



**New England Christian Academy**  
**High School Guidance News**  
 NOVEMBER 2009



**SAT & SAT Subject Test & ACT REMINDER:** Don't forget to sign up for the SAT or SAT Subject Test or the ACT. It is O.K. to sign up early!!! Registration forms are available in the guidance office. You may also register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT or an SAT Subject Test and at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for the ACT.

**Note:** New England Christian Academy's CEEB code for registering for the SAT or the ACT or for college applications is 222106.

<b>SAT</b>	
<b><u>Math</u></b>	
Content	Standard Multiple-Choice (44 questions) Student-Produced Responses that have no answer choice (10 questions)
Score	M 200-800
<b><u>Critical Reading</u></b>	
Content	Multiple Choice Questions in the form of: Sentence Completions (19 questions) Passage-Based Reading (48 questions)
Score	CR 200-800
<b><u>Writing</u></b>	
Content	One Essay Multiple Choice Questions in the form of: Improving sentences (25 questions) Identifying sentence errors (18 questions) Improving paragraphs (6 questions)
Score	W 200-800 Multiple-Choice Subscore: 20-80 Essay Subscore: 2-12

ACT Composite	COLLEGE SELECTIVITY (Note: Test scores are not the only factor in college admissions)	SAT Total (Critical Reading+Math)
<b>17-20</b>	<b>Open</b> All high school graduates accepted, to limit of capacity	<b>830-950</b>
<b>18-21</b>	<b>Liberal</b> Some freshmen from lower half of high school graduating class	<b>870-990</b>
<b>20-23</b>	<b>Traditional</b> Majority of accepted freshmen in top 50 % of high school graduating class.	<b>950-1070</b>
<b>22-27</b>	<b>Selective</b> Majority of accepted freshmen in top 25% of high school graduating class.	<b>1030-1220</b>
<b>27-31</b>	<b>Highly Selective</b> Majority of accepted freshmen in top 10% of high school graduating class.	<b>1220-1380</b>

## HOW DO THE SAT AND THE ACT COMPARE?

	<b>ACT ACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>SAT SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST</b>
<b>Test Fee</b> (2009-2010)	ACT (No Writing) \$32.00 ACT Plus Writing \$47.00	SAT Reasoning Only \$45.00
<b>Test Content</b>	English 25% Mathematics 25% Reading 25% Science 25%	Critical Reading 33 1/3 % Mathematics 33 1/3 % Writing 33 1/3%
<b>Scoring</b>	Scores based on number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing.	Scores adjusted for guessing with most incorrect responses carry a penalty of one-third or one-quarter of a point.
<b>Scoring Scale</b>	English 1-36 Mathematics 1-36 Reading 1-36 Science 1-36	Critical Reading 200-800 Mathematics 200-800 Writing 200-800
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>ACT COMPOSITE 1-36</b> (Average of four test areas)	<b>SAT TOTAL 600-2400</b> (Sum of Three Test Areas)
<b>Interest Inventory Results</b>	Student's measured interest is reported in terms of high & low interest areas (Science, Arts, Social Services, Business Contact, Business Operations, Technical), & World-of Work Map regions that match measured interest.	<b>NONE</b>

### Concordance between ACT Composite Score and Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

ACT Composite Score	SAT CR+M (Score Range)
36	1600
35	1540-1590
34	1490-1530
33	1440-1480
32	1400-1430
31	1360-1390
30	1330-1350
29	1290-1320
28	1250-1280
27	1210-1240
26	1170-1200
25	1130-1160
24	1090-1120
23	1050-1080
22	1020-1040
21	980-1010
20	940-970
19	900-930
18	860-890
17	820-850
16	770-810
15	720-760
14	670-710
13	620-660
12	560-610
11	510-550

## Concordance between ACT Combined English/Writing Score and SAT Writing Score SAT

<b>ACT English/Writing Score</b>	<b>SAT Writing (Score Range)</b>
36	800
35	800
34	770-790
33	730-760
32	710-720
31	690-700
30	660-680
29	640-650
28	620-630
27	610
26	590-600
25	570-580
24	550-560
23	530-540
22	510-520
21	480-500
20	470
19	450-460
18	430-440
17	410-420
16	390-400
15	380
14	360-370
13	340-350
12	320-330
11	300-310

Note: Copied from the College Board Website

Note: Most admissions officers at colleges will use either the SAT or ACT for admissions and scholarships. Some students find they do better on one test over the other so I advise students to try both tests.

### **SENIORS – TIME TO:**

- ❖ Take the SAT or ACT and SAT Subject Tests if needed
- ❖ Apply for FAFSA pin (both student and one parent)
- ❖ Plan college visits and attend college fairs
- ❖ Begin obtaining college applications – check application deadlines and put deadline dates on your calendar, photocopy applications and begin working on applications
- ❖ Start on drafts of application essays (if required). If you have a choice of topics, choose ones that you care about. Your essays will have to have depth and insight.

