Testing in 2026:

Navigating Exams in a Global Admissions Landscape

Sean Quinn
Founder + Tutor, Onsen Education
www.onseneducation.com

ONSEN EDUCATION

Agenda

1. 2026 Testing Developments
2. Breaking Down the Tests
3. Q & A

Who We Are

- About Us
  - Education company focused mainly on 1-on-1 virtual tutoring
  - Have been working with international students since our founding in 2017
  - Have been providing in-person school SAT classes in Europe since 2023
  - Students in over 40 countries
  - Based in NYC

Dire

- About Me
  - Tutor since 2010
  - Has worked with Onsen since 2019
  - Director of Instruction and Development
  - Based in NYC



What We Tutor

- U.S. admissions and school testing
  - SAT, ACT, PSAT, SSAT, ISEE
- Academic testing
  - AP, IB, GCSE/IGCSE, A-Levels
- Graduate & professional exams
  - GMAT, GRE, MCAT, LSAT, DAT
- International university admissions
  - LNAT, ESAT, STEP, TMUA, UCAT, HPAT, IMAT, Bocconi, IE, TOLC
- Language proficiency
  - TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo English Test, DELF

We always offer free diagnostics and demo lessons

U.S. Admissions Trends

- The majority of U.S. institutions (over 2,100 schools) remain test-optional
- Many highly selective institutions have returned to requiring testing – and this trend is growing
- 10% more students submitted SAT & ACT scores this application cycle compared to last year's
  - 1st time since pandemic, applicants reporting test scores outnumbered those who did not
- All Ivies will soon require testing
  - Columbia, Princeton, UPenn, and Yale (from text-flex) are the most recent Ivies to switch from test-optional

U.S. Admissions Trends

- Since the beginning of 2025, Stanford, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, U Miami, LSU, Claremont and the University of Alabama System have all switched to once again requiring tests
  - They join a list that includes MIT, Caltech, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, UT Austin, & Georgia Tech

- UC STEM professors demand return to SAT/ACT math requirements

- On the flipside, University of Michigan, Duke, University of Virginia, and Syracuse all extended their test-optional policies through at least the next admissions cycle

SAT/ACT for Non-U.S. Admissions

- The SAT/ACT is a reliable admissions pathway for certain top European universities
  - Bocconi, IE, and ESADE are among the three most popular destinations for our students
  - A single SAT or ACT score can replace scores from multiple (unpredictable) proprietary exams

- Other Key Unis that use the SAT as an admissions pathway:
  - Stockholm School of Economics, Politecnico di Milano, LUISS Guido Carli, UniBo

- The SAT can be used at some European institutions as part of supplementary admissions criteria and/or to demonstrate proficiency in a subject area
  - Erasmus University of Rotterdam
  - University of Amsterdam



SAT @ Bocconi + Some Stats

- We have seen SAT score expectations soar over the past 7 years
- Based on conversations with Bocconi rep re: most recent admit cycle…
  - Applicants are now expected to have 1470+ for most programs
  - The average SAT score for management, AI, and finance is 1560
  - HEC/Bocconi joint program data less competitive at 1390+
  - Students can apply with Bocconi Test and SAT
  - Practice/official SAT test scores can be helpful early predictors for a students' chance at admittance and important roadmaps for improvement opportunities

- Three rounds of Admissions
  - ~ 50% admits in Early Session (Round 1)
  - ~ 5% admits in Spring Session (Round 3)

- Majority of students are now international; most international apps are from France and Türkiye

- Global Law School requires SAT/Bocconi test score and LSAT (LNAT is not accepted)

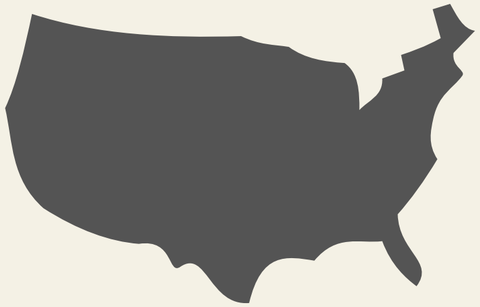
SAT & ACT

What are they?

- Standardized tests of college readiness
- Both equally weighted at every U.S. institution
- Both computer-based outside of the U.S.

In the U.S.

- Submitting SAT/ACT scores optional at most institutions
- But scores can still be key leverage points in admissions
- Mandatory at some top U.S. schools, including Harvard, MIT, Georgetown



Changes Over Time Internationally

- European universities have embraced testing over time
- Noticeable increase in the acceptance of SAT and ACT scores among European universities over the past fifteen years
- Used alongside grades or instead of other admissions tests
- At Bocconi:
  - Competitive score threshold has shifted from 1300 to 1480
  - Testing accounts for 55% of admissions decision

Digital SAT - Three Years In

- Smooth launch & administration both in the U.S. and internationally
- Consistent communication from the College Board
- Negligible changes to test content since the initial launch date
- Robust practice materials:
  - 8 official practice tests and ~2500 additional practice questions
    - There is a scarcity of official materials for certain question types (i.e. Standard English Conventions, Transitions, Probability, etc.)
    - Official tests often (but not always) contain a few difficult edge case questions that are not in the practice materials
- 2.0 million test takers (32.5% increase from 2021) for the H.S. class of 2025

SAT - Structure

- Computer-adaptive test, at a test center but on a student's personal device
- Testing time: 2 hours and 24 minute (with break)
- 2 Sections: Verbal (Reading and Writing) and Math
    - 2 Modules for each section
    - The second module will increase or decrease in difficulty based on the results of the first.
    - Each Verbal Module is 32 minutes for 27 questions.
    - Each Math Module is 35 minutes for 22 questions.
    - 10 Minute Break between each section

SAT - Scoring

- Total possible score is 1600 (PSAT 1520)
- Each section scored out of 800 (PSAT 760)
  - Verbal: perfect on diagnostic module gets you 550+
  - Math: perfect diagnostic module gets you 570+
  - For easy modules, upper limit is 650
- All scores will be multiples of 10
- Questions are not necessarily worth the same number of points
- No guessing penalty

SAT - Question Types

Verbal Section

- Covers reading comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar
- Questions are arranged by type
- Each question corresponds to one short text

Math Section

- Questions are mixed
- 30% word problems, 70% pure math
- A graphing calculator is permitted on all math questions
    - Desmos embedded in the online platform

2 Mark for Review

Which expression is equivalent to $x^2 + 3x - 40$?

(A) $(x - 4)(x + 10)$

(B) $(x - 5)(x + 8)$

(C) $(x - 8)(x + 5)$

(D) $(x - 10)(x + 4)$

Student-produced response directions

- If you find **more than one correct answer**, enter only one answer.
- You can enter up to 5 characters for a **positive** answer and up to 6 characters (including the negative sign) for a **negative** answer.
- If your answer is a **fraction** that doesn't fit in the provided space, enter the decimal equivalent.
- If your answer is a **decimal** that doesn't fit in the provided space, enter it by truncating or rounding at the fourth digit.
- If your answer is a **mixed number** (such as $3\frac{1}{2}$), enter it as an improper fraction (7/2) or its decimal equivalent (3.5).
- Don't enter **symbols** such as a percent sign, comma, or dollar sign.

Examples

Answer	Acceptable ways to enter answer	Unacceptable: will NOT receive credit

3.5	`3.5`
	`3.50`
	`7/2`
		`31/2`
		`3 1/2`

15 Mark for Review

$$5G + 45R = 380$$

At a school fair, students can win colored tokens that are worth a different number of points depending on the color. One student won G green tokens and R red tokens worth a total of 380 points. The given equation represents this situation. How many more points is a red token worth than a green token?

Answer Preview:

The following text is from the 1924 poem "Cycle" by D'Arcy McNickle, who was a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

There shall be new roads wending,
A new beating of the drum—
Men's eyes shall have fresh seeing,
Grey lives reprise their span—
But under the new sun's being,
Completing what night began,
There'll be the same backs bending,
The same sad feet shall drum—
When this night finds its ending
And day shall have come.....

