



# **ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR U.S. COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

Academica International Studies  
Dual Diploma Students

# TYPES OF EXAMS

01

## SAT

What is on the test?

- Reading
- Writing
- Math

This test may be required for a college application. Many colleges allow the student to choose either the SAT or the ACT. Sometimes this exam may be optional.

02

## ACT

What is on the test?

- English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science
- + Optional Writing section

This test may be required for a college application. Many colleges allow the student to choose either the SAT or the ACT. Sometimes this exam may be optional.

03

## TOEFL

What is on the test?

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing

This test is often for international students who are not native English speakers. This test may be required for a college application.

04

## IELTS

What is on the test?

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing

This test is often for international students who are not native English speakers. This test may be required for a college application.

# SAT



1.

**Reading and Writing** section:  
64 minutes long (two 32-minute modules)

2.

**Math** section: 70 minutes (two 35-minute modules)

3.

Total time for all parts of the exam: 134 minutes with 98 questions all together.

4.

Most questions are multiple-choice, but some math questions require you to provide the answer instead of select it.

5.

You are not penalized for guessing if you do not know the answer. It is better to guess than to leave an answer blank.

6.

Register for the SAT:

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/international-testing>

# ACT



1.

**English** section, multiple choice questions: 45 minutes

2.

**Math** section, multiple choice questions: 60 minutes

3.

**Reading** section, multiple choice questions: 35 minutes

4.

**Science** section, multiple choice questions: 35 minutes

5.

*\*Optional\** **Writing** section: 40 minutes

6.

Register for ACT:  
<https://global.act.org/content/global/en/products-and-services/the-act-non-us/act-international-subject-test-students.html>

# **TOEFL IBT**

## **DIGITAL VERSION**

**1.**

**Reading** section: 20 questions with estimated time of 35 minutes

**2.**

**Listening** section: 28 questions with estimated time of 36 minutes

**3.**

**Speaking** section: 4 tasks with estimated time of 16 minutes

**4.**

**Writing** section: 2 tasks with estimated time of 29 minutes

**5.**

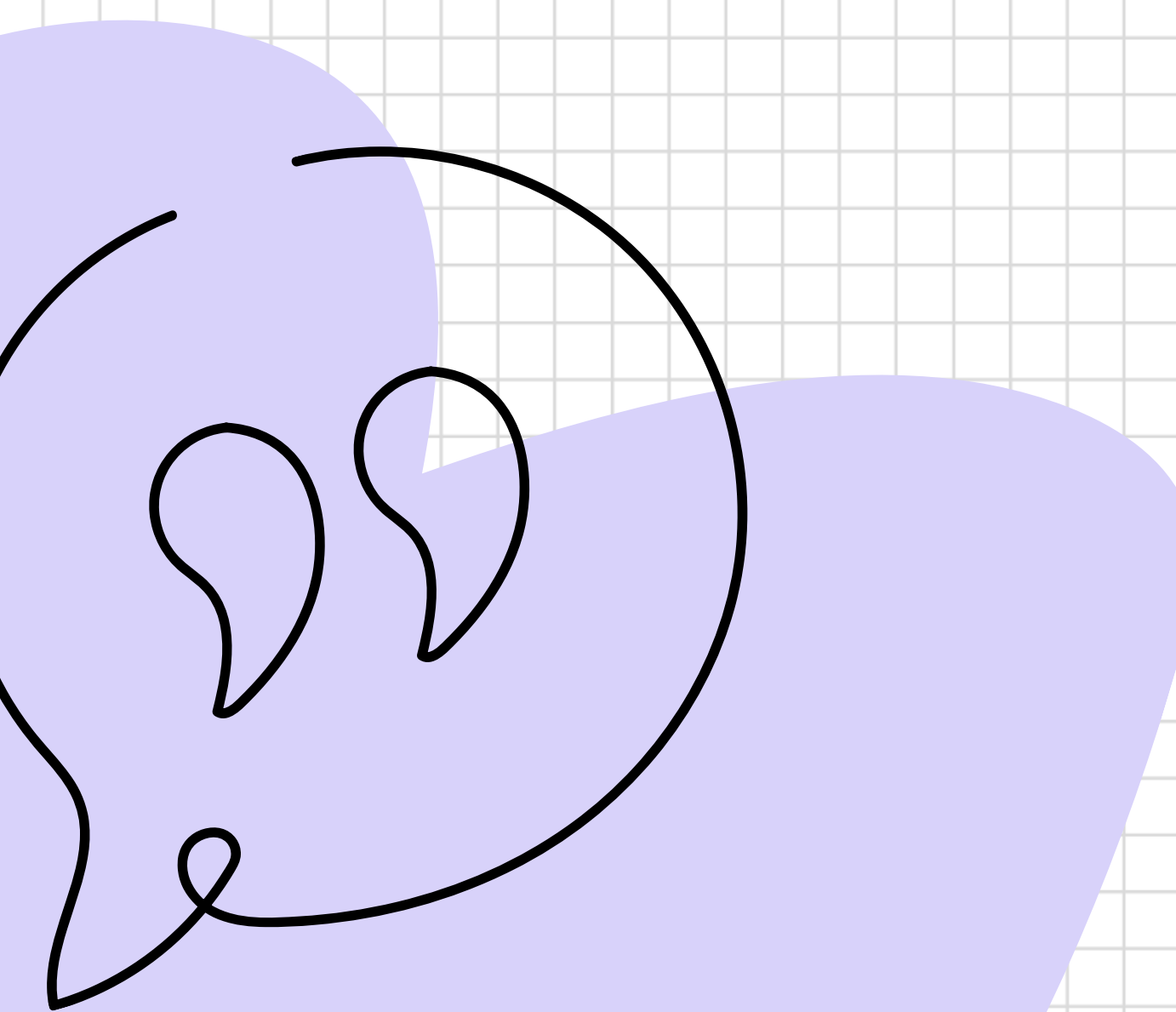
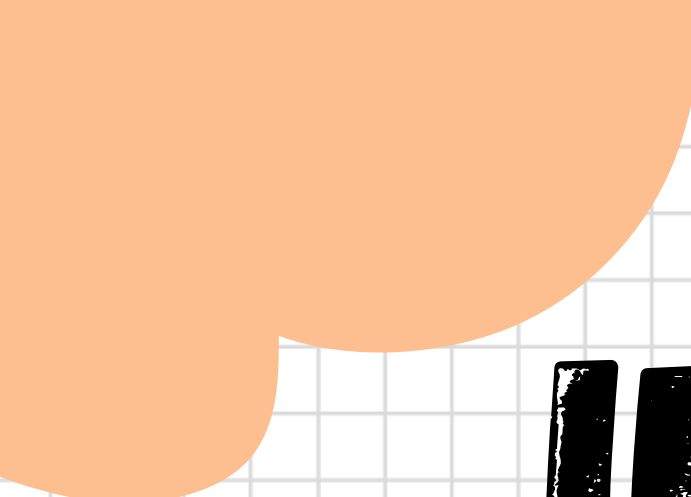
The entire test can be completed in just under 2 hours, but you should plan on spending 2.5 hours to allow for time to check-in. Practice tests are available:

