Subject: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 17 May 2006 23:55:31 GMT
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Any experience information or knolwedge you might be kind enough to share?

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 19 May 2006 03:33:48 GMT
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Are you talking about he college entrance exam?

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Shane on Fri, 19 May 2006 03:39:40 GMT
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Never took and SAT, but took the ACT's, which is what they offer in KS. Man, what a test! We stayed out till 5 am the night before getting drunk and partying because it was homecoming night. I actually scored real well on it, too.I'll get to find out all about it this summer (the SAT's). My sixth grade son was chosen at his middle school to take a 2 week study course for the SAT's for free (usually $1500)! Then he gets to take the test next fall I believe. Yes, he makes me feel stupid!

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 19 May 2006 11:54:55 GMT
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Yes thats right. It is now scored at 2400 points with an essay component. I am being told that the colleges are now pretty much focused on that test to the exclusion of HS grades. Thank God for that! So I just wondered if anyone had any experience with the test.I am hearing the Princeton Review is a waste.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 19 May 2006 11:57:19 GMT
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The PSAT's; that would be what your son is taking in 8th grade no? They had my boy do the PSAT Practice exam in 6th grade; they go to a private test site and it is logged onto the state computor. Is that what you mean?I have heard thye ACT's are gaining in importance. Do you know what the difference is in terms of relevance to their curriculum work?

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 19 May 2006 15:23:02 GMT
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It's been a while since I took it, remember the ACT too. My son took those a couple years back. It is still a long test. As far as its relevance for college entrance - It was important to colleges in the seventies and eighties just as now. They based entrance almost completely by the score in the late seventies and early eighties. So I don't know that there has been much change in how colleges view entrance exams for the last couple decades.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 19 May 2006 21:57:26 GMT
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I'm told the relevance of the SAT's endured a small decline in the late eighties and early nineties due to the fact that females tend to score lower. Thats why they incorporated the essay portion in the new test.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Shane on Sat, 20 May 2006 16:30:25 GMT
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Must be. We haven't really received much info on it other than they picked 10 kids from each middle school to participate. I'll tell you what, the TAKS test (the Texas state test) is a freakin joke. My son tells me every time he takes it that it was a waste of his time. I'm just glad he's doing as well as he is and doesn't have to struggle. It definitely lets him be more creative in his work.I've seen the SAT's and taken the ACT's and as far as I can tell they are pretty much equal as far as difficulty. They changed the test format of the ACT a year or two after I took them. I can't remember for sure what test part they removed and replaced other than the catagories you got your scores for was different. In SW Ks that's all we had.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Shane on Sat, 20 May 2006 16:40:16 GMT
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The importance of these test scores I think is highly overated. I've known lots of people, including myself, that tend to clutch up on tests. Doesn't really show how much potential is there, just the ability to regurgitate information. I did well in HS as far as grades went and in college, too. But I had to learn to control test anxiety to do it. I think the only reason I scored as well on the ACT as I did (32 composite) was because I was still half drunk and relaxed! LOL!!What have you heard about the Princeton Review that is discouraging? They offer that course around here for the middle schoolers as well.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 May 2006 20:08:28 GMT
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I never took the SAT's; the story is my High School was closed shortly after I grduated. I was attending college on their good faith because my records were lost. As far as the SAT strategy I am getting some good advice here and elsewhere. Buy as many of the SAT prep books as you can and study all of the tips and tricks they offer. Don't waste money on prep courses unless they are local/have one instructor and very good references. Then also take all of the practice tests offered by the state. That is the advice so far.Man there is so much at stake here that I get nervous for my son before he even does. He has a good resume and we are not wealthy. He plays two sports/three instruments in Band Jazz and Wind Ensemble and he has a 99.7 average. 17th in a class of 267. I say this to illustrate my concern because he has a shot at a good college and some money but I am naieve in the ways of admissions strategy. I am hearing that the good schools are so damned competitive now that people are going crazy trying to up their potential. 100k now for four years is some kind of row to hoe. You also I see will be experiencing this nightmare soon; no?

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 May 2006 20:18:35 GMT
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The Princeton Review they say is staffed by hiree's who are not always up to snuff. Much of it is done by rote and they don't use the most up-to-date examples of the current test.What I have heard is to canvass your area for a very highly recommended small local test prep course. They say that those are usually staffed by a small group of dedicated and very competent instructors who live and die by their reputation and so must keep a high standard of results.I did very poorly in HS; too much party. Luckily I snuck into college and straightened out my act after a few years. I took ten years to get my Bachelors because it was really of no help to me to have a degree; I