5 Mark for Review

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

(A) To consider how the repetitiveness inherent in human life can be both rewarding and challenging

(B) To question whether activities completed at one time of day are more memorable than those completed at another time of day

(C) To refute the idea that joy is a more commonly experienced emotion than sadness is

(D) To demonstrate how the experiences of individuals relate to the experiences of their communities

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pinnipeds, which include seals, sea lions, and walruses, live in and around water.
- Pinnipeds are descended not from sea animals but from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores.
- Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski recently found a fossil with four legs, webbed toes, and the skull and teeth of a seal.
- Rybczynski refers to her rare find as a "transitional fossil."
- The fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

24 Mark for Review

The student wants to emphasize the fossil's significance. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

(A) Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski's fossil has the skull and teeth of a seal, which, like sea lions and walruses, is a pinniped.

(B) Pinnipeds are descended from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores; a fossil that resembles both was recently found.

(C) Having four legs but the skull and teeth of a seal, the rare fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

(D) A "transitional fossil" was recently found by paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski.

SAT

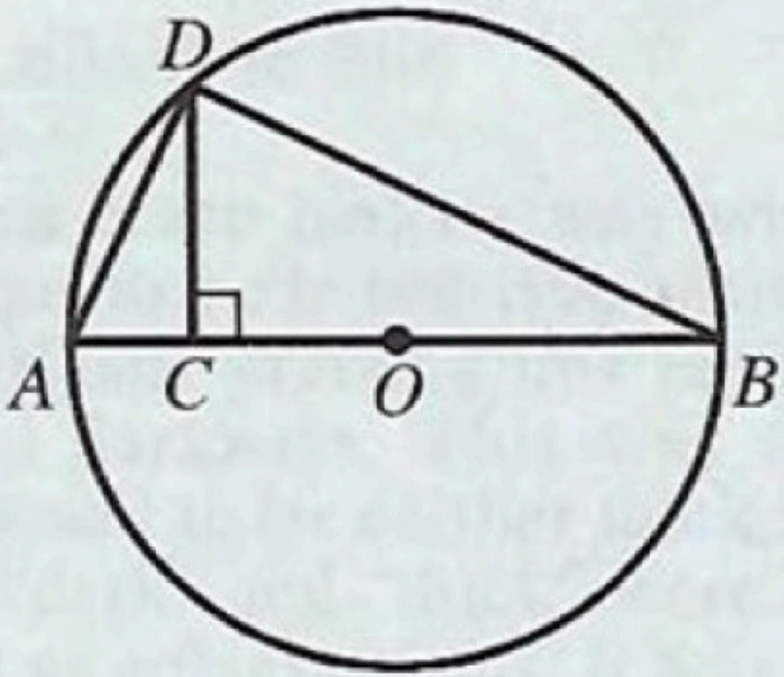
SAT Merits

- Shorter than the ACT (w/ science)
- More average time per question
- Less math topics covered
- No science section
- Sophisticated UI, designed with built-in Desmos calculator in mind

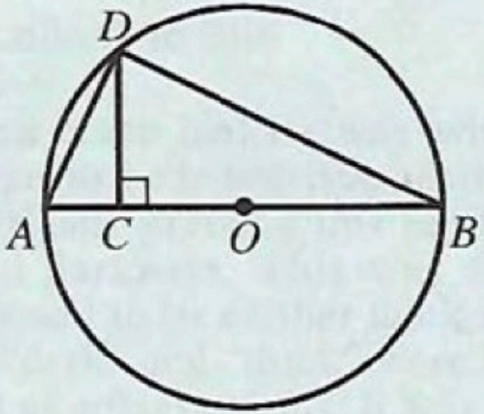
SAT Challenges

- Question tend to be more complicated
- Some questions test Vocabulary knowledge
- Poetry and older literary texts are used as passages for questions

47. In the figure shown below, A, B, and D lie on a circle whose center is O, a diameter is $\overline{AB}$, $\overline{CD}$ is perpendicular to $\overline{AB}$ at C, the length of $\overline{AD}$ is 5 m, and the length of $\overline{BD}$ is 12 m. What is the length, in meters, of $\overline{CD}$?



47. In the figure shown below, A, B, and D lie on a circle whose center is O, a diameter is $\overline{AB}$, $\overline{CD}$ is perpendicular to $\overline{AB}$ at C, the length of $\overline{AD}$ is 5 m, and the length of $\overline{BD}$ is 12 m. What is the length, in meters, of $\overline{CD}$?



A. $\frac{60}{13}$

B. $\frac{65}{12}$

C. 13

D. $\frac{156}{5}$

E. 60

Enhanced ACT Structure

- Computer-based test internationally since 2018; remains so
  - Note: Paper-based test is an option for U.S.-based students but NOT for international students
- Administered at a testing center on a school device or on a student's device, depending on availability at the test center
- Desmos Calculator and Math Formula Sheet included on the platform*
- Testing time: 2 hours and 5 minutes
- Three Mandatory Sections:
  English: 35 minutes for 50 items
  Math: 50 minutes for 45 items
  Reading: 40 minutes for 36 items
- Optional Science Section: 40 minutes for 40 items
  - NOTE: the policy differs across certain select institutions (i.e. required for Georgetown, highly recommended for Duke University)
- All questions are multiple choice

Enhanced ACT - Still Volatile

- September 2025: first U.S. administration of the revised version of the ACT
  - Rollout was marred by poor communication, missed deadlines, and a clunky user platform
    - Fall 2025 launch date for international testers was pushed back to February 2026 without official communication from the ACT

- U.S. students have the choice between paper and online enhanced test
  - International students only have the computer-based option

- Access to the Desmos promised but not always available

- Science section is *technically* optional

- Non-adaptive format and high percentage of unscored “field test” items leads to volatile scoring scale

- The test is still the right fit for some students; for non-U.S. based students, we are bearish about recommending this test

ACT - Scoring

- Each section is scored out of 36
- A Composite score is calculated by averaging English, Math and Reading scores
- STEM score is provided for students who opt to take the Science section – it is an average of Math and Science scores
- All scores are whole numbers
- All questions are worth the same number of points
- No guessing penalty

ACT - Scoring (cont.)

- The Science section is no longer part of composite score; Students taking this section will receive a separate STEM score (averaged with Math)
- Fewer questions lead to a less predictable scoring scale; i.e. one wrong answer could lead to a student dropping as much as one scaled composite point
- A significant number of “test items” (experimental questions) are mixed with scored test questions
    - For some sections, this is especially impactful
        - i.e for the Reading section, one of the four passages contains all experimental questions; this translates to one-fourth of the questions for this section being unscored
        - Such a large percentage of unscored questions lead to a high volatility in students’ scaled scores across test administrations

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and a question will ask you to choose where Paragraph 3 should most logically be placed.

Bar Codes: A Linear History

[1]

In 1948, graduate students, Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver, took on a problem that had troubled retailers for years: how to keep track of store inventories. Inspired by the dots and dashes of Morse code, however, Woodland and Silver created a system of lines that could encode data. Called a *symbology*, the pattern created by the spacing and widths of the lines encodes information by representing different characters.

[2]

The first bar code was composed of four white lines set at specific distances from each other on a black background. The first line was always present. Depending on the presence or absence of the remaining three lines, up to seven different arrangements were susceptible and, therefore, seven different encodings. Today, twenty-nine white lines making more than half a billion encodings possible.

[3]

To create a bar code scanner, Woodland and Silver adapted technology from an optical movie sound system. Their prototype scanner used a 500-watt bulb, a photomultiplier tube (a device that detects light), and an oscilloscope (a device that translates electronic signals into readable information). Although successful, the concoction was both large and costly. For example, progress stalled until the 1970s, when laser technology (both more compact and less expensive) became available.

