

How to get better scores

(On standardized tests)

Your test scores are important. Colleges care what kind of score you get. Here are some things that you can do to get better scores:

Prepare

Before Test day

- Don't cram. When you cram, you forget quickly. It also makes you nervous. Study a little each day.
- Learn the strategies for your test – like if you should guess on an answer or leave it blank. Each test is different.
- Take practice tests. Ask your teacher where to find practice tests.
- Get good sleep. Especially the 2 nights before the test.
- Get ready to go the night before the test. Pack a bag with your admission ticket, ID, pencils, etc.. And, lay out the clothes you will wear.

On test day

- Dress in layers (in case the room is hot or cold).
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Get to the test center early. You will need time to park, find the building, and check in.

At the Exam:

- Take a few deep breaths, relax, and focus on the test.
- Read the directions for each section carefully.
- Read each question carefully. Underline key words in the question.
- Watch the clock and time yourself.
- If you have time at the end of the test, go back and review your answers.

Make smart choices:

- Answer the easy questions first. Don't get stuck on one question. Mark your booklet and move on. Go back to the question if you have time at the end.
- Mark your answer sheet correctly. Make sure you are filling in the right number.
- Be neat. When you mark an answer fill in the whole bubble. But, do not go outside the line. If you erase, erase completely.



Strategies for different kinds of tests:

Multiple Choice – Cross out the answers you know are wrong. Then choose the best answer from the ones that are left.

Essay – Read the instructions carefully. Look for key words like: list, explain, compare, examine, describe, and give the reasons. Make an outline first.

Math – Use your booklet for scratch paper. Write your calculations down so you don't make mistakes in your head.

Advice for Mom and Dad

- Make sure your child has a time and place to study every day.
- Help your child learn to manage his/her time.
- Be supportive and patient.