

# Scituate High School Guidance Department

## Facts about the SAT Subject Tests

There are **20 SAT Subject Tests** in five subject areas:

English	History	Mathematics	Science	Foreign Languages
Literature	U.S. History World History	Mathematics Level 1 Mathematics Level 2	Biology E/M Chemistry Physics	French      German Spanish    Italian Modern Hebrew Latin French with Listening German with Listening Spanish with Listening Chinese with Listening Japanese with Listening Korean with Listening

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Do I need to take the Subject Tests?

- Most colleges do not require the SAT Subject Tests, however some of the more popular colleges (such as Emory, Johns Hopkins, Tufts, MIT, Dartmouth, Princeton) require or recommend them, either for admissions or placement purposes. Some colleges require Subject Tests only for specific programs or majors.
- Eduplan’s website summarizes the most up-to-date details about the colleges that require or recommend Subject Tests: <http://www.eduplan.us/?s=SAT+subject+tests>
- Each college or university’s admissions office or website is the best place to research this detailed information about admissions test requirements and recommendations.

#### How many Subject Tests do I have to take?

- Most colleges that require or recommend the SAT Subject Tests want two.
- You may take up to three SAT Subject Tests on a single test date.
- You cannot take the SAT Subject Tests and the SAT on the same test date.

#### When is the best time to take Subject Tests?

- You can avoid last-minute stress by taking SAT Subject Tests throughout high school when you’re most prepared to do well on the specific tests. The best time to take Subject Tests is at the end of the course, when the material is still fresh in your mind.
- The SAT and SAT Subject tests are offered several times a year. Most students take the SAT twice during the spring of their junior year and in the fall of their senior year if needed. This leaves plenty of opportunities to take Subject Tests.
- **In general, here is when most students find they are ready to take SAT Subject Tests.**
  - U.S. History – after AP U.S. History, Honors U.S. History, or U.S. History

- Biology E/M – after AP Biology, Honors Biology, or Biology
- Chemistry – after AP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry or Chemistry
- Physics – after AP Physics, Honors Physics or Physics
- Mathematics Level 1- after Honors Algebra II or Algebra II
- Mathematics Level 2 – after Honors PreCalculus or PreCalc I & II
- World Languages – after or while taking the highest level of the language offered; spring of junior year or fall of senior year
- English Literature – in spring of junior year or fall of senior year

### **What else do I need to know?**

- The ACT with Writing can often be used to replace required or recommended SAT Subject Tests. The ACT with Writing may even be accepted in lieu of both the SAT and two Subject Tests.
- Some colleges will grant an exemption from (or grant credit for) a freshman course requirement if a student does well on a particular Subject Test.
- SAT Subject Tests can help students place into the right level course once they get to college.
- You must indicate which SAT Subject Tests you plan to take when you register. However, you may change which test(s) you actually take on test day — except for Language with Listening tests.
- The Language with Listening tests are always given in the first hour of testing. Only one listening test can be taken per test date and are only offered once a year, in November.
- Calculators may be used only on the Mathematics Level 1 and Level 2 Subject Tests.
- Taking Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2 does not count as two Subject Tests for colleges that require two in the admissions process.

### **What is the bottom line regarding SAT Subject Tests?**

Each student is different, so please follow this advice to help you decide when and whether you need to take Subject Tests:

1. Research the list of colleges that require the SAT Subject Tests and confirm the information on the college or universities website.
2. Try SAT Subject Test practice questions: (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-subject-test-preparation>)
3. Talk to your subject teacher and school counselor to see which Subject Tests are right for you.