

THE BASICS OF THE SAT II Subject Tests

The SAT II Subject Tests are a battery of 22 different tests. As if the SAT weren't enough, most highly selective colleges require students to take one or more of these Subject Tests *in addition* to the SAT. Each test lasts one hour, and a student can take a maximum of three exams on one test day. No college will require scores from more than three SAT II exams.

Here are a few other points to keep in mind about SAT II:

- Colleges that require SAT II tests will sometimes indicate precisely which exams they want a student to take. For example, many colleges require students to take the Math IC or Math IIC. Many colleges used to require students to take the Writing SAT II, but that test no longer exists since writing is now part of the regular SAT.
- The foreign language SAT IIs are widely regarded as relatively easy for students who have done well in a foreign language in high school. The typical junior who has taken three years of Spanish or French might not find the test too intimidating. Again, students should take practice exams to see if these tests are right for them.
- It is very important for students to decide during their junior year if they intend to apply to highly selective colleges during their senior year. If so, there's a very good chance they'll need to take the SAT IIs. Since the SAT IIs are offered on the same days as the SAT, they need to take this into consideration when they're figuring out when to take each test in the spring of their junior year.
- Students can use the same registration form used for the SAT to sign up for SAT II Subject Tests. They can also register online by going to www.collegeboard.com