

## SAT Subject Tests

In addition to the SAT, some private colleges (generally the most selective ones) require that students take SAT subject tests as part of the admission process. While SAT subject tests are no longer required by the UC, some campuses recommend that students seeking spots in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency. These are recommendations by the UC, not mandates. A few UC campuses recommend that students take certain SAT subject tests for specific colleges/schools and majors. Even if subject tests are not recommended, they can add merit to a student's application (but students cannot be penalized for failing to take them).

Subject tests differ from the SAT in that the SAT examines achievement over a limited amount of material while the subject tests are generally course-specific and more comprehensive. Some colleges may ask for a distribution of subject tests over different content areas. The subject tests commonly taken by M-A students are math level II (through precalculus), biology, chemistry, U.S. history, Spanish, and French. The tests directly measure what students have learned in school, so ideally students take them in June or May, at the conclusion of a particular course. Because the foreign language and math tests include content from many years of study, they may also be taken in the fall if a student has completed the appropriate course. Students should only consider a language test if they are finishing the fourth level of the language.

This year, as in the past eleven years, we plan to open our subject-test prep classes to all juniors and sophomores at M-A in the following subjects: math (Mr. Whitnah) and biology (Mr. Roisen). During these two-week sessions, students will review the content, take practice tests (actual tests from the past), and go over these tests. In addition to preparing for their subject tests, many students will enjoy the additional benefit of reviewing content for finals. Math classes will be offered from 7:50 to 8:40 am or after school from 3:20 to 4:10 pm; biology will meet only in the afternoon..

We seek donations from students and their families to pay the teachers. The Foundation for the Future will supplement the cost, but we hope the program can be self-supporting. We recommend a \$50 donation per student per class, but **all students are welcome**.

**Note:** Students who plan to take a subject test should sign up now at *collegeboard.com*. They will be asked to select their test subjects when registering, but generally they can change the test topic(s) on the May 7 or the June 4 testing date. Usually, they can also sign up for additional tests on the test date, to be billed later for an extra fee.

*Gregg Whitnah, Co-Math Department chair*

All classes need a minimum of 10 students to be offered and will be limited to 30 students, first-come, first-serve.

Applying is a 2-step process

1. send an email to [gwhitnah@seq.org](mailto:gwhitnah@seq.org) with the email addresses of your parents and yourself
2. complete the application below, attach your donation(with paper clip), and:

mail it to     Mr. Whitnah M-A  
                  555 Middlefield Road            OR  
                  Atherton, CA 94027

deliver it to Mr. Whitnah D20, before school or during brunch  
deliver it to Ms. Payne D16, during lunch or after school

## Application for SAT subject-test classes

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID number \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level \_\_\_\_\_

Student e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Parent e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Preparation for May 7<sup>th</sup> Exam (first-come, first serve)

\_\_\_\_\_ Math\* (0 period) Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>

### Preparation for June 4<sup>th</sup> Exam

\_\_\_\_\_ Math\* (0 period) Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Math\* (after school) Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>

\* Need to be in precalculus or calculus for math II subject test

\_\_\_\_\_ Biology (after school) Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>

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\_\_\_\_\_ Attached is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the cost (recommended \$50 per class/payable to the Foundation for the Future).

\_\_\_\_\_ Our family will not be donating but really appreciates the opportunity to take these class(es).

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The review schedule is unusually complicated this year because there are only 3 school weeks after the May SAT exam where there are usually 4 school weeks. Almost all of our classes overlap with the AP testing schedule. Below are some the dates and more common exams taken at M-A. The complete AP schedule is at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)

### AP Schedule (exams that overlap review classes)

Monday, May 2	AM	Chemistry	Environmental Science
Tuesday, May 3	AM	Computer Science	Spanish Language
Wednesday, May 4	AM	English Literature	
Thursday, May 5	AM	Calculus	
Friday, May 6	AM	US History	
Tuesday, May 3	PM	Art History	
Friday, May 6	PM	European History	
Tuesday, May 10	PM	French	
Thursday, May 12	PM	Statistics	