

SAT -Frequently Asked Questions : Registering, Preparing and Reporting Scores

REGISTRATION

1. How do I register?

You should register online, which will require use of a credit card.

- SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests - Go to www.collegeboard.com
- ACT - Go to www.actstudent.org

2. What is The Lyceum's CEEB Code?

The Lyceum's CEEB (secondary school) code is 690150. Enter it when you register for SAT 1, SAT Subject or ACT tests, so that the school receives an official copy of your scores. This can be useful later.

3. How early do I need to register for a test?

You should register well in advance for all tests, as you don't want to have to fly to another city. Decide as soon as you can which test dates you want, and then register immediately, or as soon as registration is open (as early as May for the following academic year).

- Oct and Dec exams are usually fully booked months ahead, and weeks before the deadlines.
- Keep checking the website in the summer and register as soon as the dates become available.
- Even SAT Subject tests can fill up – better to be very early than too late.
- Sometimes new dates can appear for tests that have previously shown as closed. Keep checking.

4. What ID is acceptable?

Only a current, valid passport will be accepted.

- You must have your passport in front of you when you register so that you can EXACTLY MATCH the name and date of birth. Do not assume you know what is on your passport. Do not guess.
- They are being very strict. There is NO acceptable alternate for a valid passport.
- If your passport has an error on it, then try to get a new, corrected passport made before you must register for an SAT test.

5. How must I enter my name if it is too long or if different documents have different spellings?

SAT POLICY: "The first 12 characters and the last 15 characters must be EXACTLY the same as the candidate's first and last name as shown on his or her passport." You have three spaces to use:

First Name(s): 12 characters (must match passport exactly)

Middle Initial: 1 character (you may leave blank if unneeded)

Last Name: 15 characters (must match passport exactly)

Ex 1: If the passport says "Syed Muhammad Shahzain Khan" then enter:

First name: Syed Muhamma

Middle Initial: S

Last Name: Khan

Ex 2: If the passport says "Muhammad Shahzain Khan" then enter:

First name: Muhammad Sha

Middle Initial:

Last Name: Khan

Notes:

- Fit as much as you can in the First Name(s) section. It is not always advisable to enter extra names in the Last Name section. For example, if “Shahzain Khan” is used as the last name for SAT and then “Khan” is used as the last name in applications, then universities will be unable to match your SAT scores to your application.
- The invigilators are being very strict about this and if your name does not match you will be turned away. A letter of explanation from the school will no longer be of any help.

6. How do I enter my address if it is too long?

You will have two lines to enter your street address, not including “Karachi;” this should be enough. Figure out what is really necessary for your mail to be delivered. Use abbreviations. Mostly “Off Kh-e-This” and “Behind Thus and Such Hospital” are for the convenience of guests trying to find your house. Any letter carrier should know where “Adeel Khan, 123/IV 5th St., DHA 6, Karachi” is without any further information. You can usually find your postal code on an electric or gas bill, but it may not be necessary if your mail is delivered without it. Use the exact same address each time you register.

7. What should I enter as my grade in school?

AI students should register as being in 11th grade, and A2 students as being in 12th grade. This indicates 2nd to last and last years of high school, respectively, and will not cause an error message with your graduation date.

8. Can I walk in?

- SAT - No. Walk-in or standby testing for SAT is not allowed, even if you have an admission ticket for another city or test date. Waitlist status may be available. If so, register for the Waitlist online after the registration deadline up until 5 days before test day. You must be able to print your Waitlist ticket and take it with you. Seating is not guaranteed.
- ACT – If you miss the registration deadline you may request Standby Testing. You must still register online, in advance, during the standby request period, pay, and bring the Standby Ticket. A seat is not guaranteed. See details at <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/standbytest.html>

9. What if I want to re-schedule or cancel a test?

There are very clear instructions given on the website. Read them.

- You may change your SAT date, until approximately 2 ½ weeks before the test date. You will have to pay a fee. If you are not in time to change your date, just miss the test, and then contact the College Board afterwards to change to a new date (fee still applies). Remember that pre-registration for another test in Karachi might not be possible.
- If you miss a test and never take another one, you will lose your money.
- ACT: If it is before the registration deadline, you may go online to request a Test Date Change. If it is after the regular registration deadline, then you must request Standby Testing. Fees apply.

10. Should I re-test to improve my score?

How does your score compare to the average score of students who are admitted to your target schools?

