



## Test Preparation Tips for International Students

### *Step One: Take a practice SAT and a practice ACT.*

American students take a practice exam of each test to decide which exam is their best test. International students should do the same to remain competitive. Use the scores and the experience to decide which test is right for you. It's usually best to focus your time and energy on just one test.

### *Step Two: Identify your weaknesses.*

Determine which sections, question types, or skills are hurting your overall score. For international students the most common weaknesses tend to be punctuation rules and idioms in English, geometry and trigonometry in Math, the fast pace of the Reading section, and comparative questions in Science.

### *Step Three: Find help.*

Focus on improving your weak areas by purchasing a review book, working with a teacher at school, or hiring a tutor. ACT prep is very effective. Sometimes it's even more effective than SAT prep because the ACT primarily tests whether you know an academic concept, not how good you are at critical thinking.

### *Step Four: Practice, practice, practice.*

Taking multiple practice exams is one of the best ways to improve. The ACT is a fast-paced, high-endurance exam. By taking full-length exams multiple times you'll learn how to manage these time and concentration pressures.

### *Step Five: Register to take the test twice.*

Students should plan to take the real ACT a minimum of two times: once or twice as a junior and, if necessary, once during the fall of senior year. For international students registering early is vital. There are fewer test dates and locations internationally, and the seats go to those who register first.