[4]

In today's scanners, a laser sends light back and forth across a bar code. While the black lines

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. in other words,
- C. consequently,
- D. DELETE the highlighted text.

In each of Trials 1–4, a different 1 of 4 substances of equal mass—a piece of chalk, a sugar cube, a fruit-flavored piece of candy, or a mint-flavored piece of candy—was added to a bottle of diet cola at 3°C. See Table 1.

Table 1

Trial	Substance	Volume of liquid in cylinder (mL)	Mass of CO_2 produced (g)
1	chalk	699	1.36
2	sugar cube	570	1.11
3	fruit candy	525	1.02
4	mint candy	631	1.23

Experiment 2

In each of Trials 5–8, Trial 4 from Experiment 1 was repeated, except that the temperature of the diet cola was different in each trial. See Table 2.

Table 2

Trial	Temperature (°C)	Volume of liquid in cylinder (mL)	Mass of CO_2 produced (g)
5	10	598	1.13
6	25	539	0.969
7	45	501	0.844
8	60	476	0.766

Tables 1 and 2 adapted from Christopher L. Huber and Aaron M. Massari, "Quantifying the Soda Geyser." ©2014 by

One millimole (mmol) of CO_2 has a mass of 0.044 g. How many trials resulted in the production of at least 1 mmol of CO_2?

A. 1

B. 4

C. 5

D. 8

ACT

ACT Merits

- More straightforward questions
- For students who struggle with Math:
  - Math 33% of Enhanced ACT Composite Score (vs. 50% for SAT)
- Test can be especially favorable for students with timing accommodations
- No Poetry or 100+ years old texts

ACT Challenges

- Volatility in scoring across test administrations
- Aggressive pacing
  - Less time available per question than on the SAT
- Contains a much wider breadth of math topics
- Less sophisticated online platform
- Limited availability and accessibility in some locations

Test Comparison

Key Differences	SAT	ACT
Timing	More time per question	Less time per question
Length	2.25 hours	2.25 or 3 hours
Adaptive	Yes	No
Reading Focus	Older passages and poetry	More straightforward language
Math Focus	Up to basic trigonometry	Up to basic pre-calculus
Science Section	No	Option (mandatory at some institutions)
Accommodations	Available based on approval	Histoically better fit for students with accomodations
Vocab Focus	Yes	No

Bocconi Test - Structure

- Computer-based test, at home on a student's personal device
- 75 minutes for 50 questions
  - Mathematics: 24 questions
  - Reading Comprehension: 11 questions
  - Numerical Reasoning: 6 questions
  - Critical Thinking: 9 questions
- 1 section: all questions are randomly mixed throughout the test
- Questions appear three to a page
- **No calculator is allowed**

Bocconi Test - Scoring

- Each question is worth 1 point
  - Minus 0.33 for each incorrect Critical Thinking question
  - Minus 0.2 for every other wrong answer
- Minimum passing score is 17 points
- Average score in 2025 admit cycle: 39 points
- Students can attempt the test up to four times per academic year and submit their best score.
- Scores are provided to students after each attempt.

Bocconi Test - Key Challenges

- User Interface
  - Although there is a navigational bar, it doesn't work: once a student moves to a new page, they can't go back
  - This removes a student's ability to be strategic with timing; they can only work on 3 questions at a time
- Translation
  - The English version of the test seems to be directly translated from Italian with little editing
  - Some reading questions can, thus, be convoluted or, in some cases, unanswerable
- Math Variety
  - The Bocconi test covers a much wider breadth of math than the SAT, feeling more like trivia than testing key manipulations
- Limited practice materials
  - There are only 4 practice tests; no other official material
- No Calculator Allowed
  - Desmos is a GAME CHANGER for students on the SAT
- In our experience, these challenges have led to a tough road to improvement

Question 4

Not yet answered

Flag question

Set A contains four elements.
How many nonempty subsets of A are there?

- 24
- 4
- 15
- 64
- 16

Question 10

Not yet answered

Flag question

We know that $2^{10} = 1{,}024$. So, in the equation $X^Y = 1{,}024$, where X and Y are positive integers. Which of the following numbers cannot be either X or Y (with an appropriate choice of the other number, of course)?

- 16
- All numbers shown can be substituted for X or Y
- 4
- 32
- 5

Question 18

Not yet answered

Flag question

For which real values of c does the equation $x^2 + 6x + c = 0$ allow real solutions?

- For no real value of c
- For $c \leq 9$
- For any real value of c
- For $c \leq 4$
- For $c \geq 6$

Question 40

Not yet answered

Flag question

Consider the following passage when answering the next question

In ancient Egypt, the god whose death and resurrection were celebrated every year, in **an alternation of pain and joy**, was the god Osiris, the most popular of the Egyptian gods. Osiris was the result of a love affair between the god of Earth, Seb (or Keb or Geb, as it is sometimes transcribed) and the goddess of Sky, Nut. When the god of the Sun Ra discovered his wife Nut's betrayal, he cursed her, saying that she would not give birth to that child in any month or in any year. But the goddess had another lover, the god Thoth (or Hermes, as the Greeks called him) who, playing checkers with the Moon, won the game and obtained from her an "additional" period of seventy seconds for each day. After putting together five full days, he added them to the Egyptian 360-day year. This was the mythical origin of the five extra days that the Egyptians added at the end of each year to harmonise the lunar time with the solar time. These five days, considered extraneous to the twelve-month year, were exempt from the curse of Ra, and Osiris was born, therefore, on the first of them.

Why is "an alternation of pain and joy" mentioned in the passage?

- Because the relationship between Earth and Sky, two opposing entities, was celebrated
- Because during celebrations the Egyptians had to experience negative and positive emotions in honour of the divinity
- Because it was a feature of Egyptian sacred celebrations
- Because it refers to the most popular of Egyptian deities, characterised by ambivalence
- Because it refers to a happy event and to a sorrowful one

IE Admissions Test Structure

- Computer-based test, at home on a student's personal device
- Only administered in English
- Duration: between 1 and 1.5 hours, as students are able to complete unscored practice problems before starting each section
- 4 sections - with a pause between each
  - Numerical Reasoning – 12 Minutes, 37 Tasks
  - Verbal Reasoning – 12 Minutes, 49 Tasks
  - Deductive Logical Thinking – 6 Minutes, Infinite Tasks
  - Learning Efficiency – 5 Minutes, 10 Tasks
- NOTE: Students applying to any programs within the School of Science and Technology will need to take a 5th section:
  - Mathematics Assessment – 60 minutes, 20 tasks
    - Content: Algebra (6 tasks), Calculus (5 tasks), Linear Algebra (3 tasks), Geometry (3 tasks), Probability & Statistics (3 tasks)
- Note: although both Reasoning and the Logical Thinking sections have stayed consistent in format, other test content is liable to change; the IE test can be unpredictable.

Market share Total employees Stock

Fiscal year	year 7	year 6	year 5
Common shares			
Stock at the beginning of the year	1 600	1 500	1 500
Stock at the end of the year	1 500	1 600	1 500
Capital reserves			
Stock at the beginning of the year	11 000	11 000	10 000
Stock at the end of the year	11 000	11 000	11 000
Revenue reserves			
Stock at the beginning of the year	23 000	23 000	11 000
Stock at the end of the year	22 000	23 000	23 000

All data in million Euro

The industry-related buying power of the client segment 3 amounts to EUR 2.6 billion in the year.

