

College Admission Testing 101

Adam Ingersoll Co-Founder & Principal, Compass Education Group

Highlights of *Guide to Testing*

SAT & ACT Score Ranges at Popular Colleges pp. 10-16

Test Calendar and Timeline Recommendations pp. 28-31

SAT vs ACT Score Comparison/Concordance pp. 17-25

SAT Subject Test Requirements and Policies pp. 62-67

Reporting, Withholding, and Combining Scores pp. 74-75

More Info

Install “Compass Prep” app for iOS or Android

-or-

Fill out and return contact card on back cover of Guide



HERE LIES
FREDERICK
JONES

VERBAL - MATH
680 720

R. Chew



"Try and tell me what's bothering you—use your S.A.T. words."

Admission Competition Out of Control?

New York Times,
"High School Seniors' Agony"
Written in 1957

"Competition for college admission has created an unprecedented time of intense worry."

"Getting into college has never been so competitive."

"Standards have shot up. Parents who got into top notch colleges with average grades and good overall qualifications cannot understand why their kids can't."

Flexibility \leftrightarrow Complexity

Making Smart Testing Decisions

PRACTICAL

- Should I take the SAT, ACT, or both?
- Is the SAT or ACT essay necessary?
- Are Subject Tests required? Or *expected*?
- Is the PSAT relevant?

TACTICAL

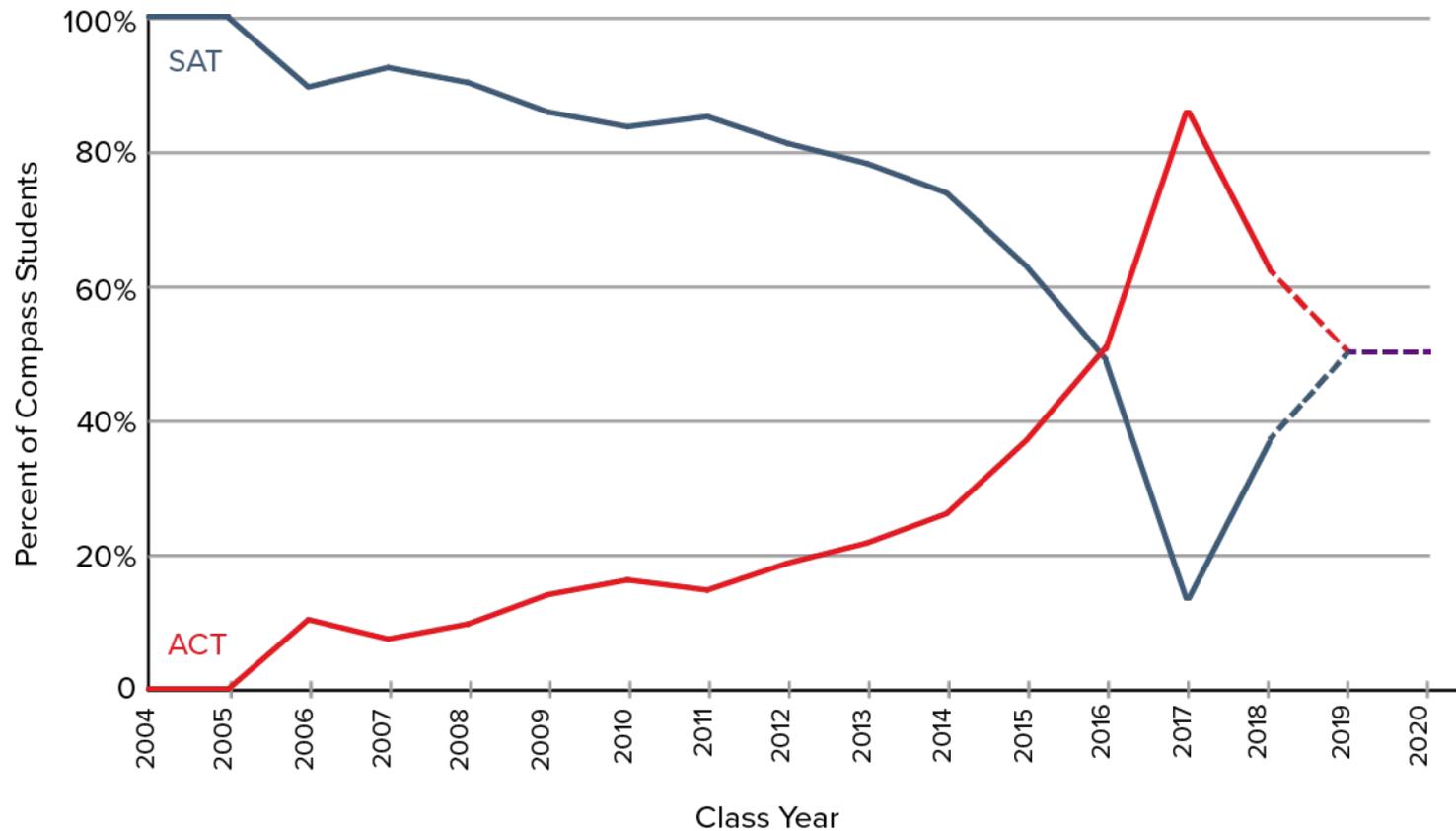
- When should I begin/end my testing & prep?
- How many times should I test?
- Which colleges require reporting **all** scores?
- Do colleges combine scores across dates?

ACT, SAT, or Both?



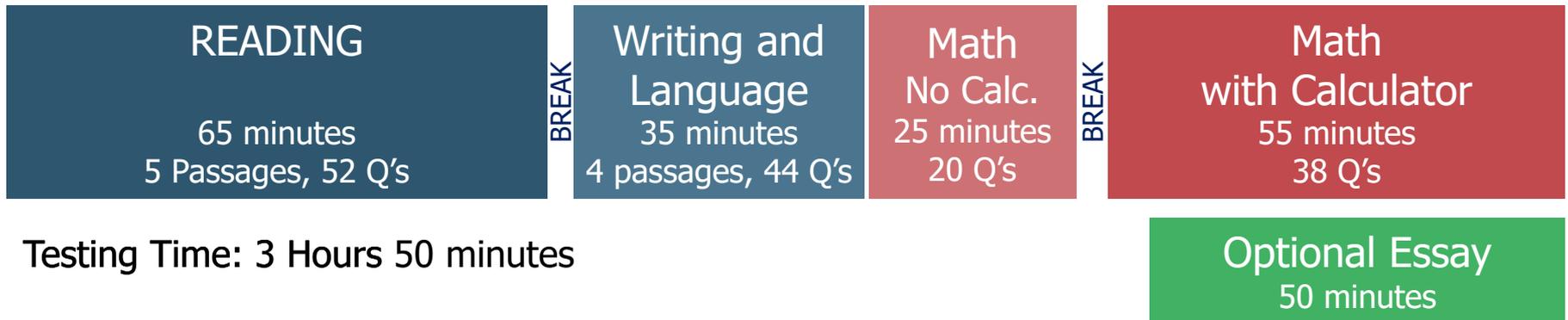
"We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT."

