

DESCRIPTIONS OF IMPORTANT TESTS

During your high school years you are required to take several exams that test students' knowledge, skills and abilities. Some are tests required for all high school students while others are needed for admission into college and technical school. Listed below is a brief description of these exams.

ACT: The Enhanced American College Test (ACT) is required at all public universities and many private universities in Kentucky. There are only about seven universities in the United States that do not accept the ACT for college entrance. The test is divided into four sections – English, math, reading, and science reasoning. Scores range from 1 to 36. Colleges use the ACT not only for admissions but also for placement in English and math. Students must score at least an 18 in these two areas or enroll in developmental classes to improve skills. This test will be required of all Juniors as part of the state mandated K-PREP testing. It will be administered by RHS at no cost to the student.

AP: Advanced Placement Exams are given primarily to students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. Students may earn college credit and/or become eligible to take more advanced college courses depending on their AP exam scores. This is a very inexpensive way to earn college credit.

ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is a career exploration and aptitude instrument offered by the Department of Defense. Over one million students in 15,000 schools nationwide are tested every year. Juniors are given the exam and the scores are information included in their Individual Graduation Plan.

EOC: End of Course exams are created and published by ACT. Taken by all high school students that have completed English II, Algebra II, Biology and US History.

KOSSA: The KY Occupational Skills Standards Assessment is given to students that have completed two career and technical credits and are currently enrolled in at least the third. In order to ensure that career and technical education students have acquired the skills necessary for successful transition from high school to post-secondary studies or the workforce. This system is based upon clear and concise standards identified by employers across the state, which culminates in a performance based training and assessment system.

PSAT/NMSQT: The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a two-hour test that qualifies juniors for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship. Hispanic students are also considered for the National Hispanic School Awards and African-American students are considered for the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students. This test is most like the SAT. Freshmen and sophomore students may also take the test for practice. There is a charge for students to take the PSAT test.

SAT I: (Reasoning Test) The Scholastic Aptitude Test is a four-hour exam usually taken during the student's junior year and perhaps again in the fall of the senior year. The test is divided into two multiple-choice sections: Verbal and Math. Scores range from 200 – 800 on each section. Scores are used for admission purposes to colleges and universities and in awarding scholarships. The test is administered on Saturday test dates.

SAT II: (Subject Tests) These tests are required by more selective post-secondary schools and are used for placement purposes. Most schools that require SAT II's require two or three. Tests are given in Writing, Mathematics, Chemistry, etc. These tests are given generally at the same time as SAT I's.

WorkKeys: Published by ACT, the WorkKeys test is a job skills assessment system that helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a high-performance workforce. This test series measures foundational and soft skills and offers specialized assessments to target institutional needs. Successful completion of assessments in Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information can lead to earning ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Russell High School is granted fee waivers for most of these exams. If payment is ever a problem do NOT hesitate to let your counselor know. Arrangements will be made for the student to take the exam. Fee waivers are kept confidential.

Other important tests administered at various grade levels:

CogAT is a measure of cognitive abilities and learning styles. It is published by Riverside Publishing. This test is usually administered in 3rd, 5th and 7th grade.

ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) is published by Riverside Publishing and is usually administered in the third and fifth grade by Russell Independent Schools. It is a group administered achievement test that provides a comprehensive assessment of student progress in major content areas.

K-PREP (Kentucky Performance Rating of Educational Progress) is administered in the last fourteen days of each school year in grades 3-8 and grades 10 and 11 at the high school level. In 3rd grade, students are assessed in reading and math. 4th grade students are assessed in reading, math, science and language mechanics. 5th grade students are assessed in reading, math, social studies and on-demand writing. 6th grade students are assessed in reading, math and writing (language mechanics). 7th grade students are assessed in reading, math and science. 8th grade students are assessed in reading, math, social studies and on-demand writing. 10th and 11th grade students are assessed in on-demand writing.

Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is published by NWEA of Portland, Oregon. It is a personalized interim assessment to measure student progress and growth in reading, language usage, and mathematics. This is administered three times a year in K-11.

STAR (Published by Renaissance) Early Literacy, Reading and Math: Formative computer adaptive tests for K-5. Four major skills areas in reading are assessed (Foundational skills, Reading Informational Text, Reading: Literature and Language) and eleven domains in math are assessed including counting, ratios, numbers, algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement, etc.