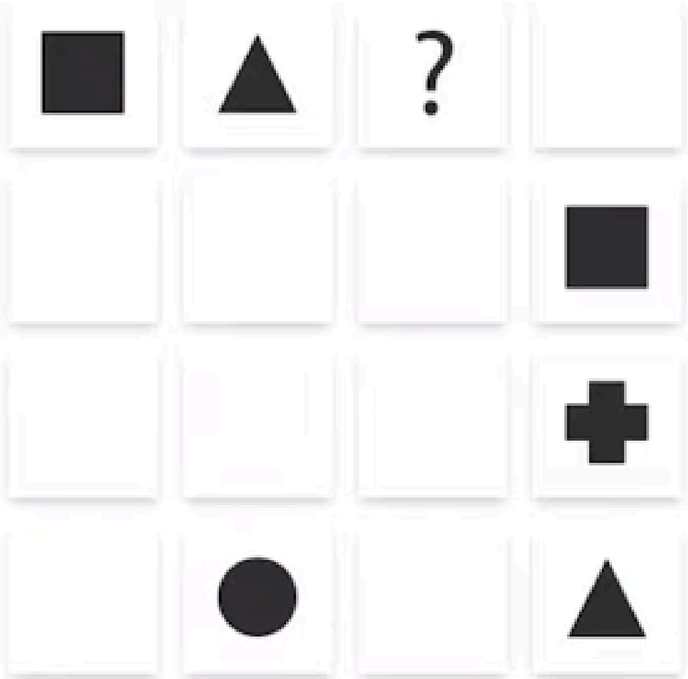
true

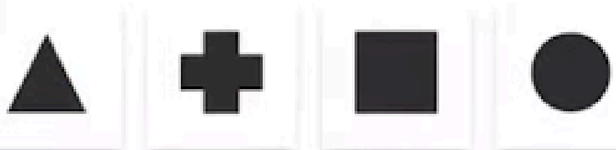
false

cannot say

Deductive-logical Thinking 05:33

Please choose the correct answer





IE Admissions Test - Scoring

- Scoring is not transparent
  - Scores ARE NOT released to applicants
  - No minimum reported cutoff score
- Questions are not equally weighted
- Points likely taken off for wrong answers
- Score will be based on both accuracy and time
- **Students can only take the test once**

Kira Assessment

In addition to test scores, students will need to sit for a “KIRA Assessment”

- This is a virtual assessment that acts as a precursor to a potential live interview
- Applicants will be given 3 questions to answer in a set amount of time
  - One response will be written, two will be recorded via video.
  - The process takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete.
  - Sample questions include:
    - *How would you define leadership?*
    - *How do you work under pressure?*
    - *How do your friends describe you?*
- Students schedule their interview separately from their test

ESADE Admissions Test Structure

- Computer-based test on a student's personal device
- Administered in English and Spanish
- Duration: 3 hours
- 4 sections:
  - Sufficiency of Information – 16 questions in 30 minutes
  - Numerical Calculation OR Verbal Reasoning– 48 questions in 35 minutes
  - Logical Reasoning – 45 questions in 35 minutes
  - English Placement Test – 85 minutes
    - 25 minute written assessment
    - 60 minutes of 100 multiple choice questions
- Calculators are not permitted
- No scrap paper
- The test can only be taken once

ESADE Admissions Test - Scoring

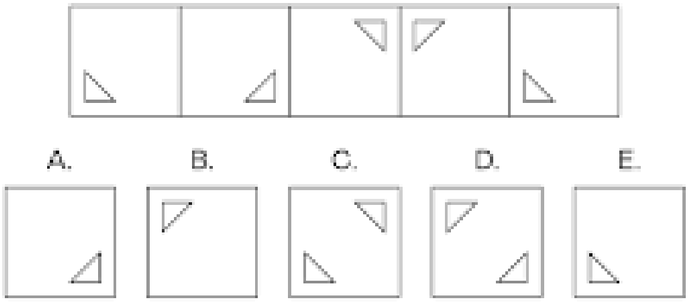
- Grading system not publicly released
- Non-adaptive
- Each section has an increasing order of difficulty
- 0.25 points will be taken off for incorrect answers
  - No penalty for questions in the English Placement Test

Content: Each question in this test consists of a series of diagrams situated on the left-hand side of the page. These diagrams follow a logical sequence.

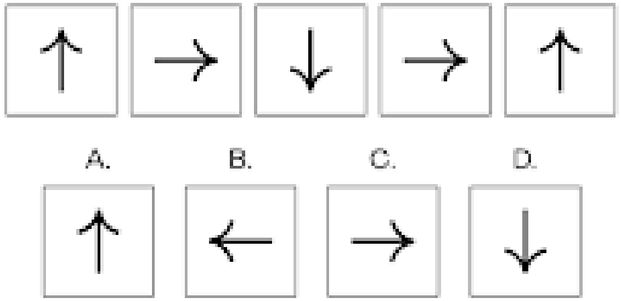
Task: You must decide which of five possible diagrams will continue the series logically. The five options (A, B, C, D and E) are found after each series, on the right-hand side of the page.

There is only one correct answer. Mistakes are penalised. Therefore, you must think carefully before replying and avoid guessing. In this text, 0.25 points are deducted for each incorrect answer.

EXAMPLE #1



EXAMPLE #2



EXAMPLE #1

?	÷	4	=	8

A	B	C	D	E
24	2	32	16	20

EXAMPLE #3

What are the values of 'x' and 'y'?

(1) $3x = 150 - 2y$
(2) $4x = 240y$

A. Formula (1) ALONE is sufficient, but formula (2) ALONE is not sufficient.
B. Formula (2) ALONE is sufficient, but formula (1) ALONE is not sufficient
C. Formulas (1) and (2) TOGETHER are correct, but NEITHER is sufficient ALONE.
D. Each formula is sufficient ALONE.
E. Formulas (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient.

EXAMPLE #1

I ..... born in England.

A. have
B. had
C. am
D. was

Test Comparison

Key Differences	Bocconi Test	IE Test	ESADE Test
Length	1 hour, 15 minutes	1 hour - 1 hour, 30 minutes	3 hours
Number of attempts	3	1	1
Math Section	Yes	No	Depends on program
Logic Section	No - but 5 Critical Thinking Questions	Yes	Yes
Transparent Scoring	Yes	No	No