would have lost money by advancing to the management ranks. Plus I don't do well with authority; I like my space so to speak.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Shane on Sat, 20 May 2006 21:16:52 GMT
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Hey, I did too much partying in HS and when I got to college it was a real struggle. Took me 10 years to get mine, too. The birth of my son finally convinced me to finish. I hate authority if it's misused. I don't make much, but I come and go pretty much as I please and don't have anyone breathing over me. And no manual labor anymore.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Shane on Sat, 20 May 2006 21:25:26 GMT
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Which nightmare? College, girls, lack of money for my fledgling audio habit! We definitely don't make much money, so good grades and test scores are his hope. He's not into sports at all except playing a little basketball now and then. He like to ride his bicycle a lot and I attribute that to the many years I have ridden a road bike. All except this year because I just can't seem to find the time. I've only been out about 6 times since the first of the year.I'm still paying on my student loan and will be for awhile. Almost all of it went to daycare and having to live off campus. I was lucky in that my ACT scores pretty much helped pay for the school. I went to a private college because of the small classes and dedicated professors. I found that the schooling actually cost me less after scholarships and whatnot than going to a state school would have. They tend to have more money to offer at the private level if you meet the criteria, which really offsets the costs.My son probably is in the top 20 of his class as well (about the same size) and got several top awards for science, tech applications, and creativeness applied to both. So he makes me feel stupid at times, but as long as he doesn't make the butthead mistakes I did he's got a real chance for a great future.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 May 2006 21:47:54 GMT
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Thats the spirit. Some things are more valuable than just more money.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 May 2006 21:51:24 GMT
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I had the feeling that you were in a similar boat as I. The concern about these things gives it away. Good Luck with your search and If I hear of any new advice I will pass it on.Also I agree; HS is much harder than college is now. After what he goes through college will be a breeze.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by lelandcrooks on Sun, 21 May 2006 11:06:03 GMT
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Don't despair. Apply to the private colleges. Most of them have got more money than they know what to do with. My daughter applied to 6 or 7 schools, and a private in LA coughed up the most cash by far. If they want you, they'll find a way. Especially if your son is muscial. The private colleges are far more giving and supportive of the liberal arts programs than the state universities. All they seem to give grants and scholarships for is athletics. We ended up with vocal music scholarship, debate scholarship, and a good sized grant. I'm sending her there for less than instate would have cost, (excluding my travel costs to visit)Another reason she got a chunk was the school was looking to diversify it's classes. Small town midwestern girl goes to big LA private school. Apply out of state. Cross your t's and dot your i's. Pay attention to every deadline. The paperwork is much harder than when we went. Do the fafsa before the end of january. I did mine by Jan 10th this year. That also means you have to have your taxes done by then. Get your fafsa pin now. Get your son's pin now. Be ready to jump in as fast as possible. The early bird gets the worm is true here.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 21 May 2006 12:28:19 GMT
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Thanks; I appreciate that. He wants to go to Duke; we shall see.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Fri, 26 May 2006 01:23:10 GMT
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You say the College is more interested in SAT than HS grades. What do you think of that? I guess

I question why the grading of 4 years of schooling in more or less real world situation, grades from a wide variety of faculty would be cast aside for a single test score. Sorry for a question instead of an answer!

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 26 May 2006 11:30:12 GMT
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Don't be sorry because that is the question. Here's my answer I hope it doesn't ruffle too many feathers. In the High Schools around here and those are the only ones I know about; the curriculum is very structured.It is rigorous and requires teachers who can really teach. I am talking about the Honors programs now.Many teachers are not well trained. Up until recently they were not even required to take a course sequence in their own teaching discipline. You could teach english without taking more than the basic english classes everyone takes. You just had to complete the education major credits in order to qualify.So you had quite a lot of incompetence. This is getting better becuase now they have to qualify in a core subject sequence in order to teach that subject. But we still have holdovers from the bad old days. The results of incompetence was teachers who graded on things other than competence in the subject. Kids who they favored would of course get better grades.Then there was the proven gender gap. Females in the sciences did poorly. So in order to avoid being accused of discrimination teachers would find ways to pass them even though they were not qualified in the material. Also they would equivecate the soft subjects like english and compensate with those by granting better outcomes to the females and the non-english speakers etc.So the schools had an incentive to pass kids who really did not deserve to pass.Now the SAT's don't discriminate regarding the material the kids are required to know. Colleges had to have a reliable gauge with which to determine if kids were really ready for college level material. So they focused on that instead of using your HS record as a sole indicator of ability.Really it is all about less qualified schools/teachers/kids/and discrimination towards the less fortunate because of the requirements that the schools maintain grades in order to keep their accredidations intact.So now the SAT's are really the best way to overcome these drawbacks; I favor it because to me it removes the personality issue; where if teachers find your kid quiet and studious they pass him by and give all the attention to the problem kids. Or the ones who favor the girls because they are so much more mature at that age and have better attention spans than the boys.This is my opinion of the situation but believe me it is shared by many.

Subject: Re: Anyone know anything about the SAT's?
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Mon, 29 May 2006 01:35:35 GMT
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Interesting persepctive. Quite possibly true. Too bad if it is.
