

UPREP TALK

University Placement and Preparation

Every other Wednesday

08:30 - 09:15 am

Secondary Hall, Chaofah City Campus

Presented by



Emily Graham
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Upper Secondary School



Simon Thomas
University Guidance
Counsellor



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University Guidance
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Pornkamon Roongsiri
Deputy School
Director



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International Education

Cambridge International School

Applications and Standardised Testing

UPREP
TALK 2025



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What's the Difference?

Standardised Tests:

College Readiness

SAT

ACT

English Language

IELTS

TOEFL

C2 Proficiency

Examinations:

Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge A Level

International Baccalaureate
(IB)

Advanced Placement (AP)

etc...

CEFR Level	Description	IELTS Band	GCSE Equivalent	A-Level Equivalent
A1	Beginner	1.0 - 2.5	Below GCSE	Below AS Level
A2	Elementary	3.0 - 3.5	Below GCSE	Below AS Level
B1	Intermediate	4.0 - 4.5	GCSE Grade 4-5	Beginning AS Level
B2	Upper-Intermediate	5.5 - 6.5	GCSE Grade 6-8	AS/A-Level Standard
C1	Advanced	7.0 - 8.0	Above GCSE	A/A* A-Level Standard
C2	Proficient	8.5 - 9.0	Well Above GCSE	University-Level

What are they?

Tests where all participants answer the same questions that are scored in a standard / consistent manner

Many universities ask for them in addition to school results:

- *To allow them to make international comparisons
- *To guarantee basic skills e.g. English / numeracy
- *To fulfill immigration requirements for visas

College Readiness



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SAT Reasoning Test



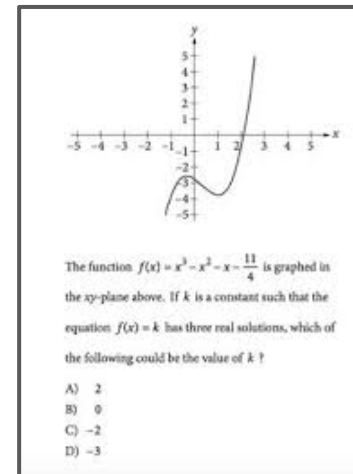
Scholastic

Aptitude Test

Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading and Writing	64 (two 32-minute modules)	54
Math	70 (two 35-minute modules)	44
Total	134	98

***Scored /1600**

***Average 1050**



38

In lines 61-65, the author of Passage 2 refers to a statement made in Passage 1 in order to

- A) call into question the qualifications of the authors of Passage 1 regarding gender issues.
- B) dispute the assertion made about women in the first sentence of Passage 1.
- C) develop her argument by highlighting what she sees as flawed reasoning in Passage 1.
- D) validate the concluding declarations made by the authors of Passage 1 about gender roles.

[...] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [...]

16. A) NO CHANGE
B) evacuated
C) departed
D) retired

Reading and Writing

The Reading and Writing section presents short reading passages (or passage pairs) followed by a single multiple-choice question.

Questions represent one of four content domains:

- Craft and Structure,
- Information and Ideas,
- Standard English Conventions
- Expression of Ideas.

The test is 64 minutes, divided into 2 x 32 minute modules, each of which includes questions from all four different domains.

The following text is from Edith Wharton's 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*. Lily Bart and a companion are walking through a park.

Lily had no real intimacy with nature, but she had a passion for the appropriate and could be keenly sensitive to a scene which was the fitting background of her own sensations. The landscape outspread below her seemed an enlargement of her present mood, and she found something of herself in its calmness, its breadth, its long free reaches. On the nearer slopes the sugar-maples wavered like pyres of light; lower down was a massing of grey orchards, and here and there the lingering green of an oak-grove.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A) It creates a detailed image of the physical setting of the scene.
- B) It establishes that a character is experiencing an internal conflict.
- C) It makes an assertion that the next sentence then expands on.
- D) It illustrates an idea that is introduced in the previous sentence.