Test Comparison

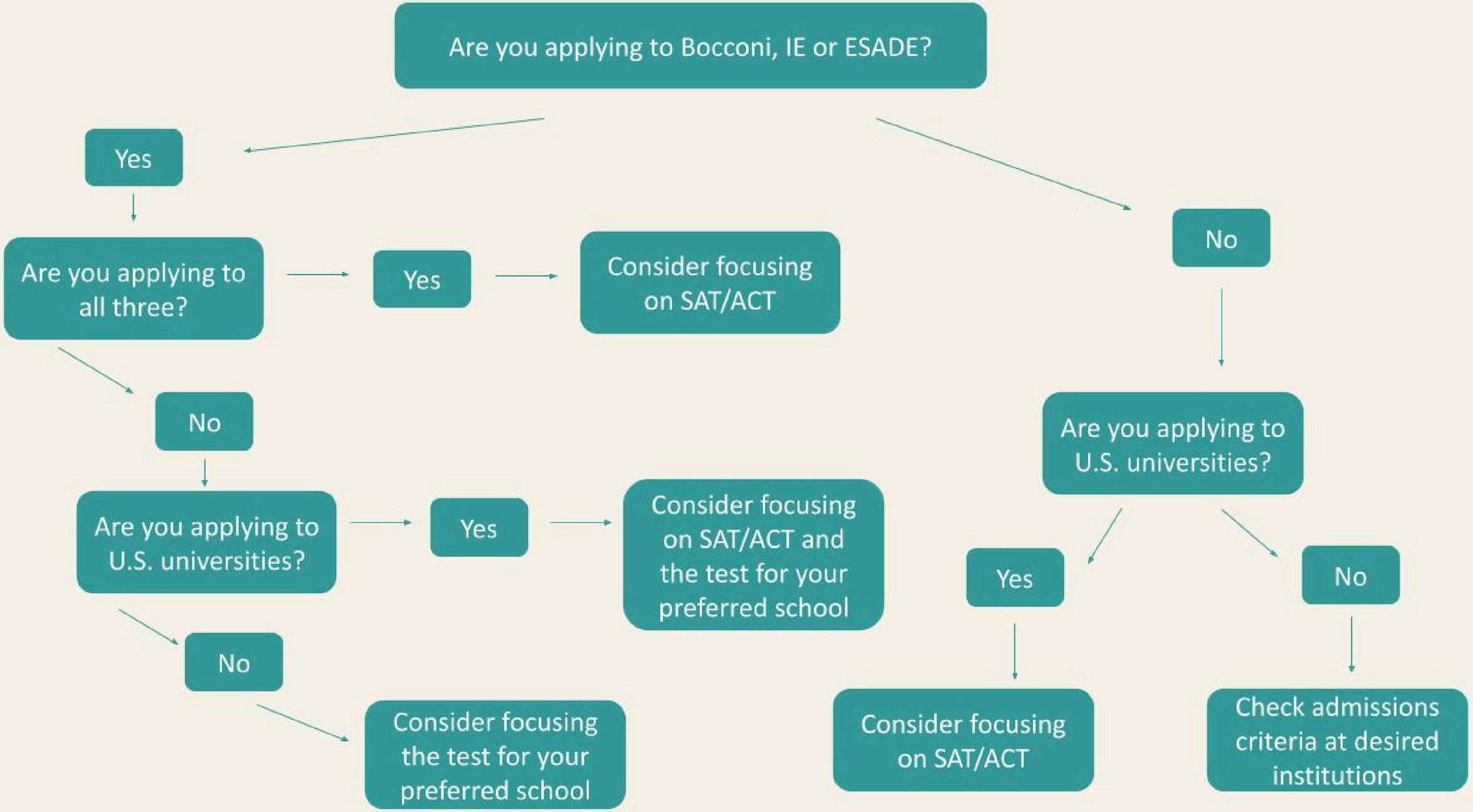
Test	SAT	ACT	Bocconi	ieGAT	EAT
Reading Comprehension	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Grammar	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Vocabulary	✓	x	x	✓	✓
Multiple Questions for One Passage	x	✓	x	✓	✓
Data Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logical Inferences	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Algebra I & II	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Geometry	✓	✓	✓	x	x
Pre-Calculus	x	✓	✓	x	x

Test Comparison

Test	SAT	ACT	Bocconi	ieGAT	EAT
Process of Elimination	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
First Pass	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Pick Trick	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Data Best Practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading for Key Terms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key Upcoming 2026 Testing Dates

- ~~Saturday, September 12 – Official SAT~~
- Saturday, September 19 – Official ACT
-
- Tuesday, September 29 – Bocconi Round 1 Deadline
- Saturday, October 3 – Official SAT
- Saturday, November 7 – Official SAT
- Saturday, December 5 – Official SAT
- Saturday, December 12 – Official ACT
- Tuesday, January 26, 2007 – Bocconi Round 2 Deadline


Are you applying to Bocconi, IE or ESADE?
Yes
Are you applying to all three?
Yes
Consider focusing on SAT/ACT
No
Are you applying to U.S. universities?
Yes
Consider focusing on SAT/ACT and the test for your preferred school
No
Consider focusing the test for your preferred school
No
Are you applying to U.S. universities?
Yes
Consider focusing on SAT/ACT
No
Check admissions criteria at desired institutions

SAT/ACT for U.K. Admissions

- Not required but can strengthen applications, especially for IB students with predicted scores (provide concrete numbers)
- Competitive scores help, similar to test-optional U.S. universities.

Cambridge (Christ's College) Policy:

- SAT must be accompanied by 5 AP exams; cannot be used alone.
- Minimum SAT: 1460 or 1500, depending on the program.
- Minimum ACT: 32 or 33, depending on the program.

So non-U.K. students applying to U.K. Universities may want to consider focusing on SAT/ACT depending on their scores.

SAT/ACT for U.K. Admissions

Institution	Oxford University	Cambridge University	Imperial College London
Total Students	26,455	21,656	20,454
International Students	12,000 +	9,000 +	12,000 +
Acceptance Rate	15.50%	13%	14.30%
IB Median	38 - 40	40 - 42	41 - 42
SAT / ACT minimum	1480/33	1500/33	Not Accepted

Preparing for U.K. Subject-Based Admission Tests

Students applying to UK universities often have to take program-specific entrance exams.

Recommended Approach:

- **Check Requirements** – Review preferred institutions' test policies and specific formats.
- **Practice with Past Papers** – Simulate real test conditions using past official exams.
- **Fill Knowledge Gaps** – Understand differences between A-Levels, AP, and IB curricula to address content gaps.

We'll now explore specific UK tests that may pose challenges for U.S. and European students.

General Differences in Approach

British A-Levels, U.S. Advanced Placement, & International Baccalaureate at a glance:

Program	A-Levels	AP	IB
Breadth of Content	Focus is narrow; students typically take 3-4 subjects	Students take individual AP courses alongside standard high school subjects	Designed as broader survey; students choose three main concentrations and three additional subjects
Curriculum Depth	Highly specialized; deep focus on chosen subjects	Can be deep in some subjects, but overall broader	Mix of broad subject exposure with some specialization
Assessments	Mostly exam-based with some coursework in select subjects (e.g. English, Art)	Exam-based, some courses have coursework	Mix of exams, coursework, and internal assessments
Perspectives	Strong **UK focus** (history, literature, politics)	Grounded in **U.S. context**; although some global focus, U.S. History and U.S. Government are key offerings	Highly **international**, global perspectives embedded in courses

U.K. Testing at a Glance

	Cambridge	Oxford	Imperial
Biomedical Sciences	n/a	ESAT	None
Classics	College Admissions Assessment	None	n/a
Computer Science	TMUA	TMUA	TMUA
Economics (& Business)	TMUA	TARA	TMUA
Engineering (& Physics)	ESAT	ESAT	ESAT
English	College Admissions Assessment	None	n/a
History	College Admissions Assessment	TARA	n/a
Human & Political Sciences	College Admissions Assessment	TARA	n/a
Languages	College Admissions Assessment	None	n/a
Law	LNAT	LNAT	n/a
Mathematics	College Admissions Assessment	TMUA	TMUA
Medicine	UCAT	UCAT	UCAT
Natural Scinces/Vet. Science	ESAT	n/a	None
Psychology & Linguistics	College Admissions Assessment	TARA	n/a

Note: All tests are now computer-based.

**Oxford subject-based tests were retired in 2024 and 2026.

Computer Sci, Economics, and Math

Test of Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA)

2 Sections - Testing Time: 2.5 hours

- Part 1: Applications of Mathematical Knowledge, 20 multiple-choice questions, each with 5-8 possible answers, 75 mins
  - Assesses the ability to apply knowledge of mathematics in new situations
- Part 2: Mathematical Reasoning, 20 multiple-choice questions, each with 5-8 possible answers, 75 mins
  - Assesses the ability to deal with mathematical reasoning and simple ideas from elementary logic

- Scored on a scale of 1.0 to 9.0
- No guessing penalty. No marks off for incorrect answers. No calculator allowed.

Content and Strategy Crossovers with SAT/ACT:

  - Algebraic Functions, Polynomials, Geometry, Exponents, Logarithms, Graph Transformations, Basic Trigonometry, Sequences and Series, Process of Elimination, Careful Reading
- The TMUA also covers higher level trigonometry and pre-calculus
- Sample Material

***** Oxford uses TARA exam for Economics***

TMUA Sample Questions

Paper 1

11 Evaluate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{100} \log_{10}\left(3^{1-n}\right)$$

A $-4950 \log_{10} 3$

B $4950 \log_{10} 3$

C $-5050 \log_{10} 3$

D $5050 \log_{10} 3$

E $1 - 4950 \log_{10} 3$

F $1 + 4950 \log_{10} 3$

G $1 - 5050 \log_{10} 3$

H $1 + 5050 \log_{10} 3$

Paper 2

12 In this question, p is a real constant.

The equation $\sin x \cos^2 x = p^2 \sin x$ has n distinct solutions in the range $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

Which of the following statements is/are true?