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare.html>

**6.**

TOEFL registration: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/register/how-to-register.html>

# IELTS



1.

**Reading** section: 60 minutes and 25% of your score

2.

**Listening** section: 30 minutes and 25% of your score

3.

**Speaking** section: 11-14 minutes and 25% of your score

4.

**Writing** section: 60 minutes and 25% of your score

5.

The test is available in computer-based form, paper-based form, or online. Practice exams and academic progress checks are available directly from the IELTS website:

<https://www.ieltsprogresscheck.com/>

6.

IELTS registration: <https://ielts.org/test-centres>

# HOW DO I KNOW WHICH EXAM I SHOULD TAKE?

- First, review the application requirements of your top 3-5 colleges to see which exams they require. This information can usually be found on the [International Admissions page](#).
- Make note of the average scores of the incoming freshmen that have recently been accepted to the university. This information is publicly available on the admissions page.
- If you are able to choose between the SAT and the ACT, take a look at each of their respective websites to get a better idea of what is on each exam and what kind of questions they ask.
- Once you know which exam you will take, try to give yourself at least 6 weeks to study and prepare. It is helpful to register and schedule the exam to have a deadline in mind while you study. Set reminders about the upcoming exam day.
- Give yourself a realistic schedule study to allow for time to review previously learned material as well as practicing new skills or learning new terms. Practice exams and study guides are available from both the SAT and the ACT.
- If the colleges that you are applying to indicate that the SAT or ACT is optional, you are strongly encouraged to still take the exam. Your scores could help you in the future with scholarships and other opportunities.

# DO I NEED TO TAKE THE TOEFL OR IELTS?

You may need to demonstrate your English proficiency, by means of an exam, for your college application. It is best to contact the International Admissions department of the colleges that you are applying to in order to confirm.

Explain that you are a Dual Diploma student who is earning an American high school diploma in addition to your home school diploma. Each college is different and may have different procedures for international students.

If you need to take the TOEFL or IELTS, review the exam components ahead of time and study for each section.

Register to take the exam with enough time in advance to prepare.

Practice tests and study guides are available to use to study on each respective website.



# REMHINDER

Remember to register with **plenty** of time to study.

**Be realistic** with your schedule and study a little bit each week.

Set **multiple reminders** so that you don't forget the date of the exam. Even if a test is digital, you may be required to take it in person at an official test center so plan accordingly.

You may have the time and the option to receive your scores first before choosing to send them to your universities of choice. This is why it is important to plan in advance.

If you don't get the score that you want or need, remember that you may be able to study, register, and retake the exam.

**BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR EXAM(S)!**

