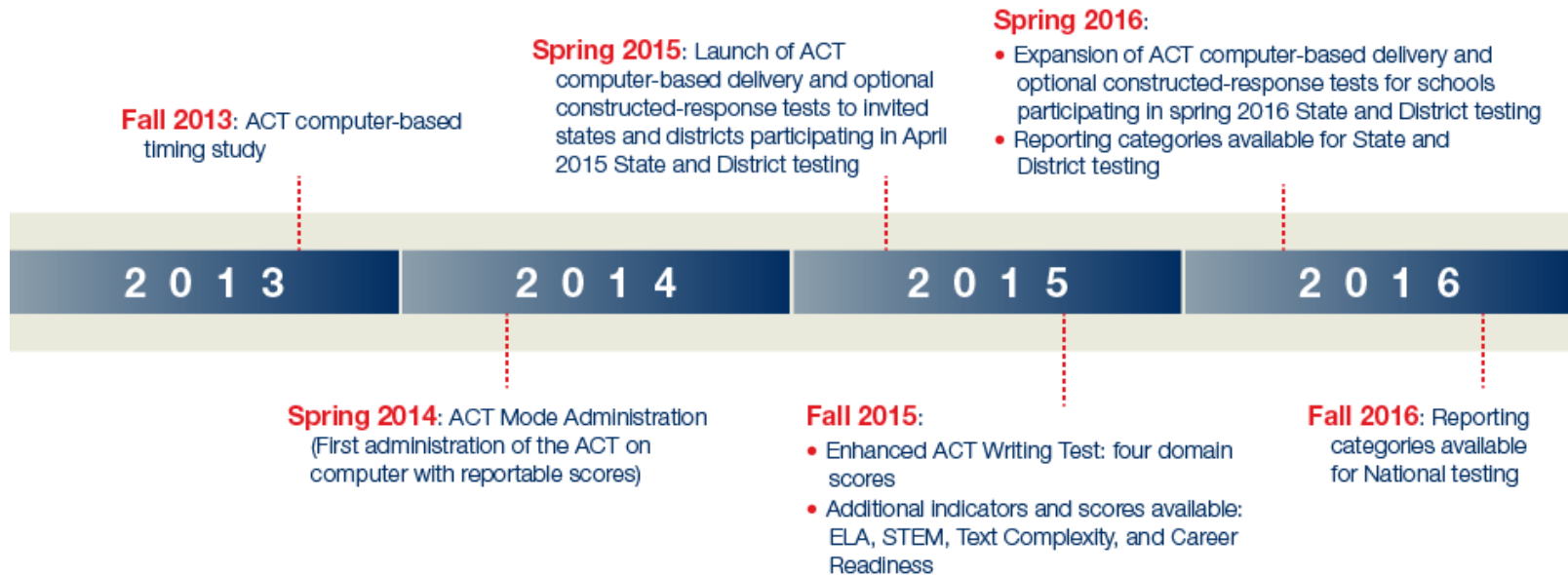
- Total score will go from 2400 back to 1600
 - 800 Total for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
 - 800 Total for Math
 - 8pt Total for Essay (stand-alone)
 - Based on two independent graders
- Guessing penalty is gone
 - Students earn points for correct answers
 - No points are deducted if incorrect or blank
- Four total answer choices

New ACT: Overview

- Redesigned exam introduces new testing methods
 - Online administration
 - Enhanced writing test
 - Optional constructed-response questions
- New Reporting categories
 - Readiness indicators for college and beyond
 - Aligned with common core

When Are Changes Happening?

T I M E L I N E



Dates are estimates and subject to change.

New ACT: Revised Sections

- Optional constructed-response questions
 - To be used to supplement the traditional multiple choice sections
 - Students are required to enter in their own answer
- Enhanced writing test
 - Students must evaluate from multiple perspectives
 - Scoring will now be much more analytical

New ACT Scoring

- **Stem Score**- represents math/science performance
- **Progress Toward Career Readiness**- helps students and educators prepare for the future
- **English Language Arts Score**- students are able to see their ranking
- **Text Complexity Progress Indicator**- reports understanding of complex material

Testing Timeline

Sophomore Year



Junior Year



Senior Year



Fady Bishai
Senior Regional Manager



Fady.Bishai@revolutionprep.com
856.834.0710

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Questions?