I $n = 3$ is **sufficient** for $p > 1$

II $n = 7$ **only if** $-1 < p < 1$

A none of them

B I only

C II only

D I and II

TMUA Sample Questions

Also in Paper 2

1 Find the value of

$$\int_1^4 \left(3\sqrt{x} + \frac{4}{x^2}\right) \mathrm{d}x$$

A -0.75

B 7.125

C 11

D 17

E 18

F 21.875

G 34.5

Key Differences in Approach: Economics

- **An important component of U.K. A-Levels Economics is Applications**
  - U.S. students may be used to less in-depth analysis of how concepts relate to real-world issues; instead, they will be more used to interpreting graphs

This

- **A-Levels Economics tends to focus on depth vs. breadth**
  - This might pose a challenge for IB students who are used to a broader perspective

- **Key Potential Challenges for U.S. and European Students**
  - Some advanced mathematical concepts may be challenging even for AP Calculus BC and IB Math HL students.
  - Certain physics-related questions incorporate multiple concepts, which can be difficult for AP Physics C and IB Physics HL students.

Key Differences in Approach: Math

- **A-Level Math is holistic**
  - U.K. students learn math in an integrated manner, while U.S. students are used to separate courses (e.g., Algebra, Geometry, Calculus).

- **Mechanics & Statistics are included in A-Level Math**
  - In the U.S., Mechanics is part of Physics, while Statistics is usually a separate course (AP Stats, IB Math Applications).

- **Mathematical Proofs & Abstract Reasoning are emphasized**
  - Unlike the U.S. system, where proofs are mainly covered in higher-level math courses, U.K. students encounter them as a standard part of A-Level Math.

- **TMUA Content**
  - U.S. students may struggle with unfamiliar question types and integrated multi-topic problems, which require flexible thinking rather than applying standard techniques.
  - Advanced proofs, combinatorics, and abstract algebra may be challenging for both AP Calculus BC and IB Math HL students.

Engineering & Physics

Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT)

~3 Modules - Testing Time: ~120 minutes

- Part A: Mathematics I
  - 27 multiple-choice questions, each with 5-8 possible answers
  - 40 minutes to complete this module
  - All candidates take this module
- Part B: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics II
  - 27 multiple-choice questions for each module, each with 5-8 possible answers
  - 40 minutes to complete each module
  - Most candidates will take two of the four available module – as specified by the program they are applying to

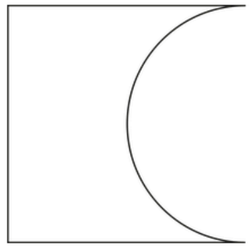
Content and Strategy Crossovers with SAT/ACT:

- Manipulations, Ratios, Algebraic Functions, Geometry, Exponents, Logarithms, Process of Elimination, Careful Reading

Note: Cambridge and Imperial also accept the ESAT for the Natural and Veterinary Sciences programs

ESAT Sample Questions

A square piece of metal has a semi-circular piece cut out of it as shown. The area of the remaining metal is 100 cm^2.



[diagram not to scale]

Which one of the following is a correct expression for the length of the side of the square in centimetres?

- $20\sqrt{\frac{2}{8-\pi}}$
- $10\sqrt{\frac{2}{4-\pi}}$
- $20\sqrt{\frac{2}{8+\pi}}$
- $10\sqrt{\frac{1}{8-\pi}}$
- $10\sqrt{\frac{1}{4-\pi}}$

If you look at a clock and the time is 9:45, what is the angle between the hour and the minute hands?

- 0°
- 7.5°
- 15°
- 22.5°
- 30°

Key Challenges for U.S. & European Students: ESAT

- IB students who took SL Math may need to expand their knowledge of advanced calculus.
- IB students should also focus on engineering-specific topics before the exam, as the IB curriculum is broader and less specialized.
- AP students who did not take Calculus BC or Physics C may struggle, as the test assumes strong math and physics foundations.
- AP students may also need to improve their ability to interpret novel data, as ESAT often includes unfamiliar scientific contexts requiring critical reasoning.

Business & Economics, History, and Political Science

Test of Aptitude Reasoning for Admissions (TARA)

3 Modules - Testing Time: ~120 minutes

- Part A: Critical Thinking
  - 22 multiple-choice questions, each with five options
  - 40 minutes to complete this module
- Part B: Problem Solving
  - 22 multiple-choice questions for each module, each with five options
  - 40 minutes to complete each module
- Part C: The Writing Task
  - One essay style question, selected from a choice of three; word limit: 750 words
  - 40 minutes to complete each module

- Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers

Note: This test is used by Oxford and UCL

Critical Thinking Sample Task

Any hospital which is serious about reducing its deficit and bringing its budget under control will examine carefully the land and buildings it owns, in order to see if any of them can be sold to raise money. Our local hospital is evidently determined to keep its finances under control, because it has recently cancelled a planned extension to the visitors' car park and sold the ground for housing.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the above argument?

A Any student who wants to gain a place at a top university should develop a special interest which will impress admissions tutors. Emily aims to secure a place at a top university. So she needs to develop an impressive special interest.

B Any parent who wishes to bring up children to be truthful should never lie to them. Natalie cannot want her children to grow up to be truthful, because she often deliberately tells them things which are not true.

C Any school which persistently gets poor examination results will be put into 'special measures' by the Government. Our local secondary school is sure to be put into special measures because its exam results have been dreadful for the last 5 years.

D Any worker at this company who is persistently late for work will be dismissed. Joe always arrives at work on time. So he is in no danger of losing his job.

E Anyone who wishes to study English at university needs to learn to read quickly. Vanessa has developed impressive speed-reading skills. So she must be planning to study English at university.

Problem Solving Sample Task

The total price of a flight between two cities is made up of three parts: a basic cost, airport charges, and a booking fee. Last year, for a flight with a total price of $330, the basic cost and the airport charges were in the ratio 3 : 2 and the booking fee was $50. This year, the basic cost of a flight has been increased by 20%, the airport charges have been increased by 10% and the booking fee has been halved.

What is the total price of the same flight this year?

A $335.00

B $344.20

C $349.80

D $374.80

E $407.80

Sample Writing Prompt

Democratic freedom means there should be no restriction on what may be said in public.

Explain what you think is meant by the statement.
Give a reasoned argument against the statement.
To what extent do you agree with the statement?

Key Challenges for U.S. & European Students: TARA

- This exam focuses on reasoning rather than memorized facts.
  - Such an approach might be challenging for students not used to systematic logic

- **Content and Strategy Crossovers with SAT/ACT:**
  - Inferences questions (SAT), Longer Math Word Problems, Data Analysis and Problem Solving (SAT), Optional Writing Section (ACT), Process of Elimination, Careful Reading

Medicine

University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

4 Sections - Testing Time: 2 hours, with 90-120 seconds of instruction between each subtest

Section 1: Verbal Reasoning, 22 minutes

- 11 passages with 44 multiple-choice questions each with 3 or 4 possible answers
- Some questions will be True/False/Cannot Say
- Assesses the ability to read and think carefully about a passage and draw relevant conclusions
- Scored out of a 300-900 range

Section 2: Decision Making, 37 minutes

- 35 multiple-choice questions, each with 2 or 4 possible answers
- Some questions will be yes/no questions
- Assesses the ability to manage graphs and charts; questions can appear as Syllogisms, Logical Puzzles, Recognising Assumptions, Interpreting Information, Venn Diagrams, Probabilistic and Statistical Reasoning
- A simple on-screen calculator and a notebook/ pen are available for use in this subtest
- Scored out of a 300-900 range