SAT vs. ACT Trends at Compass

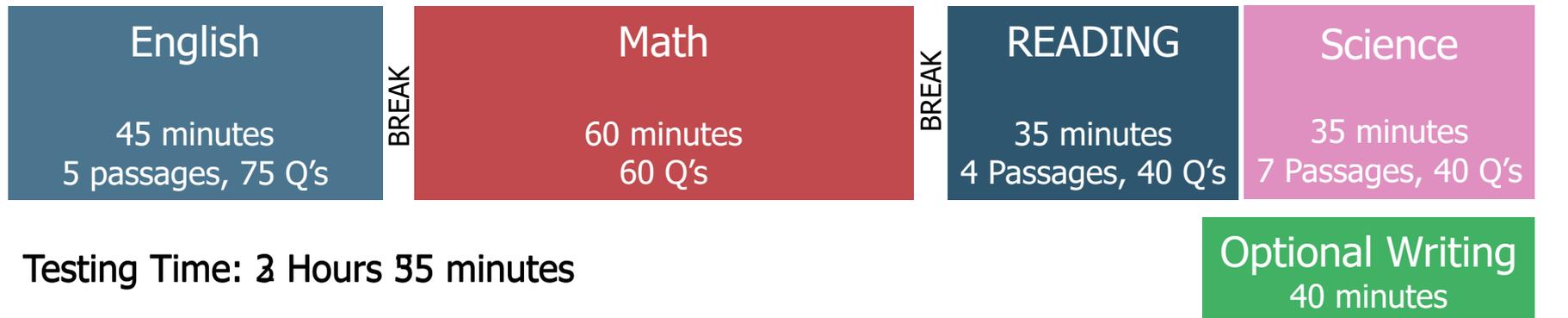


SAT vs ACT: Length and Structure

SAT

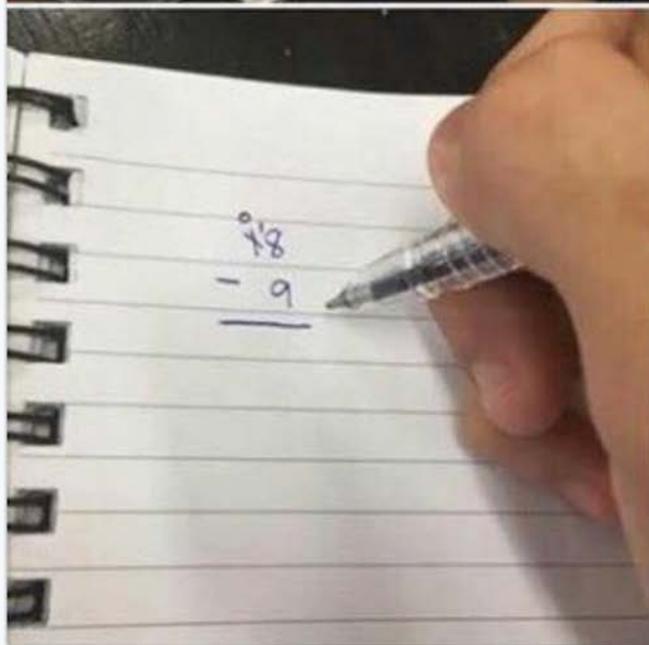
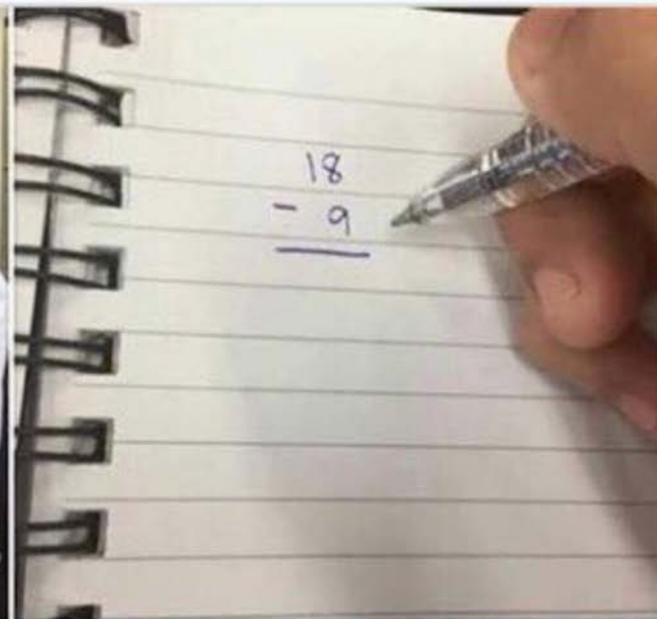
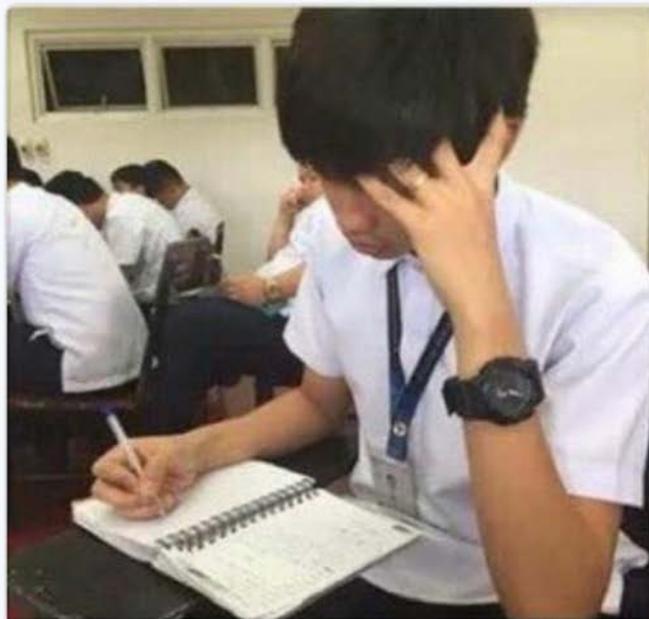


ACT



sydney ✨ @stopsyd · Mar 21

me during the no calculator math section of the #sat



Who Favors the SAT and Why?



