

Standardized Testing Overview – Freshmen

Dear Freshmen and Parents/Guardians of Freshmen:

While the start of the college process is still off in the distance, we want to give you some idea of how to prepare for that process. One important piece of planning is standardized testing. The purpose of this letter is to outline possibility for standardized testing at the end of the 9th grade year and to provide information about registering for one particular SAT Subject Test.

Some General Advice about Testing:

- Detailed advice for standardized testing should be individualized. What is recommended for one student should **not** be assumed to be appropriate for another student. Factors such as emotional and intellectual maturity, grades in specific courses, and adequate preparation time should all play a role in the decision-making.
- If standardized testing has not been one of your strengths, you'll be happy to know that colleges with "Test-Optional" admissions policies are becoming increasingly common. [The National Center for Fair & Open Testing \(click here\)](#) has compiled a comprehensive list of those colleges.
- While Horace Mann coursework is the foundation for this standardized testing, there are inexpensive ways to become familiar with the structure and form of the test. Test-preparation manuals such as those published by *Kaplan*, *Princeton Review*, and the *College Board*, are great options. Many test prep companies can also provide students with a full-length practice exam. Please contact the college counseling office if you have questions about other options for low- or no cost test preparation.

Registration for Standardized Testing:

- Near the end of the second trimester, students interested in taking the Biology Subject Test should speak with their teacher. If it makes sense for you to take the test, you should register for the test at that point.
- Horace Mann is **not** an official test center for all exam dates. The importance of registering by the end of the second trimester is to give you the best opportunity to take the exam either at Horace Mann or a test center close to where you live. After registration, there is still some flexibility to make modifications to your registration details. Test center or test date changes can be made through the College Board website. There may be a fee for making those changes.
- When registering online, you will need to enter HM's **(CEEB) school code: 333700**. This will ensure that the College Counseling Office receives your test scores.
- Students who have documentation on file with ACT or College Board (SAT) and have been granted extended time or other accommodations should indicate this at the time of online registration.

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- If you receive financial aid to attend Horace Mann, it's possible that you may qualify for an exam registration fee waiver. You should reach out to the College Counseling Office.

Please take some time to review the following pages in this packet. They include registration information, some specific advice regarding an SAT Subject Tests for 9th graders and an overview of tests available in the future. As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Be well,



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CURRENT FRESHMEN – CLASS OF 2020

It is possible that some 9th graders may decide to take SAT Subject Test in Biology at the end of this school year. Please read through for information about SAT Subject Tests in general and advice about the Biology Subject Test.

Advice Regarding SAT Subject Tests

- Only **2-3** subject tests may be needed for the college application process. Unless a student really enjoys and has earned strong grades in Biology, there is **NO** need to rush into taking that SAT Subject Test this year. In the 10th and 11th grades, there are more Subject Test options in English, Foreign Language, History, Math, and Science. Plus, students will be more sophisticated standardized test-takers at the end of 10th and 11th grade than they will be at the end of 9th grade.
- Horace Mann coursework can help students prepare for the various SAT Subject Tests. Still, in most cases, we recommend that students **(A)** take a full-length Subject Test for practice and **(B)** consider additional preparation on any topics not covered in our courses. Test-preparation manuals such as those published by *Kaplan*, *Princeton Review*, and the *College Board*, are inexpensive options. Many test prep companies can also provide students with a full-length practice exam.
- Many colleges will ask to see **ALL** standardized testing scores for applicants. Because students **may not** be able to suppress any official scores, students should assume that all of their official scores would need to be reported to colleges.

While HM courses do not ‘teach to’ the corresponding SAT Subject Tests, our academic departments have offered some advice regarding which courses may best prepare our students to sit for the SAT Subject Test in Biology:

Biology

- Our 9th grade Biology course is **not** designed to prepare students for the SAT Subject Test. Therefore, any 9th grader wishing to take this Subject Test should have a conversation with his/her teacher and/or the chair of the science department near the end of the second trimester. If the decision is made to sit for this test, then the test can be taken at the end of the school year in May or June of 2017.

** Students may want to wait until spring of junior year if they plan to take our AP Biology course.

Important Dates:

Date	Test	Registration Deadline
May 6, 2017	SAT Subject Test in Biology	April 7, 2017
June 3, 2017	SAT Subject Test in Biology	May 9, 2017

[Click here for SAT Subject Test registration information.](#)