Medicine

University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

4 Sections - Testing Time: 2 hours, with 90-120 seconds of instruction between each subtest

Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning, 26 minutes

- 36 multiple-choice questions, each with 4 possible answers
- Most questions are in sets of four, supporting one passage; however, some questions are standalone
- Assesses a student's ability to use numerical skills to solve problems
- A simple on-screen calculator and a notebook/pen are available for use in this subtest
- Scored out of a 300-900 range

Section 4: Situational Judgement, 26 minutes

- 69 multiple-choice questions, each with 4 possible answers
- Students will be presented with various real-world scenarios, each with up to six questions associated with them
- Students will need to showcase sound judgment: determining if an action is appropriate, or ranking the importance of statements in response to each scenario
- Scored out of a band of 1-4, with 1 being the highest

**Abstract Reasoning section was removed from this test in 2025*

Medicine

University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

4 Sections - Testing Time: 2 hours, with 90-120 seconds of instruction between each subtest

Content and Strategy Crossovers with SAT/ACT:

- Main Idea and Details Questions, Logical Inferences, Manipulations, Ratios, Unit Conversions, Percents, Geometry, Statistics, Process of Elimination, Careful Reading, Scanning for Key Words, Approach to Graphs
- Sample Material

- Flexible window to take the test (July - Oct)

Note: At Imperial, UCAT is required for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree only

UCAT Sample Questions

Several families live in the small suburb of Starway, enjoying their time with pets and children.

Tyson and Clara's first pet was a dog, Chowder, which they brought up from its birth. They later adopt a 5-year old cat, Sombrero, before Tyson turned 50 in 2007.

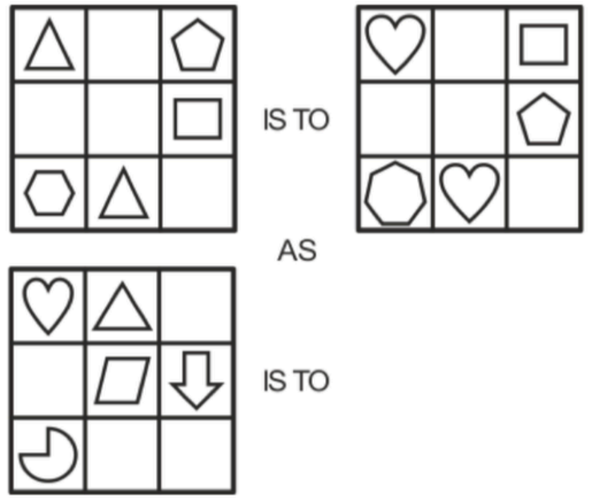
Zara was born to Sandra and Tony after they married in 2011 and before they moved house in 2013.

In 2014, Akshay and Debbie gave birth to twins, Stephanie and Simran.

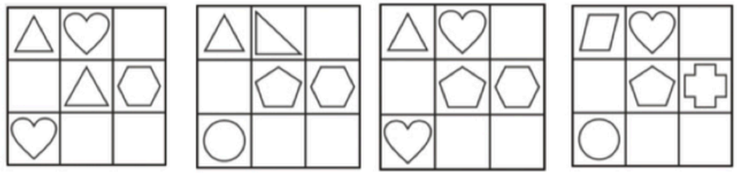
Which of the following statements MUST be true?

(A) Chowder is older than Sombrero
(B) Simran is younger than Stephanie
(C) Sombrero is older than Zara
(D) Zara is at least 2 years older than Simran

Which figure completes the statement?



A) B) C) D)



Key Challenges for U.S. and European Students: UCAT

- The UCAT is not a test of prior subject knowledge but rather assesses abstract reasoning, decision-making, and situational judgment.
- Students accustomed to in-depth, reflective responses in AP and IB assessments may find the fast-paced, time-pressured nature of the UCAT challenging.
- For the Situational Judgment section, students should familiarize themselves with medical ethics and professional behavior to improve their decision-making under pressure.

Law

Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT)

2 Sections - Testing Time: 2 hours, 15 minutes

- Section A: Multiple Choice, 95 minutes
  - 12 argumentative passages, 3-4 questions for each with 4 possible answers, 42 questions total
  - Objective: Assess reading comprehension, logical reasoning, and critical analysis skills.
- Scoring out of 42. 27-29+ competitive
- Section B: Essay, 40 minutes
  - Students craft a “reasoned and substantiated argument”
  - Choice between 3 prompts based on societal issues and current events
- Flexible window to take (August - January)

Content and Strategy Crossovers with SAT/ACT:

- Inferences, Main Idea and Details Questions, Process of Elimination, Careful Reading

Sample Material

Key Challenges for U.S. & European Students: LNAT

- Time Pressure: Rapid comprehension & argument evaluation—harder than SAT/ACT reading.
- Essay Structure: 40-minute legal-style argument, no outside knowledge required.
- No Legal Knowledge Needed: Focus is on reasoning, not memorized law facts.

Prep Tips:

- Practice timed reading & structured essay writing.
- Train with logic puzzles & unfamiliar language exercises.

LNAT Sample Question

Isolated by choice

No one knows precisely how many people choose to live in isolation from the industrial-technological world. Many of these people, perhaps thousands, are believed to thrive in the remote stretches of the Amazon River Basin of South America. Anthropologists and indigenous rights groups say evidence for the existence of these remote tribes is heard in stories of contact with other indigenous rainforest groups, deduced from abandoned dwellings, and seen by developers planning to extract resources from the forests. The rights groups advocate setting aside lands where the isolated peoples are believed to live, in an attempt to protect them from the intrusion of developers in the Amazon. "Estimating their numbers is problematical because the only means to find out for sure is to go out and find them and that poses all sorts of problems," said a spokesperson for Amazon Watch, an organization formed to protect indigenous peoples' rights in the face of development pressure from oil and gas companies, loggers, and miners.

Brazil is believed to have the largest populations of indigenous people living in isolation from the outside world. The government-established National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) estimates that there are more than 50 such groups and has established several reserves to protect their isolation. There is evidence of other populations from Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, said David Rothschild, co-director of Amazon Alliance, another group that works to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation. Some of these groups are truly uncontacted, having no knowledge of the outside world. Other groups are actively choosing to live in isolation. "They know the outside world exists and they want nothing to do with it," said Rothschild. In an interview with National Geographic magazine, Gil Inoach, president of the Interethnic Association for Development of the Peruvian Jungle (AIDESEP) said that these people have everything they need to survive without help from the outside world. "They have the ability to fish, hunt, and detect danger. They have the knowledge to develop their own healthcare systems through the discovery of medicinal plants in order to adapt to any illnesses in their surroundings. They have their own birthing techniques," he explains.

Amazon Watch say that most of these people are not lost in otherwise uninhabited lands, but rather are surrounded by other indigenous groups and under constant pressure from loggers and other developers. They remain in isolation because they actively choose to do so. Disease has plagued indigenous communities in South America since they first came into contact with outsiders from Europe in the 1500s. The indigenous populations had no immune protection against smallpox, measles, and flu, which wiped out thousands of communities. "With the initial contact that took place with the colony in the 1500s, many communities were plagued with illnesses and hundreds of communities, thousands of communities, have vanished," said Inoach. Then, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, entrepreneurs flocked to the Amazon to harvest sap from the rubber tree. They enslaved the indigenous people who lived in the forests, forcing them to work at rubber harvesting. To secure their own survival, indigenous communities that escaped enslavement by the rubber tappers retreated deeper into the forests and today actively avoid contact with outsiders, although aerial photographs of the forest canopy sometimes reveal their settlements to the wider world.