\*\* taken from Planning for College – a senior year calendar

**TIPS ON COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL AID FORMS** -The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the customized Financial Aid Profile have different college codes and separate instructions. The FAFSA has six digit college codes (students may obtain codes in the guidance office); the customized Profile has four digit college codes (which are in the CSS code list in the Profile registration packet). Students and parents having to complete both the FAFSA and the customized Profile should complete the forms and mail them at approximately the same time. The student should report his or her full name, social security number, and date of birth correctly on both the FAFSA and customized Profile. The student should send the application by regular first-class mail. Special handling (such as registered, certified, or overnight delivery) delays processing. Completed financial aid forms should be photocopied prior to mailing and kept in a folder at home for future use should the need arise. The FAFSA application should be submitted as soon as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2010 (do not date form prior to this as well).

**2010-2011 FAFSA** cannot be filed until after January 1, 2010. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be filled out in order to receive financial aid at most colleges. However, you can register for your P.I.N. number in order to file your FAFSA electronically. Both the student and a parent need to get a P.I.N. number. A P.I.N. number is a number that allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. If you have had other children apply for financial aid before with the FAFSA, then your P.I.N. number is still valid. Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to apply.

**2010-2011 FINANCIAL AID PROFILE** – Some colleges require a second form in addition to the FAFSA in order to apply for financial aid at their college. It is called the PROFILE and you can find out information including what colleges require it by going to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Note that this is the same website for the S.A.T.

The **Annual Somerset-Case College Night** will be held at Joseph Case High School in Swansea on Thursday, October 29 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. College Night affords parents, as well as students, the opportunity to speak directly with college admission representatives concerning programs, costs, facilities and financial aid. It also allows students an opportunity to obtain school catalogs and applications.

**EARLY DECISION/EARLY ACTION/EARLY NOTIFICATION APPLICANTS ARE MINDED TO ADHERE TO THE STRICT DEADLINES ENFORCED** by 4-year colleges. If you are seriously considering this type of application, it is strongly recommended that all information (application, transcript, recommendations, etc) be received at the institution by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Since this is a different type of admission process, those seniors considering early applications are advised to schedule an appointment to see Mrs. Pratt as soon as possible.

**What is the difference between Early Decision and Early Action or Early Notification?** Early Decision requires a legal commitment on the part of both the college and the applicant. Early Action and Early Notification offer an early commitment on the part of the college or university but require no commitment to enroll on the part of the applicant.

**Autobiographical Sketch & Parent Questionnaires:** Please encourage your child to fill out the autobiographical sketch and if you could fill out and return the parent questionnaires that would be much appreciated. You may print them from the NECA website under “High School Guidance” and then “Grade 12 Planning Forms.” This information can be helpful to me as I fill out the guidance counselor recommendation for your child’s college applications. It is also useful information to supply to others who might be writing recommendations for your child’s application and it is definitely not too early to consider who that might be and perhaps approach them to write a recommendation. It is common courtesy in asking (& you should ask!) a person if they would write you a recommendation to give that person a stamped addressed envelope to the college they are to send the recommendation to. However, some colleges request that all application materials be sent together and in that case the person writing the recommendation can put the recommendation in an envelope, seal it and sign on the seal and give you that envelope to send with the rest of the application materials. If you are given the choice to sign the recommendation form as to whether you waive your right to see it at later date or not, my recommendation is to waive that right. In that case the college receiving the recommendation can feel fairly confident that the person writing the recommendation has been honest. Finally, it is also good manners to send a thank you note to all who were kind enough to write you a recommendation.

### **Helpful Websites & Information for College and Scholarship Information:**

[www.scholarshipcoach.com](http://www.scholarshipcoach.com)

Also I have his book in the Guidance Office, How to Go to College Almost For Free by Ben Kaplan, The Scholarship Coach!

Need a Lift published by the American Legion lists scholarships, grants, and loans that students may apply for. (Note: I have this book in the Guidance Office).

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

Other Books that are full of information:

Winning Scholarships for College by Marianne Ragins

(Winner of more than \$400,000 in scholarship money)

**PLEASE CHECK THE NECA WEBSITE FOR UPDATED SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!**  
**THERE ARE DEADLINES FOR MOST SCHOLARSHIPS!**

[www.necacademy.org](http://www.necacademy.org)

Click on College Scholarships and Financial Aid

Finally, I know that all this “college stuff” can be intimidating and overwhelming. However, remember that we have an advocate that knows the number of hairs on our head. He loves us with an everlasting love. Draw near to Him and He will light your path.

Shalom,

Mrs. Pratt

*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*