

FAQs about the Practice SAT/ACT

- **What's the difference between the SAT and the ACT?**
The ACT is a competitor to the SAT. It was administered mostly in the Midwest in the past, but has been gaining in popularity nationwide. The ACT is more of a knowledge-based test than the SAT.
- **What do college admissions offices think of the ACT?**
All US colleges accept both the ACT and the SAT.
- **How does the Practice SAT/ACT address both tests?**
The Princeton Review has designed the combination practice test to include sections from both. Students will receive scores for all SAT and ACT sections. This can help the student and his/her parents determine which test the student should take, or perhaps to choose to take both.
- **What's the difference between the Practice SAT/ACT and the PSAT?**
The school gives the PSAT-NMSQT during school hours. The Practice SAT/ACT is given by the Princeton Review on a Saturday, and is sponsored by the PTSA. The Practice SAT/ACT is the length of the actual test, including the writing section. The PSAT-NMSQT costs \$18 (it's free for sophomores) payable to the school; the Practice SAT/ACT costs \$12 payable to the PTSA.
- **Is the JMHS PTSA Practice SAT/ACT open to students from other schools?**
Yes, students from other schools are welcome.
- **When is the Practice SAT/ACT, and how long is it?**
The Practice SAT/ACT is Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This time frame is approximately the same as the real SAT and ACT.
- **Where will the Practice SAT/ACT be given?**
In the Madison cafeteria.
- **What should the student bring?**
 1. Each student should have at least two No. 2 pencils and a soft eraser; no pens or mechanical pencils are permitted.
 2. An acceptable calculator. Calculators with built-in computer algebra systems are prohibited by the ACT. These include the TI-89, TI-92, HP48GII, HP40G, HP49G, or HP50G. Both the SAT and ACT do not permit handheld, laptop or tablet computers, including PDAs. Calculators built into cell phones are prohibited as well as calculators with a typewriter keypad (letter keys in QWERTY format).

- **Will food be available?**
Unlike at the real tests, the PTSA will provide snacks for students taking the practice. (During the real tests, students may take only short bathroom breaks.)
- **Will the Practice SAT/ACT be given on any other dates?**
No, but private testing may be arranged with the Princeton Review.
- **What is the score return session?**
The score return session for students and their parents will be Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 PM in Warhawk Hall. The Princeton Review will give students their Practice SAT/ACT results, and discuss how the Princeton Review might help improve students' scores on the real SAT or ACT.
- **Is this a sales tactic by the Princeton Review?**
The Princeton Review is a for-profit company that will be marketing its services to families. PTSA members whose students took practice tests in the past with the Princeton Review and similar companies found the process very worthwhile in spite of the inevitable sales pitch. Students and parents should consider any offer carefully before making a purchasing decision.
- **What's the PTSA going to do with the \$12 or \$15?**
Proceeds from the Practice SAT/ACT will be dedicated to the PTSA's Academic Boosters program. Through this program, the PTSA purchases educational equipment for classrooms, pays for teachers to attend conferences and classes, sponsors monthly student award breakfasts, helps pay for Warhawk Flight School, and makes donations to student clubs and activities (Robotics, Hawk Talk, etc.).
- **Who in the PTSA is coordinating the Practice SAT/ACT?**
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