Today, indigenous rights groups are at the forefront of a movement to set aside lands where the isolated peoples are believed to exist, protecting them from the intrusion of developers looking to reap riches from the biological and mining resources of the Amazon. The rights groups hope to prevent a repeat of the atrocities that befell so many of the indigenous peoples' ancestors. "The creation of these protected natural areas, plus the creation of territorial reserves, are ways of creating conditions to safeguard the right to life of these communities," said Inoach. According to government statistics, some 380,000 square miles of indigenous lands are recognized in Brazil and are now protected from loggers and resource extraction industries.

Which one of the following is **not** cited as evidence for the existence of self-isolating tribes?

- A. The discovery of abandoned dwellings.
- B. The recognition of indigenous lands.
- C. Reports from rainforest developers.
- D. Anecdotal evidence from other tribes.
- E. Aerial photographs of settlements.

English

Cambridge - College Admission Assessment (English)

1 Section - Testing Time: 90 minutes

- Single essay question based on several excerpts with a similar theme
  - Students will pick two of the five passages to compare and contrast
  - Texts can be a mix of prose, poetry, and drama
  - Students are encouraged to spend 30 minutes reading the texts and 60 minutes writing

Students will need to submit their essay in Microsoft Word

No dictionaries or reference sources will be allowed

Oxford - n/a

- Historically, Oxford had administered the ELAT Test, which was similar to the Cambridge CAA English assessment
- The ELAT was discontinued in 2024; the school did not release a replacement test
- Applicants are now required to include samples of their past written work when applying

Note: Imperial does not require a subject-specific admissions test for the English program

Cambridge English Sample Task

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

You should spend at least 30 minutes reading and annotating the passages and preparing your answer.

The following passages are all linked by the theme of dance. They are arranged chronologically by date of publication. Read all the material carefully, and then complete the task.

(a) From *Evelina* (1778), a novel by Frances Burney page 4

(b) 'Javanese Dancers' (1892), a complete poem by Arthur Symons page 5

(c) From *Nervous Conditions* (1988), a novel by Tsitsi Dangarembga page 6

(d) From *Arcadia* (1993), a play by Tom Stoppard page 8

(e) 'Learning to Dance' (2010), the preface to a poetry collection by Alice Walker page 10

Key Challenges for U.S. and European Students: Cambridge English Assessment

- AP and IB students should generally be familiar with the exam format, as it aligns with skills tested in their coursework.
- However, students unfamiliar with British literature—its themes, historical context, and stylistic conventions—may be at a disadvantage when analyzing texts.
- Differences in spelling, idioms, and literary references between British and American English may also require additional preparation.

This

Test	Subjects Used For	Scoring System	Competitive Score	Relevant Univesrities
ESAT (Engineering and Sciences Admissions Test)	Engineering, Sciences	Scored out of 9.0	6.5+ considered competitive	Oxbridge, Imperial
LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test)	Law	MCQ: Scored out of 42, Essay assessed by universities	27+ out of 42	Oxbridge, KCL, UCL, Bristol, Durham (Law)
TARA (Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions)	Economics, History, Politics, Psychology and more	Scored from 1.0 to 9.0	7.0+ considered competitive (top 10%)	Oxford, UCL
TUMA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission)	Maths, Computer Science, Economics	Scored 1.0 to 9.0, universities use raw scores differently	6.5+ considered strong	Oxbridge, Imperial, Durham, Warwick, LSE
UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test)	Medicine & Dentistry	300-900 per section (1200-2700 total)+ SJT (Bands 1-4)	2200+ total, Band 1-2 in SJT	Most UK Medical Schools (Oxbridge, Imperial, Birmingham, Manchester, KCL)

English Language Assessments

For the universities spotlighted in this presentation, international students must provide proof of English fluency. In general, students have three options:

TOEFL iBT

- Computer-based test at home or at a testing center; ~ 2 hours and 30 minutes
- Four Sections: Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
- Scored out of 120 possible points; Minimum scores range from 80 (Bocconi) to 110 (Oxford)

IELTS

- Computer-based test at home or paper-based test at a testing center; 2 hours and 45 minutes
- Four Sections: Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
- Scored out of 9 possible points, with increments of 0.25; minimum scores range from 6.0 (Bocconi) to 7.5 (Oxford)
- ***The IELTS is the preferred test for Cambridge***

Duolingo English Assessment

- Computer-Adaptive Test; ~ 1 hour in length
- Two Sections:
  - Dynamic interface with a mix of matching, written responses, listening questions and spoken responses
  - Writing & Speaking Sample: 2 longer-form questions that will be accessible to the applicant's target universities
- Scored out of 160 possible points; minimum scores range from 110 (Bocconi) to 130 (IE and ESADE)
- ***Duolingo is not accepted by Oxford or Cambridge***

What About Outside of North America and Europe?

- At many global universities, a great SAT or ACT score can be a key differentiator for international applicants
- Most top 200+ global institutions give U.S. students the option to submit standardized test scores as part of their admissions profile
- At some institutions, that option can extend to non-U.S. international students as well
- All schools in Asia that appear in the top 20 of the QS World University rankings accept SAT/ACT Scores from both U.S. and European students:
  - #8 - National University of Singapore (Singapore)
  - #14 - Peking University (China)
  - #15 - Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
  - #17 - The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
  - #20 - Tsinghua University (China)

Testing in China

- The SAT is currently not offered in Mainland China for Chinese nationals
  - International students may have the opportunity to test in China if their international school hosts a test; however, any school-run administration will be closed to non-students of that school
  - Chinese nationals wanting to test are recommended to use test centers outside of the mainland – in Macao, Hong Kong, or Taiwan
    - Some students travel to nearby countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, and Mongolia to test
- The ACT is offered in Mainland China only for students enrolled in the Global Assessment Certificate Program (GAC)
  - GAC is a university prep and foundation studies program provided by the global arm of the ACT
  - Minimum requirements for the program include 720 hours of classroom study and 360 hours of independent study

Testing in China

- SAT/ACT Requirements for key Chinese Universities are below:
  - Peking University
    - Minimum SAT score: 1400
    - Minimum ACT score: 30
    - Students with very high SAT/ACT scores may be exempted from taking separate Peking University entrance exam (this is up to the discretion of the university)
  - Tsinghua University
    - Minimum SAT score: 1300
    - Minimum ACT score: 28
  - Fudan University
    - Minimum SAT score: 1350
    - Minimum ACT score: 28; Math Section score minimum: 28

Testing in Singapore

- Both SAT and ACT testing is offered at nearly a dozen test centers in Singapore to national and international students alike

- SAT/ACT Requirements for key Singaporean Universities are below:
  - National University of Singapore
    - International students need to submit scores for either 5 AP courses, SAT + 3 AP courses, or ACT + 3 AP courses
    - Minimum SAT score: 1250 Composite
      - Verbal minimum 600; Math minimum: 650
    - Minimum ACT score: 29 Composite
      - For students submitting the ACT, the writing section is mandatory and minimum score is 8
    - For either test, superscoring is not an option; only one testing administration
  - Nanyang Technological University
    - Minimum SAT score: 1250 Composite in one sitting
    - Minimum ACT score: 30 Composite in one sitting; writing section mandatory

Recommendations

- Take free, full-length diagnostic for the Digital SAT
- Get a personalized assessment based on starting points, timeline, & goals

Students who are

- Year 11 (U.S. sophomore) – take diagnostics - if interested in an institution with a proprietary test, explore format and comfort level with that/those test(s)
- Year 12 (U.S. junior) – take diagnostics – if SAT/ACT is on lower side, consider preparing for the proprietary tests

Contact us at **info@onseneducation.com** to start the process

Q&A

Thank you!

Sean Quinn
Founder + Tutor, Onsen Education
Cell: +1-929-277-2008
WhatsApp: +1-443-631-3338
sean@onseneducation.com

Zach Adler
Director of Instruction and Development,
Tutor, Onsen Education
Cell/WhatsApp: +1-917-428-2217
zach@onseneducation.com

www.onseneducation.com

ONSEN EDUCATION