

Notes for SAT Test Takers at Canford School (SAT Centre Number 57280)

COVID 19 UPDATE: 'Test Optional.'

Given the continued prevalence of Covid-19, many colleges & universities in the USA have decided to accept applications for the Fall of 2021 as 'Test Optional' or 'Test Flexible.'

While several colleges had already decided that route long before Covid-19, many more have now decided to do so, but only for applications for entry for the 2021-2022 academic year. The current listings are below:

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/test-optional-colleges-list>

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-complete-guide-to-sat-optional-colleges>

The organisation 'Fair Test' has a substantive list, & is valid from July 2020. Unlike the links above, many of the 'Ivy' & other competitive schools have decided to accept 'Test Optional' or 'Test Flexible' applications for admission in the Fall of 2021.

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

I would strongly advise prospective international applicants double check with the International Admissions Department of their preferred college(s) to ensure the information provided in these links are correct. Many have already posted advisories on their admissions page websites: here's a small sample:

<https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/requirements/#:~:text=Penn%20State%20will%20be%20test,in%20their%20evaluation%20for%20admission.>

<https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/follow/blog/lee-coffin/dartmouth-adopts-test-optional-policy-class-2025>

<https://admissions.umb.edu/freshman-students/apply/no-test-option>

Many thanks,

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Notes for SAT Test Takers at Canford School (SAT Centre Number 57280)

Thank you for getting in touch about SAT Testing at Canford School.

These notes are primarily for external Test Takers who wish to sit SAT Reasoning or Subject Tests at Canford School.

Young people wishing to apply to college in the USA commonly, and mistakenly, assume all SAT testing arrangements are organised by the Testing Centre. This may be because their own schools lack the knowledge and/or experience associated with SAT testing.

The following notes should direct young people to the right sources and assist their experience of SAT Testing in readiness for college/university in the USA.

Please Note:

Not all colleges and universities require the SAT: there is a list of institutions not requiring it in the link below on the Fair Test website:

<https://www.fairtest.org/>

The news item is here: updated frequently.

<https://www.fairtest.org/more-half-all-us-fouryears-colleges-and-universiti>

The list as of July 2020 is here:

<https://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Schools-in-U.S.News-Top-Tiers.pdf>

As the situation is fluid, prospective applicants should always check with Overseas Admissions Officers at the colleges/universities they are thinking of applying for, as the policies, procedures terms & conditions for individual institutions may differ for applicants from overseas.

SAT Testing.

SAT testing is organised by **College Board**, a division of Educational Testing Services based in New Jersey USA.

Anyone wishing to take the SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests **MUST individually register** with **College Board** and enter their preferences accordingly. The following website link explains how to do this on line, the fees involved, how to pay, what to expect, what to bring to the Test Centre on Test Day, and provides further guidance on how to prepare for the SAT tests. The main link is below...

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

Register for the SAT Test: use the link below....

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

For information about the SAT Reasoning Tests and SAT Subject tests, please see here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/sat-registration-booklet-students.pdf>

Canford School **does not, and cannot register** prospective Test Takers for **any** test.

Prospective Test Takers must do this themselves on the link above (all self-explanatory) and if testing at an International Test Centre, select the Test Centre that is most convenient for them. Once registered, Test Takers will be added to the Test Centre Roster.

Once registration deadlines have closed, the Test Centre Administrator (which is myself....) generates the final Test Centre Roster and sets up the tests: how that happens is not for Test Takers to worry about: all they have to do is show up at the appointed time and place.

Prospective Test Takers may register after the expiration of registration deadlines: they will be registered as 'Wait Listed' and appear on the Test Centre Roster: they may of course still turn up to take their tests on the understanding that sufficient test taking materials may not be available on test day. However, College Board usually dispatches more test materials than is required, and to date I have yet to turn away a 'wait listed' Test Taker.

The full particulars about SAT and Subject Test 'Wait Listed' status can be found here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/special-circumstances/waitlist>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/register/special-circumstances/waitlist-status>

Preparation for SAT Tests.

College Board provides helpful guidance about preparing for SAT tests. Please see the link here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

Test Takers may register for free at the Khan Academy. Here's the link....

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat?affiliateId=www%7Chome&bannerId=ht%7Ctg-on-offcl-prct-khn>

And some help on YouTube....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLS9pP65sA>

There is no shortage of other preparation advice on YouTube. A simple search on YouTube can direct test takers to the specific advice they need: here's a small sample.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxD0AXZx4ws>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxwv_BHABAE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96HgTh6ptSo>

What do the SAT scores mean?

You can work that out by looking at the explanations in the following link:

<https://magoosh.com/hs/sat/2016/sat-score-range-good-score-colleges/#understanding>

So: you have registered to take your SAT Test at Canford School. Here's where to go and how to find us.....

SAT Testing Registration is in the main **Sport Hall Lobby**, located on the left of the map as indicated on the link below. Test Takers should arrive AFTER 07.15, and NO LATER than 07.45 on test day.

<http://hotspot.locationmaps.com/ClientMaps/689C2EDC-00E1-46AE-AB9E-34DE7DDC26F3/map.html>

Directions to Canford School are to be found below...