PSAT & practice test scores clearly stronger than ACT



SAT pacing and structure feels more comfortable



Dread of ACT Science can't be overcome



Will need SAT for National Merit Scholarship

Unavoidable conflicts with ACT dates



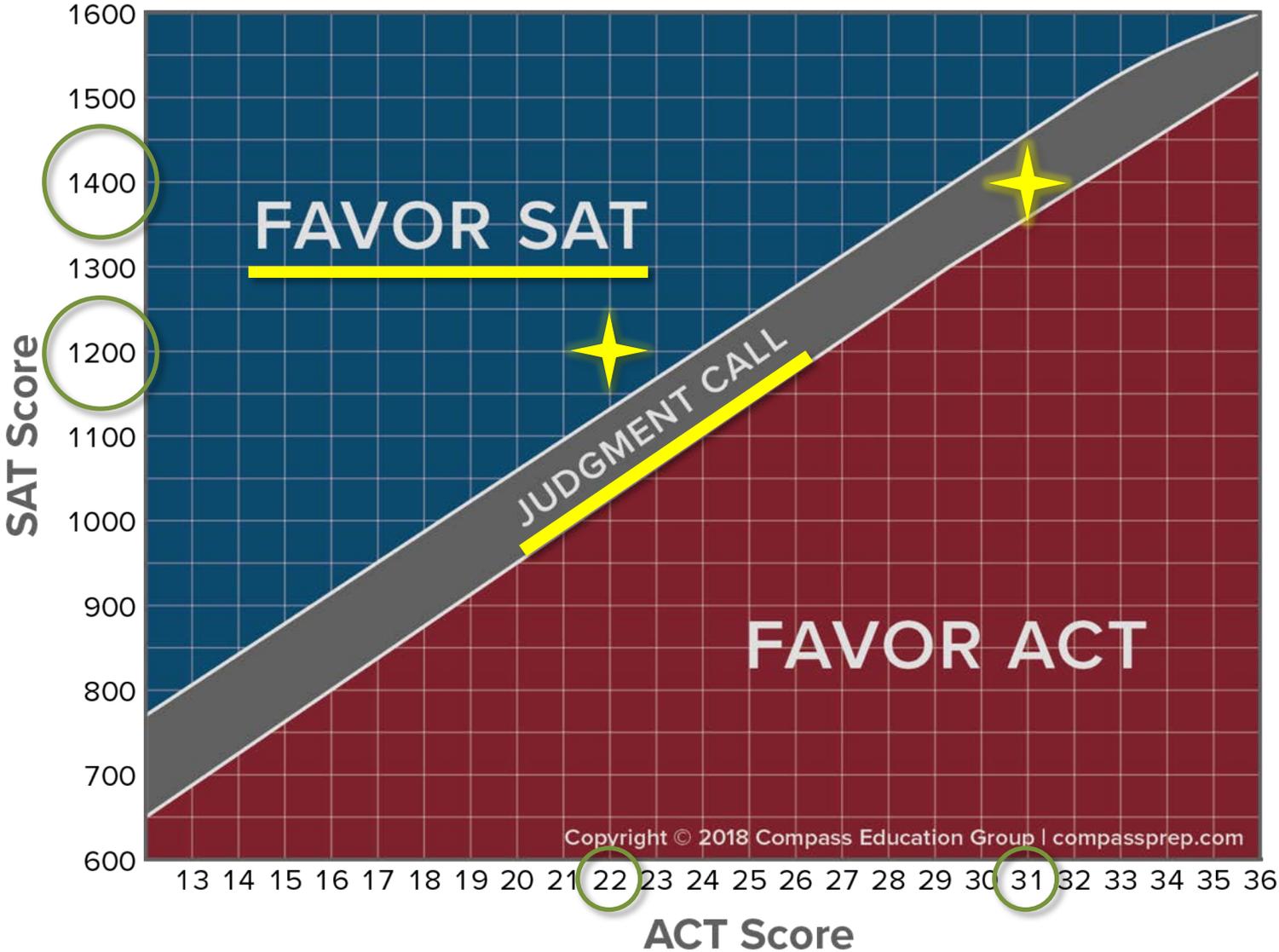
Special accommodations granted by SAT but not ACT



Believer in "no stone left unturned" approach



SAT vs ACT Comparison



App Feature: Comparing Scores



Compare

Compare SAT and ACT Scores

Look up equivalent ACT scores from P/SAT scores (and vice versa)

Review similarities and differences in test length, structure, and content

ACT Math: Structure & Pacing



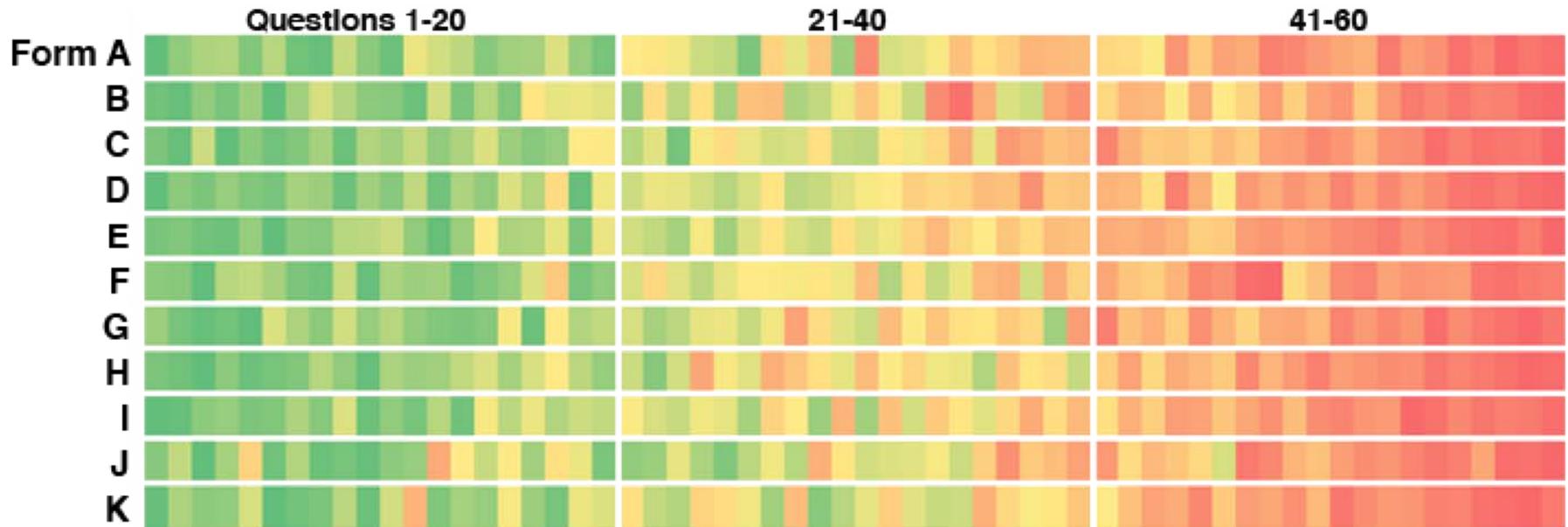
Structure:

- 60 questions in 60 minutes
- Content breakdown
 - 23% Pre-Algebra
 - 17% Elementary Algebra
 - 15% Intermediate Algebra
 - 15% Coordinate Geometry
 - 23% Plane Geometry
 - 7% Trigonometry

Pacing Concerns:

- Average 1 minute per question*
- Difficulty escalates steadily throughout
- Problems at the end are much harder but worth same points
- Rushing and cherry-picking can be dangerous

