

Recommendations for BCA Students Taking SAT Subject Tests

For detailed information about subject tests students should visit the SAT Subject

Test website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>

Why Take Subject tests?

Colleges vary with regard to which subject tests, if any, are required. Many of the “**most selective colleges**” require subject tests for admission and/or advanced placement.

Typically 1-2 tests are needed, with just a very few like Johns Hopkins & Georgetown recommending three. Some will also accept ACT scores in lieu of SAT subject tests.

Students are advised to check the websites of the schools they are interested in for official and up-to-date requirements. For a quick unofficial review of which colleges require these tests, go to the Ivy West website:

http://www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx

Should Students Prepare for Subject Tests?

Students **should** definitely prepare in advance for Subject Tests. Use of an SAT II study guide or review book and taking practice tests prior to any subject test **is highly recommended!** Free practice tests are available through the guidance website. (Up to three **subject** tests may be taken on a given date when not sitting for the reasoning test; each subject test is sixty minutes in duration.)

Can students decide which scores are sent to colleges?

Score Choice gives you the option to choose which scores (by test date for the SAT and by individual test for SAT Subject Tests™) you send to colleges—in accordance with an institution's stated score-use practice. You can choose scores from one, several, or all SAT test dates. Be aware that some colleges choose to opt out of score choice and require applicants to report all scores. Scores are considered official only when sent from the College Board. **BCA does not report official or unofficial score results to colleges.** Be sure to have your scores forwarded directly to colleges by stated deadlines.

Best time to take Subject Tests

Ideally, students should take subject tests immediately following a course closely related to the subject exam. In most cases students will be taking subject tests during the end of their junior year or the beginning of senior year. Based upon Academy curriculum, the following recommendations are offered as guidelines for when students would be optimally prepared to take the following tests: (It should be noted that curriculum at the Academy is designed to prepare students with a broad background in these subjects; teachers do not teach directly to these tests.)

Literature

The literature based SAT test requires students to read a passage and to answer questions about form, content, and meaning. Students practice the skills necessary for this task through all four years of the English curriculum. The more they practice, the better they will perform. It would make sense to take this either at the end of junior year or at the beginning of senior year.

Biology E or M

If you are in AAST/AEDT, you should take the Bio subject test after you complete 11th grade Adv Bio and electives in the area that you want to specialize in.

AMST students should take the Bio subject test after A & P in the 11th grade.

If you are in ABF, ACAHA, AVPA and ATCS you may consider taking the test after completing 9th grade Bio plus Bio electives in a molecular or ecology focus.

Everyone who takes the Biology E/M Subject Test must choose between the two specialties, Ecology or Molecular. Of the 100 questions presented on the Biology test, you answer 60 core questions common to both versions and 20 questions from your chosen specialty.

(Many students do well if they study from the SAT II book during the summer, after they take the core Bio and a couple of Bio electives).

Chemistry

Any student, regardless of Academy, taking AP Chemistry should wait until he/she completes AP Chemistry before taking the SAT-II exam. AP Chemistry is more than an adequate review for the SAT-II Chemistry exam.

Students in the AAST/AEDT Academies that do not take AP Chemistry should take the SAT-II Chemistry exam near the end of junior year or the beginning of senior year. All other academy students not taking AP Chemistry should take the SAT-II Chemistry exam near the end of sophomore year or the beginning of junior year.

Physics

Students in all Academies should take the Physics test at the end of their junior year. They would be well advised to consult a review book to determine what areas they may need to review. (Should students desire to wait until senior year to take AP Physics, the AP Physics B course is more closely aligned with the exam than C.)

US History

Any student, regardless of academy, should take the SAT US History subject test after junior year. While the Early America, US History II and IB courses are helpful preparation, students are advised to purchase the SAT II book for the subject test.

World History

Any student, regardless of Academy, should take the SAT World History subject test after sophomore year. While the World History and IB courses are helpful preparation, students are advised to purchase the SAT II book for the subject test.

Math

Students should take **only the Math Level II** test after completing Math Analysis II Advanced Math Analysis II or Discrete II. Math Level I is not recommended for Academy students.

Languages: Reading & Listening

Completion of language classes at Level IV would be the minimum recommendation! Students in higher level courses including IB classes and those performing at the “A” range would naturally be expected to be better prepared. (Please note that students will be competing with native language speakers who have typically performed stronger on these exams.)

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Bergen County Academies