



# Guide to the SAT Exam

## What is the SAT?

The SAT Reasoning Test, formerly called the Scholastic Aptitude Test, is the most broadly used standardized test for college admissions. The test is owned and administered by the College Board, a not-for-profit organization. The test takes three hours and forty-five minutes and costs \$50 - \$65. There are two sections to the test: Mathematics and Critical Reading. Possible scores in each area range from 200 – 800 points, and the total maximum SAT score is 1600. All sections contain multiple choice questions, with the Mathematics section includes some open-response questions. There is also an optional essay section, which all Steiner students should choose to take. The College Board recently rewrote the SAT and the first use of the new test was March of 2016.

The College Board also offers SAT Subject tests which are more in-depth examinations of a student's knowledge in particular areas. When choosing schools to apply to, students should check the list of application requirements to see if an SAT Subject test is required.

The College Board does offer a fee-waiver program for low-income students. Please see Siân Owen-Cruise if you think you might qualify.

## When do the High School students take it?

The SAT is offered seven times a year: August, October, November, December, March, May and June. At the Rudolf Steiner High School we recommend that the students first take the SAT in the spring of their eleventh grade year (March, May or June) and then if they wish to improve their score they can study over the summer and retake it in August, October or November of twelfth grade. The test is usually taken at a local community high school, such as Pioneer. There is no limit on the number of times that a student can take the SAT, but studies have shown that after three attempts there is rarely a significant increase in scores.

Preparation for the SAT is an important part of the College Preparation course that eleventh graders take in January or February each year. In this course students learn about the test, practice taking examples of each of the sections, and receive an SAT study guide.

## Who schedules it?

Individual students and their families schedule and pay for the SAT themselves. The College Board offers online registration, and preparation support at <http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>

## How are the results used within the school?

At the Rudolf Steiner High School the results are only used as part of the full program of college advising.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the SAT exam please speak with Laura Shope: 734-669-9394 or [lshope@steinerschool.org](mailto:lshope@steinerschool.org).