ACT Math: Difficulty Distribution

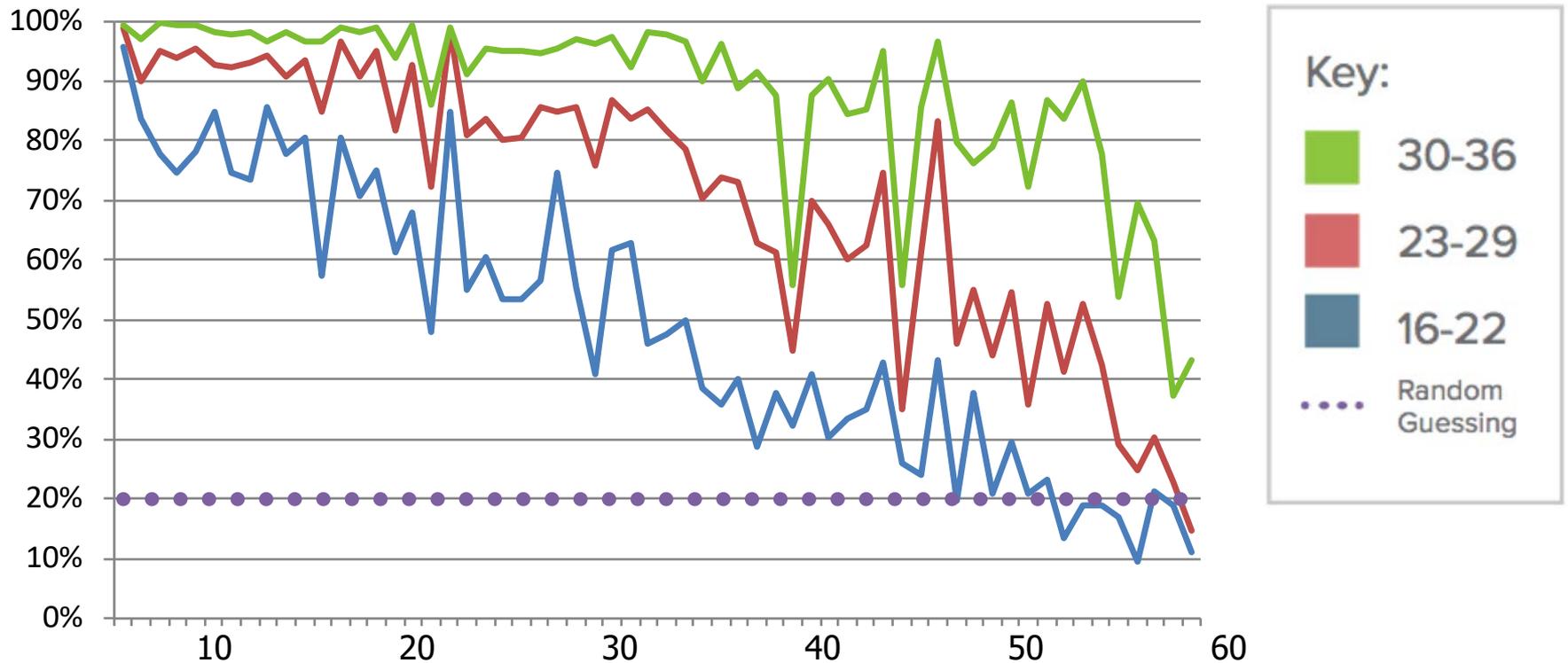


Data reflects performance of several thousand first-time ACT takers on eleven different tests.

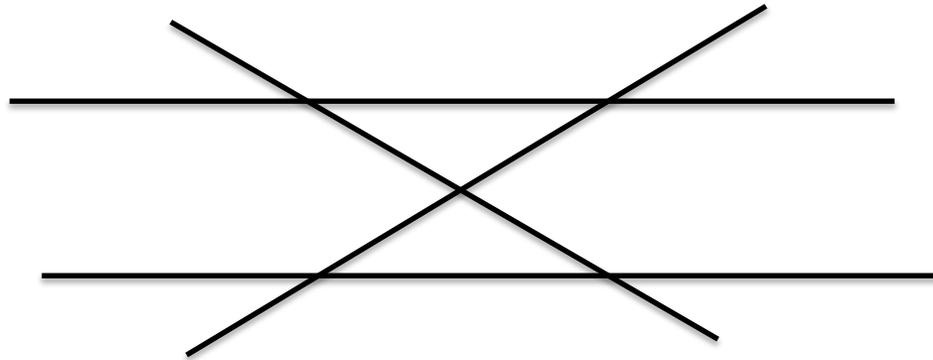
*See Compass Guide **page 45***

ACT Math: Where to Invest Effort

Percentage of Possible Points (By Student Score Range)



Math Example: What is Being Tested?



50. Four distinct lines lie in a plane, and exactly two of them are parallel. Which of the following could be the number of points where at least two of the lines intersect?

- I. Three
- II. Four
- III. Five

- ~~A. I only~~
- ~~B. III only~~
- C. I and III only
- D. I, II, and III
- ~~E. Cannot be determined from the given information~~

What Do Test Scores Reflect?

