

GEARUP SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS
at Cincinnati Public Schools

Monday, Feb. 25
Board of Education Meeting, 7 PM
2651 Burnet Ave., Auditorium.

Friday, Feb. 29
Staff Professional Development Day
No pupils

Monday, March 10
Board of Education Meeting, 7 PM
2651 Burnet Ave., Auditorium.

March 10-14
Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)
Grades 10-12

March 17-21
OGT Make-up dates

Did You Know

Many resources are available to help you prepare for the SAT and ACT. Start online—learn how the tests are structured, take sample tests, and read more tips and suggestions at www.collegeboard.com (for the SAT) and www.actstudent.org (for the ACT).

For additional help, ask your school counselor or GEARUP resource coordinator.



Serving 3,800 students in
23 Cincinnati Public Schools

For more information:
phone 513-556-3611
or fax 513-556-1037

Thinking of college?

**Wondering about
how to pay for it?**

Visit the following Web sites:
www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.collegeboard.com

measure UP!

Prepare for tests!



Ready, set, test:

Tips for the ACT and SAT

Not many people really enjoy taking tests! Most of us face exams with sweaty palms, tight nerves, and some degree of self-doubt. You can reduce pre-test anxiety with knowledge and preparation— not only about the test subject, but about the test purpose, process, and structure. Here are a few facts and tips about the SAT and ACT tests to get you started.

What is the ACT/SAT?

While the SAT and ACT are different in structure and content, they serve similar purposes in the college admission process. They help admissions officers determine how well you might do in college, and they help compare students from varying high school backgrounds.

The SAT is a reasoning test that measures critical thinking skills. It shows how well you analyze information and solve problems. The ACT tests content knowledge in basic subjects you've studied in high school: English, math, reading and science. Depending on your strengths and thinking/learning styles, you may perform much better on one test than the other. That's why many schools require or suggest both tests—to give a balanced look at each student's performance.

Keep in mind that test scores are only one factor college admissions officers look at. Your transcripts, extra-curricular ac-

tivities, references, essay and interview all are considered in the acceptance decision. Don't pin all your hopes or expectations on your test scores, but strive for balance.

General test-taking tips

Good, common-sense advice applies to the taking the ACT and SAT. Getting a good night's sleep the night before, eating breakfast that morning, bringing everything you'll need with you and reading all questions carefully are some of the basics. In addition, the tips below are especially important to the ACT and SAT:

Budget your time wisely. Avoid spending too much time on hard questions or passages, or rushing through them too quickly. Answer the easy ones first, then go back over the section to work on the harder ones. If you have no idea of the correct answer to a question, skip it and come back later if you have time. (Often the second time around the answer will come to you.) This is especially important in the SAT, since all questions are worth the same number of points.

For multiple-choice questions, use the process of elimination. The correct answer is there, you just have to find it! Eliminate the choices you are confident are wrong, then make an educated guess.

For the ACT, answer every question. Your scores on multiple-choice sections are based on the number of questions you answer correctly, and there is no "penalty" for guessing.

Don't obsess over questions that completely stump you. Remember, the tests are designed to be difficult!

Essay insights

The essay segment of the SAT (or the writing portion of the ACT Plus Writing test) deserves attention, too. These sections are designed to engage your ability to think critically, organize your thoughts logically, and write concisely and correctly.

The general format consists of a writing "prompt"—a description of a controversy or issue, briefly outlining opposing points of view. You'll be asked to choose a viewpoint (you can develop your own or choose one that's given) and write about it persuasively.

Budgeting your time is especially important. It's helpful to think about your essay points and jot down a brief outline before starting to write. You'll also want to allow enough time to read the finished essay carefully, and make final edits.

SOME TIPS FOR WRITING A STRONG ESSAY ARE:

- Start with a provocative opening sentence that introduces the issue.
- Explain your point of view clearly and logically.
- Give specific examples to illustrate and back up your ideas.
- Bring up some opposing viewpoints and refute them logically.
- Make clear, logical transitions between essay segments.
- Stay on the topic; be thorough, but concise.
- Lead toward a strong conclusion.

Tips for taking Multiple Choice Tests

Tips for Taking Matching Tests

- 1 Read the question carefully before looking for matches.
- 2 Read the column with longer choices first, because you can scan shorter choices quickly.
- 3 Match all those you're sure of first.
- 4 Cross out each answer as you match it. It's easier to see which choices are left.
- 5 Make your best guess for the rest of the questions. Hopefully, the ones you eliminated will make guessing easier.

- 1 Read the question carefully before you eliminate any answers. Be on the lookout for the words "not," "never," or "always."
- 2 Read every answer, even if you're confident that the first or second one is correct.
- 3 Cross through answers you know are incorrect.
- 4 If you're not penalized for guessing, and you are really unsure, one method is to choose the longest answer.
- 5 Another method for guessing is to always choose the same answer for questions you're unsure of — such as answer "C" — unless of course, you know that particular answer is not correct.
- 6 Make sure the grammar of the question matches the answer you've chosen. For example, if the question is plural, singular answers can be eliminated.
- 7 If opposite answers are given as choices, one of those is often the right answer.