

LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL



SAT Subject Test Overview

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What are SAT Subject Tests:

- Measures of specific subject knowledge – literature, history, math, science and world language
- Required by a select few colleges – currently five, including Canada and the UK
- Recommended by a far larger contingent – often program specific
- Administered by College Board

Program Specific Reasons:

- Demonstrating mastery for college major requirements
 - Example – fluency in a second language for International Relations
- Indication of aptitude for select majors
 - Example – Math Level 2 and one of the three science tests (Biology E/M, Chemistry or Physics) for STEM majors
- Previously a UC requirement; now a recommendation for certain campuses and majors

Why Biology E/M in Ninth Grade:

- Subject Tests are typically taken at the end of a high school course or sequence of courses
- Students are preparing for a final exam that coincides schedule-wise
- Content recall typically recedes the more removed the student is from the course

Why Students Choose to Wait:

- Honors Biology has been a healthy stretch, but not likely the best Subject Test for the student to take
- Waiting until junior year allows for academic growth and maturity to take hold
- More options as students take advanced coursework in junior year
 - AP Biology as an example

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Nuts and Bolts:

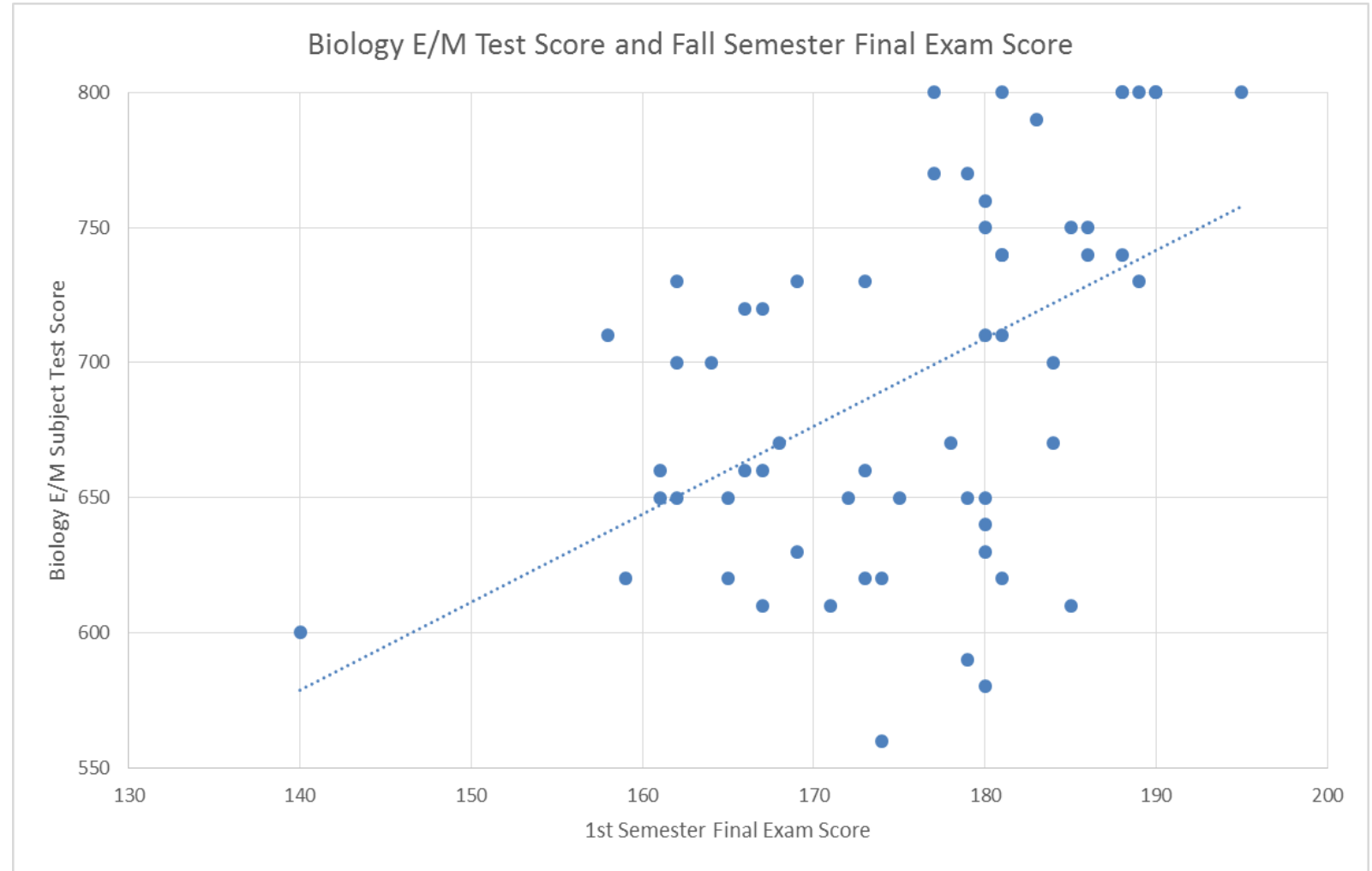
- To register – www.collegeboard.org
- Test date – June 2 (May 3 registration deadline)
- Time limit – 60 minutes
- Number of questions – 80
 - Questions 1-60 apply to both the E/M
 - Students choose a path for the final 20 for an Ecological or Molecular test score
- Score range – 200-800

How Should I Proceed:

- Can I devote sufficient time
 - 12-15 hours of focused preparation across six weeks is strongly encouraged
- Am I genuinely motivated
 - A disciplined approach will add two to three hours of study time to the homework load, per week
- Does science or engineering factor strongly into my future plans

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Data Set:



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Additional References:

- College Board
 - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/subjects/science/biology-em>
- Subject Tests – Required, Recommended and Considered
 - <https://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/>
- University of California Subject Test Recommendations
 - <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html>
- Test Preparation
 - Students should take a practice test, with the time limit, to gauge readiness and willingness