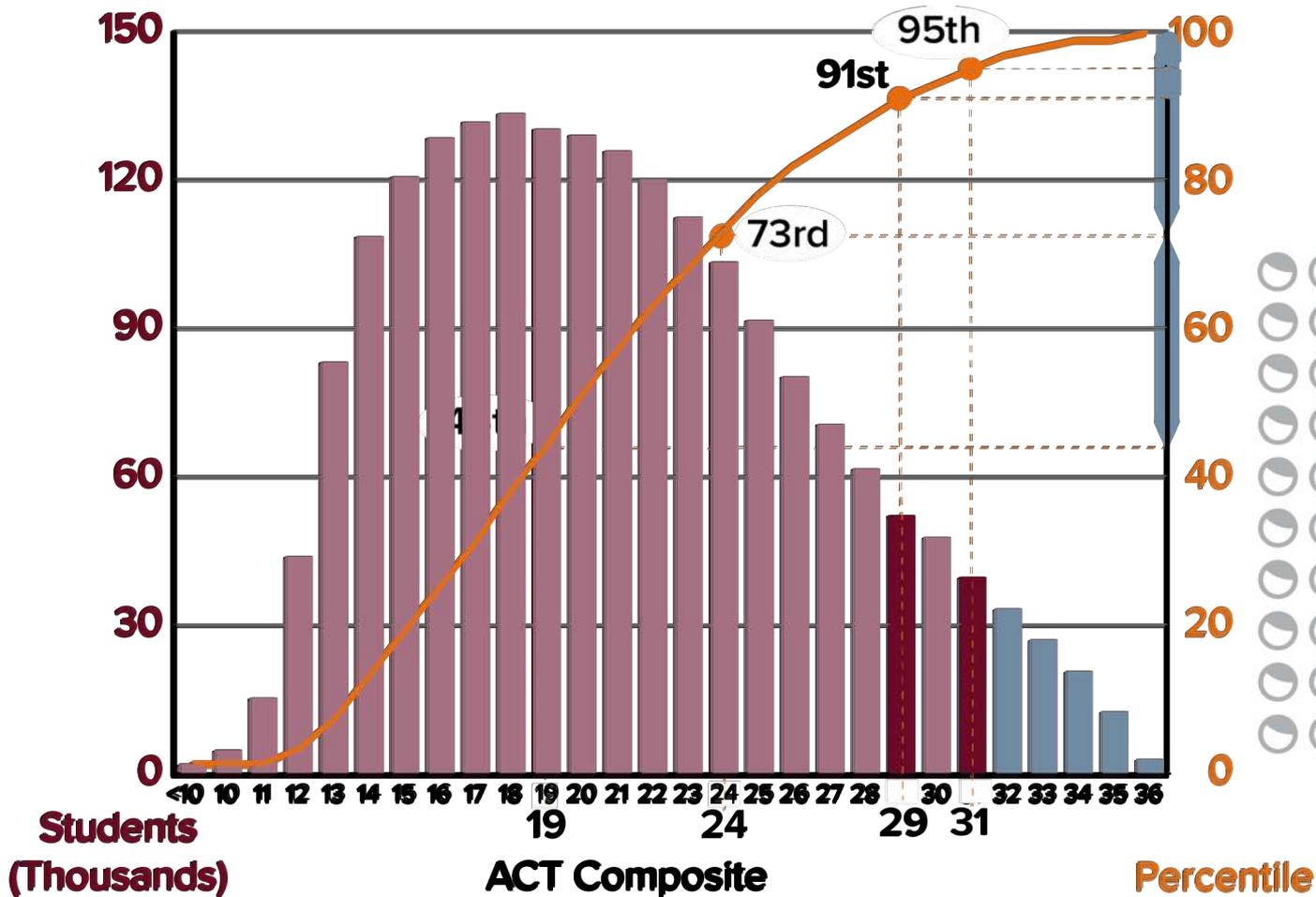
**Content
Knowledge**

**Command of
Strategies**

**Optimal Time
Management**

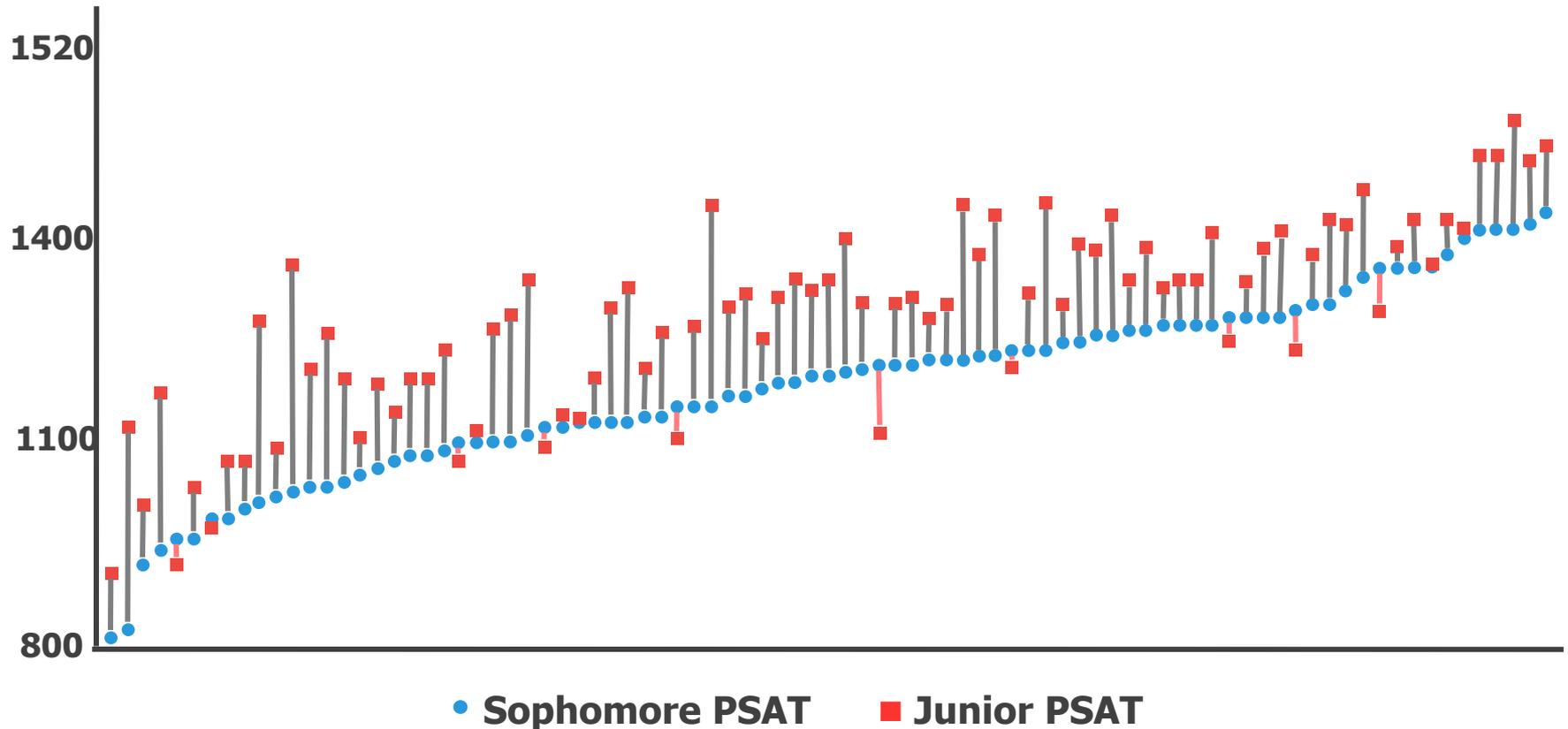
**Emotional Control
& Mental Discipline**

Setting Scoring Goals



PSAT Results – Sample Class

Score Change Sophomore to Junior Year





Subject Tests

- ▲ Literature
- ▲ U.S. History or World History
- ▲ Math Level 2 or Math Level 1
- ▲ Biology (E/M), Chemistry, and Physics
- ▲ Languages: French, Chinese, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin

2008: 44 COLLEGES REQUIRED THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

AMHERST	COLUMBIA	HVERFORD	UC DAVIS	UVA
BARNARD	CONNECTICUT COLLEGE	HOLY CROSS	UC IRVINE	VASSAR
BOSTON COLLEGE	CORNELL	MIT	UCLA	WASHINGTON & LEE
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	DARTMOUTH	POMONA	UC MERCED	WELLESLEY
BRANDEIS	DUKE	PRINCETON	UC RIVERSIDE	WESLEYAN
BROWN	FRANKLIN OLIN	RICE	UC SAN DIEGO	WILLIAMS
BRYN MAWR	GEORGETOWN	SWARTHMORE	UC SANTA BARBARA	WPI
CALTECH	HARVARD	TULANE	UC SANTA CRUZ	YALE
CARNEGIE MELLON	HARVEY MUDD	UC BERKELEY	UPENN	

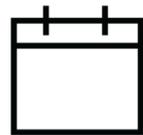
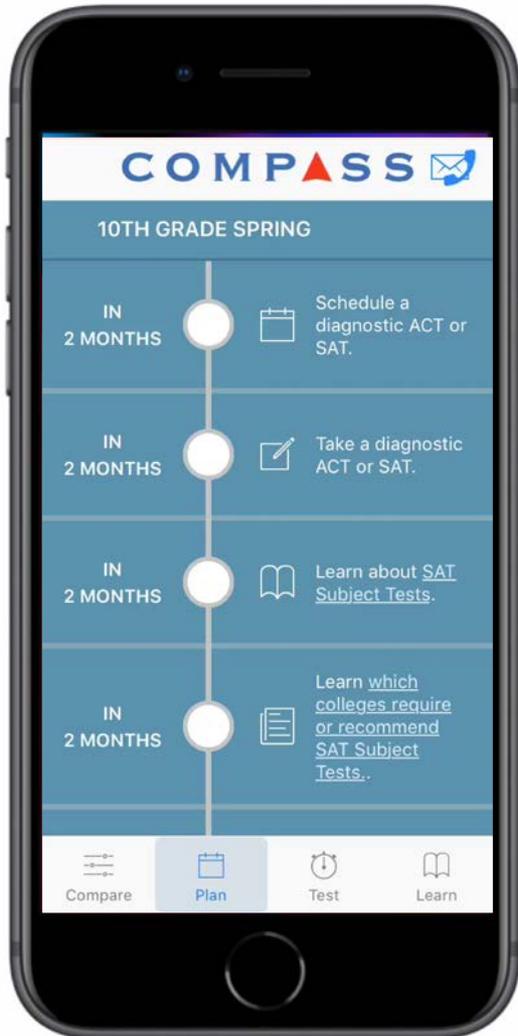
2018: 3 COLLEGES REQUIRE THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