- Many students test a second time, but not usually for a third or subsequent time. Testing twice will not be held against you, but too many tests can look desperate.
- There is no guarantee of better scores if you test a second time, but more and focused studying will improve your chances. Scores usually do not change much for a third test.
- High scores never hurt, but weigh the time and effort required of a second test vs. how much of an improvement you hope to gain and how necessary it will be for the schools you are targeting.
- How do you feel now? Do you think you could have done better? How will you feel later? If you do not get into your dream school, will you regret not having tried again?

PREPARATION

11. Prepare well for any tests you register for.

- Do not let study for SAT negatively affect your school grades. Plan tests around your regular studies. The effect of good test scores will be undermined by poor school or external exam grades.
- If you care about your US admissions, you will prepare well in advance, as US students do.
- Test preparation materials are available on the tests' respective websites.
 - College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to provide free test preparation materials for both the old and the new SAT: www.khanacademy.org .
 - SAT and SAT Subject tests books are available in the market and in the library. Use them!

12. What is the best way to study? Do I need to pay for test prep?

Practice, practice, practice. Study the books and learn the material, but also do as many practice tests as you can. After each one, score yourself and try to understand how to correct your mistakes. Do not trust the scores from “diagnostic” tests, as they are usually higher than actual scores.

As for test prep, how well do you study on your own? Test prep can be expensive, and you have to decide if what they provide is worth the amount they are charging. If you want to pay for test prep, call the different providers and have them explain why their course is best, and choose the one that is best for you.

Test Prep courses provide:

1. Discipline - you will go to the classes that you've paid for and spend that time studying.
2. Resource people – you have someone to ask if you have trouble with a topic or question.
3. Practice tests in realistic conditions.

Self Study:

You certainly can prepare on your own with test prep books; compare a few in the store and see which one you think will be easiest to work from.

- Be disciplined, and don't procrastinate
- Do as many practice tests as you can. Don't trust “diagnostic” scores – they are usually high.
- Be disciplined, and don't procrastinate
- Make sure you also have all of the resource people you need lined up. Use them.
- Do as many practice tests as you can where you will not be disturbed.

REPORTING

13. Will all of my SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject tests (or all of my ACT) scores be on the same report?

All SAT tests that you take, including multiple sittings of SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject tests, will appear on one score report if you have used the same name and address to register each time. Save the registration confirmation from your first test so that you can register the same way for subsequent tests. This allows you to send all your scores for a single fee.

- If you send a score report to a school when you take your SAT for the first time, then you will have to resend scores from subsequent SAT tests to that school if they need them.
- ACT creates a separate record for each test date. You may request that records from more than one date be sent.

14. Which scores will universities use if I test more than once? Should I use Score Choice?

Most US universities will superscore, that is, use your best scores only, and will even mix and match sub-scores, for example, using a higher Math score from one test date and a higher Critical Reasoning score from another date, if these are your best results. Score Choice allows you to choose which scores are sent to which schools. It can be useful if you wish to withhold a low SAT 2 subject test score.

- Check the test policy of each school that you are applying to - Some schools will require that you send results from all tests you have taken, even if they superscore.
- A very few schools will insist that the sub-scores all be from the same date (IBA and LUMS).

15. Should I send the 4 free score reports?

As a part of the registration process, you have the opportunity to send up to 4 free score reports and 4 paid score reports to universities. If you have no idea where you might apply, then you do not need to send the free score reports to any universities. If you want to guess, then the worst that can happen is that some university will have your score, but never receive an application, and will eventually throw your score away. The best that can happen is that you will apply to one of the schools you listed and will not have to pay to have a score report sent there.

- SAT - to receive free reports, you must request them on or within 9 days after the test day. Details on website.
- ACT – To change the recipient schools listed on your registration, you must make the change online before 12:00 noon US Central Standard Time (CST) or Central Daylight Time (CDT) (depends on the time of year) on the Thursday following your test.

16. When do I send the score reports?

If you don't ask for the free score reports, then you must remember to make a score report request from the College Board/ACT in time for your scores to reach each school by its deadline.

- If you are testing late then you must make sure to put the schools with the earliest deadlines on the registration form, and then make arrangements to send reports to any additional schools. For a considerable extra fee, you can "rush" your report to a school, but be careful, because some school specifically prohibit rush reporting.