<http://www.canford.com/Map>

What to bring on Test Day.

All you need to know is here. Please pay particular attention to acceptable ID provision....

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test>

Students wishing to take SAT Tests who have Disabilities, or who have Special Requirements.

If you are a student who requires 'special consideration' to successfully take the SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests, you may be eligible to apply for 'accommodations' so that your testing experience is appropriate for your condition or circumstances. If you are eligible for accommodations, you **MUST** secure College Board approval **BEFORE** registering for any SAT test. It is not possible to register for an SAT test without accommodations, and then expect to have accommodations provided retrospectively.

To establish if you are eligible for accommodations, please see here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/eligibility>

The range of typical accommodations available to students is listed here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/typical-accommodations>

Accommodations can only be granted by College Board. Information regarding applications for accommodations is here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/request-accommodations>

The application process for individuals seeking accommodations for SAT testing is below: please be mindful approval for accommodations can take up to 7 (seven) weeks.

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/request-accommodations/approval-overview>

Documentation required in support of accommodation applications is here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/documentation-guidelines>

It is most important individual applications for accommodations are made through their **own school**. All state and private schools make provision for Learning Support. The Head of Learning Support at your own school should in all cases be making application for individual accommodations through the College Board on your behalf. On the College Board website, this job title is referred to as an 'SSD Coordinator' or (Services for Students with Disabilities.)

If you feel you warrant 'accommodations' for SAT Testing, please consult your SSD Coordinator (Head of Learning Support) at your school. The link for this is here, and do make them familiar with it.

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online/get-access>

The reasoning behind working through your own school is made here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/reasons-work-with-school>

Please be advised Canford School **cannot** apply for accommodations for those **not** enrolled at the school.

After approval, the link for what to do next is here:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/after-approval>

College Board is committed to ensuring each individual is fairly tested, but each individual has the responsibility to ensure they apply for accommodations if they are warranted. It is therefore vital time is set aside so accommodations can be approved well before any testing date.

Applying for College/University in the USA.

Many US colleges/universities use the **Common Application**, a rough equivalent of UCAS. Information about how to apply using this system can be found below. It is a much more involved process than UCAS.....

<http://www.commonapp.org/>

Advice on completing the Common Application can be found on YouTube: these are routinely updated as the Common Application process is tweaked each year, so it's important to search for the most up to date advice. A short sample is provided below, beginning with a tutorial on how to use the Common Application for 2019-20.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JilvfXiiCHo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyKt-vyZf4>

Here are a few '**red flags**' or '**what not to do**' in the application process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzDbRaqMjK8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_IRPjN9dg

But **not all** college/universities use the Common Application. For example, MIT in Boston, Massachusetts, and the University of Colorado in Boulder, do not, and so applications have to be made directly to the college/university. For example...

<http://mitadmissions.org/apply>

<http://www.colorado.edu/admissions/apply>

To avoid duplication, it's therefore more helpful and efficient to apply to colleges/universities that only use the Common Application.

The State University of California.

Anyone wishing to apply to a **California** state (as opposed to a private) university, such as UCLA or Berkeley, they **must** apply through the University of California application portal, and it can be found here....

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/apply-online/>

The many campuses that make up the State University of California are listed below...

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/index.html>

State University of Texas.

Anyone wishing to apply to a Texas state (as opposed to a private) university, such as Texas A&M or SMU, they must apply through the University of Texas application portal, and it can be found here....

https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

Guidelines for international applicants can be found here:

https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/html/intl_ugrad18_help.html

The many state and private colleges/universities in Texas are listed here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_Texas

Affordability.

With many UK students questioning the dramatic rise in university fees, it is natural for them to consider studying abroad: their money may go further. However, UK student loans are not portable overseas, US College and university fees are generally not low, and scholarships for international applicants are either unavailable or highly competitive. The following link is very revealing:

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/most-expensive-colleges-in-the-us-2017-2?r=US&IR=T/#1-harvey-mudd-college-50>

However, there are some colleges and universities where fees are competitive, and where international scholarship is available. The current list is here:

www.hccmis.com/blog/study-abroad/11-most-affordable-us-colleges-for-international-students

Additional Advice.

Further comprehensive advice can be found at the **Fulbright Commission** in London: their web page is outstanding: see below....

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/>

The Fulbright Commission hosts an annual College Day, and it is well worth attending: details below...

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/news-events/usa-study-events>

And finally, I have found this is a useful source of information detailing all the administrative hoops a US college bound applicant needs to know:

[file:///C:/Users/ACF/Downloads/bridgeu_US_uni_guide_ebook_v7%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/ACF/Downloads/bridgeu_US_uni_guide_ebook_v7%20(1).pdf)

Finally, a useful link for further advice is here...

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/2019/10/11/many-british-students-going-american-universities/>

I trust these basic notes are helpful and provide short cuts to the information most prospective Test Takers and US college/university applicants need. These notes and links should provide most answers to the initial questions prospective SAT Test Takers and their parents have.

Respectfully,

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