		MIT		
CALTECH				
	HARVEY MUDD			

Require or “Recommend” or “Consider”

Amherst	Duke	Oberlin	UC Santa Barbara
Babson	Emory	Occidental	UC Santa Cruz
Barnard	Franklin Olin	Pomona	Union
Bates	George Washington	Pratt Institute	U of Delaware
Boston College	Georgetown	Princeton	U of Georgia
Boston University	Hamilton	Reed	UNC
Bowdoin	Harvard	Rice	U of Rochester
Brandeis	Haverford	RPI	UPenn
Brown	Holy Cross	Scripps	USC
Bryn Mawr	Ithaca	Smith	UVA
Bucknell	Johns Hopkins	Stanford	Vanderbilt
Carleton	Kenyon	Stevens Institute	Vassar
Carnegie Mellon	Lafayette	Swarthmore	Wake Forest
Case Western	Macalester	Tufts	Washington & Lee
Claremont McKenna	Miami (FL)	Tulane	Wash U St. Louis
Colby	Michigan	UC Berkeley	Wellesley
Colorado College	Middlebury	UC Irvine	Wesleyan
Columbia	Mills	UCLA	William & Mary
Cooper Union	Northwestern	UC Merced	Williams
Dartmouth	Notre Dame	UC Riverside	WPI
Davidson	NYU	UC San Diego	Yale

App Feature: Testing Timelines



Plan

Customize a testing roadmap

Check off items to keep track of progress

Review what has been done and what needs to happen next

Link to more background info on any event or issue as it arises

Individual Support



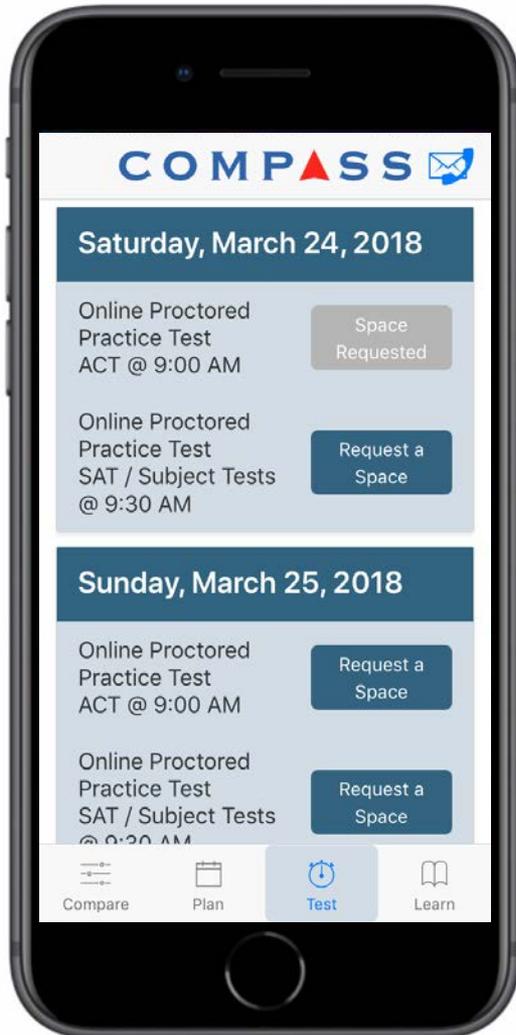
How we can help:

- Monthly email blog digest
- e-Guide & Compass App
- Proctored practice tests
- Evaluation by Director
- Private tutoring

How to connect with us:

- Return card in the Guide
- Register in the App
- Call (800) 925-1250
- Email
info@compassprep.com
- Visit compassprep.com

App Feature: Practice Tests



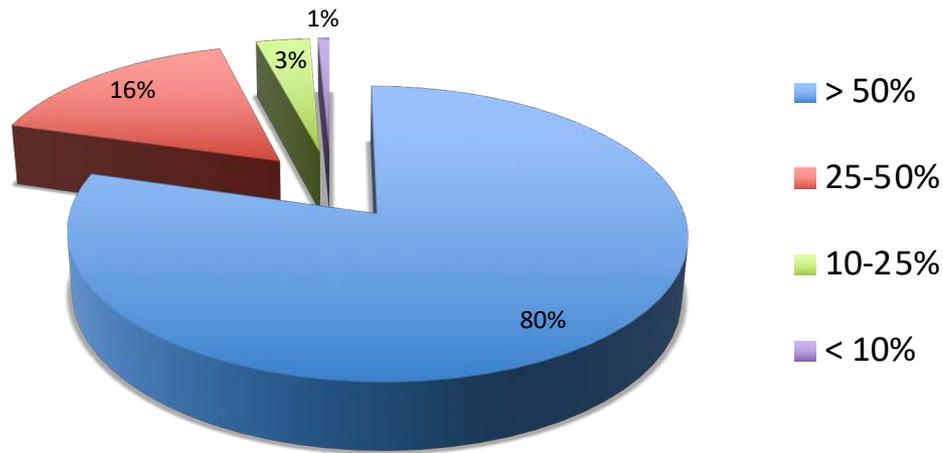
View availability of upcoming proctored practice test sessions

Request a space with a single click

Additional testing options for individually scheduled practice tests

Selectivity: A Two-Way Street

Enrollment by Admission Rate



- **Admit Rate: 70%**
- **Yield: 33%**

*Stanford (<5%) denied 70% of applicants with **perfect test scores***



"You're kidding! You count S.A.T.s?"

Q&A



(310) 550-0300

www.compassprep.com

Super-scoring

April ACT	
English	26
Math	27
Reading	27
Science	23
Composite	26

September ACT	
English	29
Math	25
Reading	24
Science	27
Composite	26

Super-scored ACT	
English	29
Math	27
Reading	27
Science	27
Composite	28



Score Choice: Procedures

▲ SAT

- Student selects which dates to send but cannot send sub-scores only
- Most colleges (especially privates) combine sub-scores from multiple settings into a “super-score”

