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Should You Take the ACT or the Newly Designed SAT

In the past I have recommended students initially take both the ACT and SAT, compare their scores on each, and determine which test is best for them – the focus of study being on one, not both. Gone are the days when SAT was required by private colleges and ACT by state universities. With very few exceptions, most colleges and universities will accept either test. Therefore, it makes sense to go with your strength. However, because there are a few exceptions, it is important to check which test(s) your prospective school requires.

This year for the Class of 2017, I recommended the focus be on the ACT since the new, redesigned SAT was administered for the first time this March 2016. In fact, students who took the new SAT in March will not receive their scores until after the SAT test is given in May of 2016. SAT is a normed test and scores cannot be determined until there are at least two tests to compare. In addition, anytime a test is redesigned there are minimal test prep resources available - the SAT has released just 4 practice tests while the ACT has 10. Most publishers of test prep materials put out fewer materials than usual because there was no reassurance that the new SAT would not change prior to the first administration, which in fact, it did.

Hopefully, by the fall of 2016, I would like to believe that it will be safe for students to return to the practice of taking both the ACT and SAT to determine which test is best for them – good news for the Class of 2018 and beyond.

Parmelee Consulting (Parmelee & Parmelee LLC) has been providing one on one test preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT for over 10 years. We, also, provide test preparation for independent school admission testing. Tutoring in all subject areas is available K-12+. Please contact our office for detailed information. 440 708-0315