

Dear Counselor:

We keep an eye on every ACT administered so that we can keep our materials up to date. We thought that you might like to know what your students were up against on this December's exam. The details are below. In addition, we've included other tidbits of information that may be of interest.

PSAT Scores... Now What? Events This January.

Students and Parents interested in understanding what's in store for them now that they've received their PSAT scores should attend this event. At this event, students will be able to read and understand their score report and develop a testing strategy to help guide them through the winding road of testing. To find events near you, please visit www.PrincetonReview.com/events.

National Free Practice Test Day

The Princeton Review is pleased to announce that our National Free Practice Test Day is scheduled on March 8th. Students will have an opportunity to take a free practice exam of the SAT, ACT or PRA (an exam designed to test students on both the SAT and ACT). To find an event near you, please visit www.PrincetonReview.com/events.

Harvard Radically Changes Its Financial Aid Award System

This is wonderful news for both Ivy League aspirants and for the pressure that it will place on other colleges to meet the needs of middle income America. I have attached the web-link for the complete article. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/12/11/harvard>

Review of the December ACT Exam

This was a fairly straightforward exam. The items tested were not particularly demanding for the most part, and preparation and practice in techniques, such as process of elimination, would have helped tremendously.

On the English test, questions requiring students to analyze whether or not answer choices satisfied a given objective from the question were also prevalent. On the whole, we continue to see the English portion of the ACT asking more rhetorical and structural questions. Knowledge of punctuation rules, though, is still essential to success.

The Reading test required less interpretation of information by the student than in recent administrations. In addition, the reading passages were all quite accessible and students should not have had great difficulty understanding the language in either the questions or the passages.

This Math exam was not as difficult overall as other recent tests, though we continue to see a few really tough questions sprinkled throughout. The trigonometry problems were on the easy side, though basic algebraic and geometric questions still dominated the section. For most students, the presence of these tough questions shouldn't affect their scores too much, since they can always skip the most difficult ones.

The Science test was a mix of quick, easy passages and more difficult, time-consuming ones. Looking up answers in the various charts and graphs was the basis for most of the questions, but some of those charts and graphs were very difficult to interpret. Many students shooting for top scores reported having difficulty finishing the entire Science test in the allotted time.

As expected, the essay required students to write on a topic related to education and relevant to their experiences as students. One's ability to structure an argument and write clearly is paramount on this essay.

We hope you found this information helpful. If you have any questions about this test, the ACT in general or the SAT, or how we can help your students prepare for these tests, please give our office a call. We're always happy to help.

Sincerely,

Tony Nguyen
Director of Outreach Services
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