▲ ACT

- Same as SAT, except that fewer colleges officially super-score

▲ Subject Tests

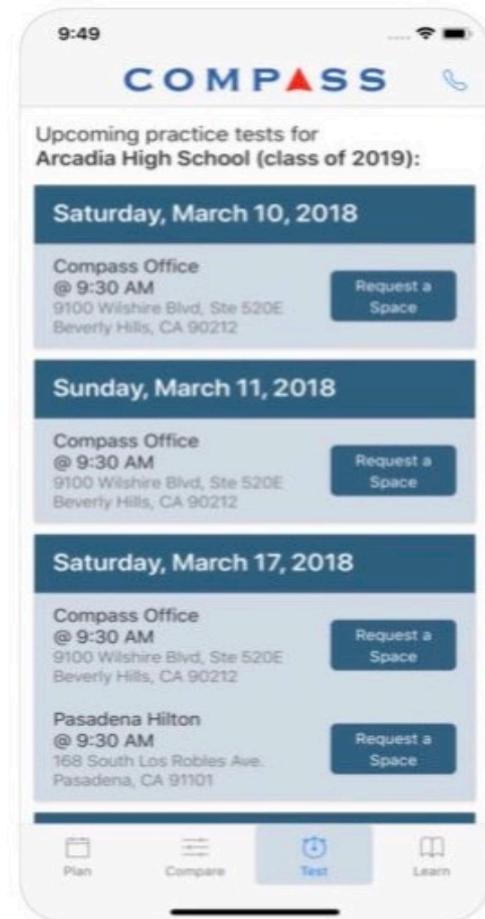
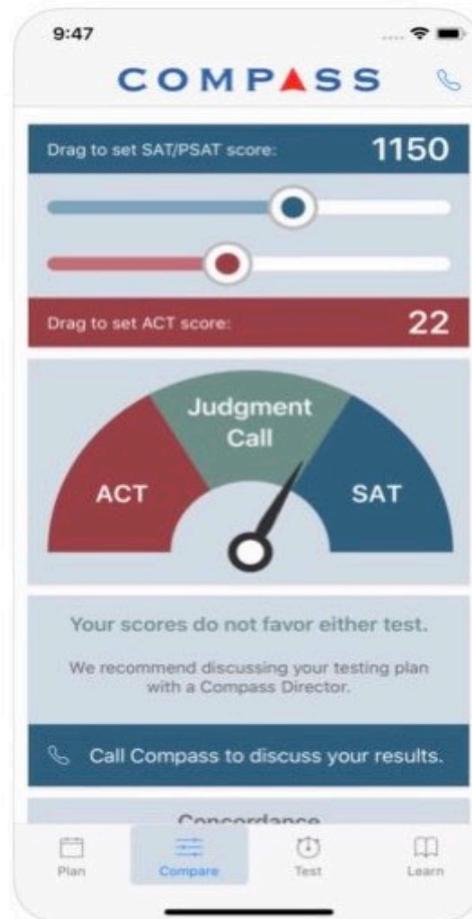
- Student selects which individual scores to send, even within test dates



Compass Prep

Education

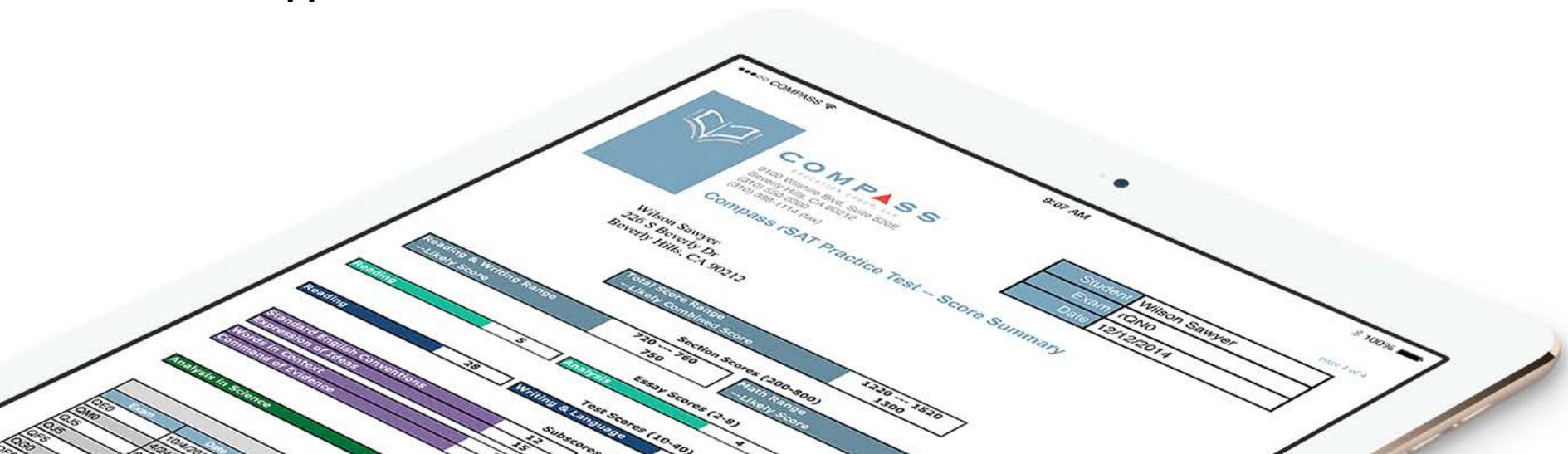
GET



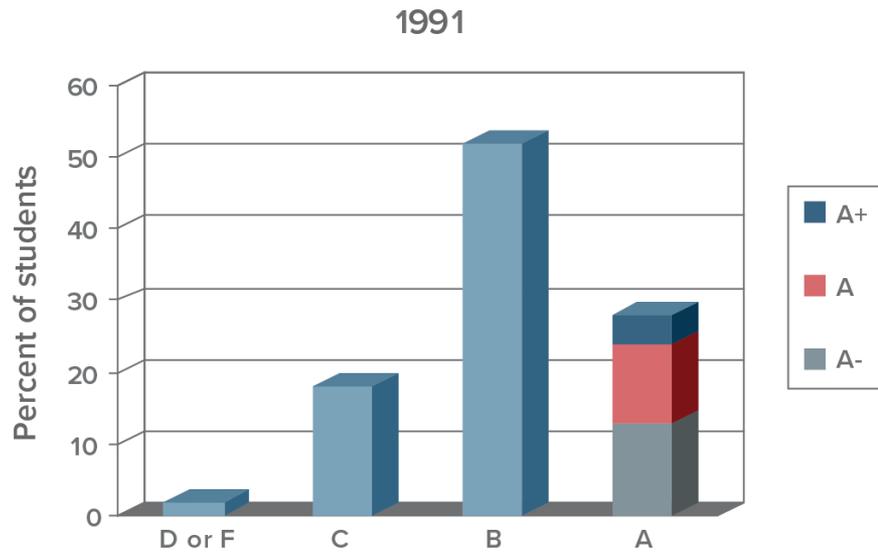
Practice Tests

- Compass offers diagnostic testing as a complimentary service
- Online proctor in live group settings or self-administered
- Students with extended time can be accommodated
- Follow-up consultation with Compass Director to discuss results

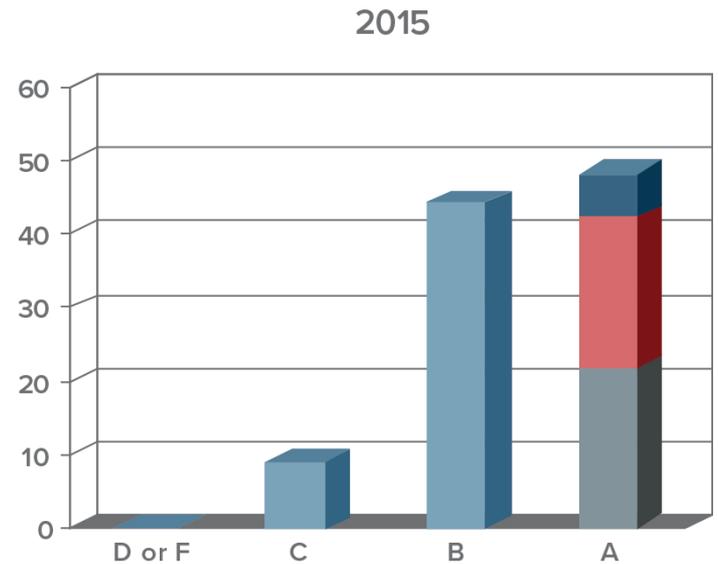
- See the Test tab in app or Guide pp. 75-77 for details
- Install app or fill out contact card for access to schedule and to reserve a seat



GPA Distribution is Evolving

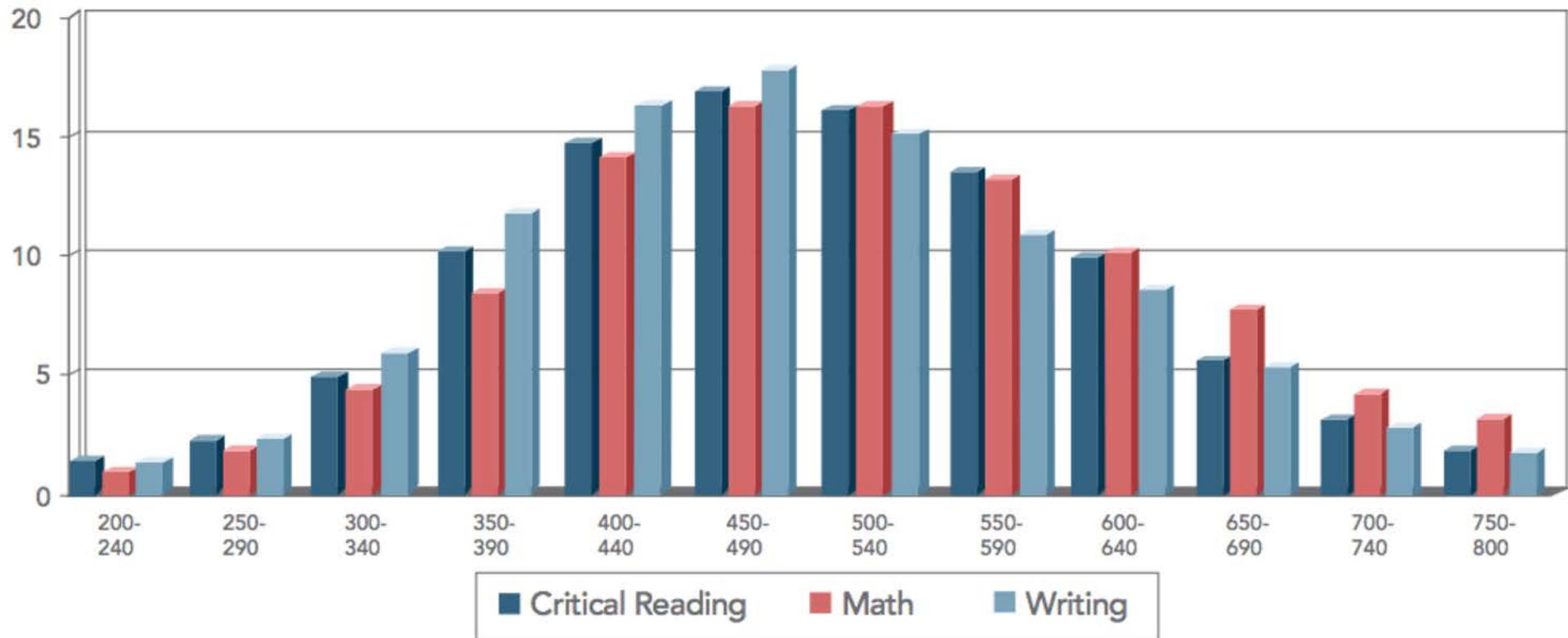


Source: College Board

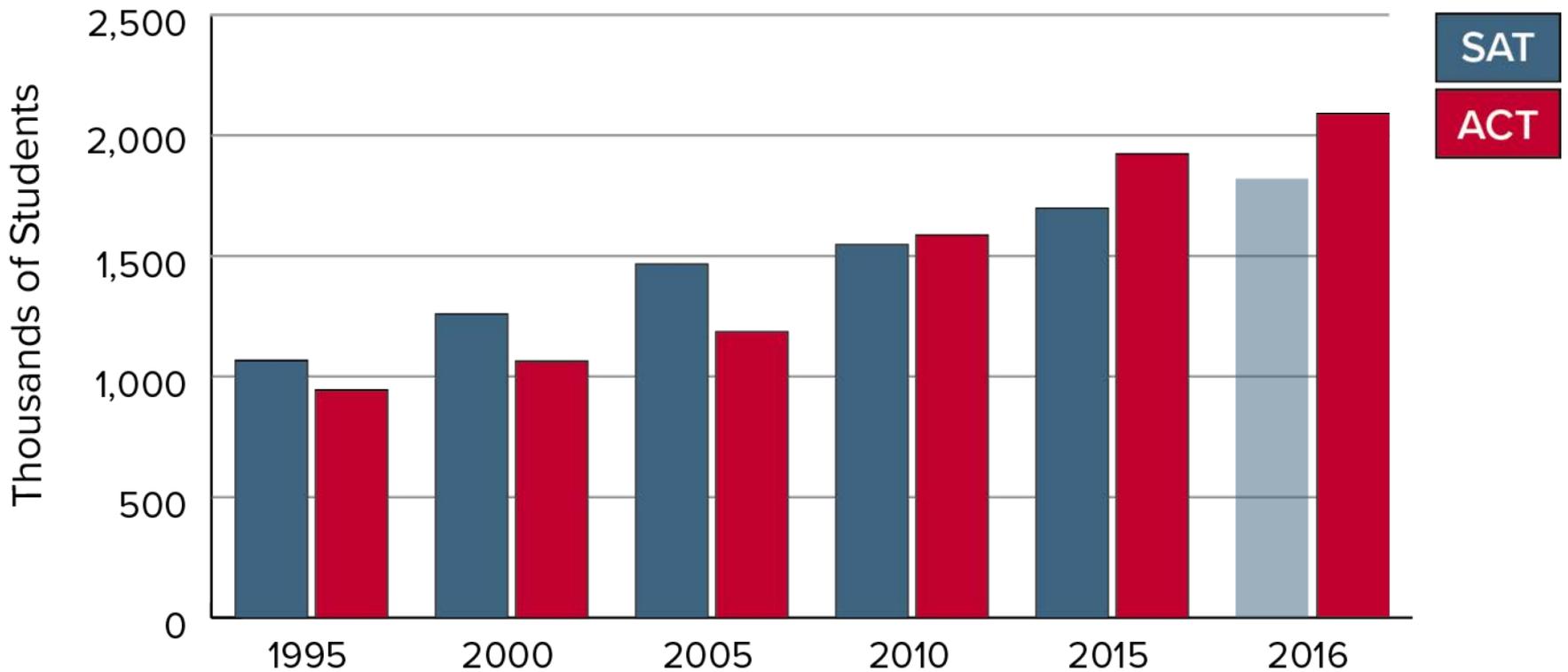


Standardized Test Score Distribution is Steady

SAT



ACT's Record Growth



Increase in ACT 36s