Reading

1

Former astronaut Ellen Ochoa says that although she doesn't have a definite idea of when it might happen, she _____ that humans will someday need to be able to live in other environments than those found on Earth. This conjecture informs her interest in future research missions to the moon.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) demands
- B) speculates
- C) doubts
- D) establishes

Reading

QUESTION 8

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text establishes that Lily can be “keenly sensitive to” scenes that serve as a “fitting background” for her feelings—that is, she’s very aware of when a setting seems to reflect her mood. The next sentence, which is underlined, then demonstrates this awareness: Lily views the landscape she’s in as a large-scale reflection of her current mood, identifying with elements such as its calmness. Thus, the function of the underlined sentence is to illustrate an idea introduced in the previous sentence.

QUESTION 1

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ochoa’s prediction that humans will one day need to live in places other than Earth. As used in this context, “speculates” would mean puts forward an idea without firm evidence. The text states that Ochoa “doesn’t have a definite idea” about when humans might need to live in other environments and characterizes Ochoa’s prediction as a “conjecture,” or a conclusion presented without convincing evidence. This context indicates that Ochoa speculates when she makes this prediction.



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While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Seikan Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Japan.
- It connects the island of Honshu to the island of Hokkaido.
- It is roughly 33 miles long.
- The Channel Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Europe.
- It connects Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France.
- It is about 31 miles long.

The student wants to compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Some of the world's rail tunnels, including one tunnel that extends from Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France, are longer than 30 miles.
- B) The Seikan Tunnel is roughly 33 miles long, while the slightly shorter Channel Tunnel is about 31 miles long.
- C) The Seikan Tunnel, which is roughly 33 miles long, connects the Japanese islands of Honshu and Hokkaido.
- D) Both the Seikan Tunnel, which is located in Japan, and the Channel Tunnel, which is located in Europe, are examples of rail tunnels.

Writing

QUESTION 31

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence compares the lengths of the two rail tunnels, noting that the Channel Tunnel (about 31 miles long) is slightly shorter than the Seikan Tunnel (roughly 33 miles long).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about the length of some rail tunnels; it doesn't compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. *Choice C* is incorrect. The sentence describes a single rail tunnel; it doesn't compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. *Choice D* is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two rail tunnels, it doesn't compare their lengths.



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Maths

The Math section focuses on the areas of math that play the biggest role in college and career success:

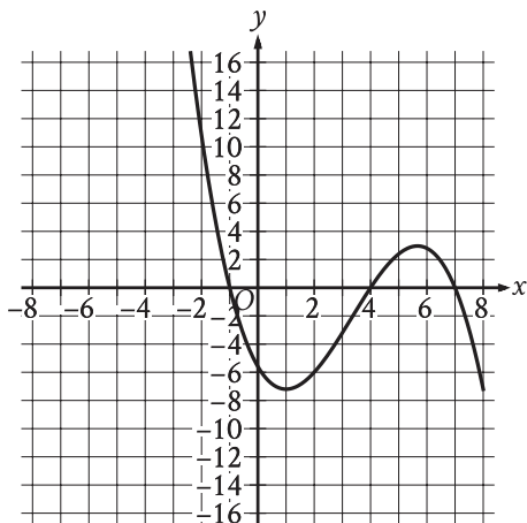
Type of Math	Number of Questions
Algebra	13–15
Advanced Math	13–15
Problem-Solving and Data Analysis	5–7
Geometry and Trigonometry	5–7

The test is 70 minutes, divided into 2 x 35 minute modules which both contain two types of questions.

- multiple-choice
- student-produced response questions

These measure fluency with, understanding of, and ability to apply the math concepts, skills, and practices that are most essential.

Approximately 30% of Math questions are set in context. These in-context ("word") questions require you to consider a science, social studies, or real-world scenario and apply your math skills and knowledge, along with an understanding of the context, to determine the answer to each.



The graph of $y = f(x)$ is shown, where the function f is defined by $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$ and a , b , c , and d are constants. For how many values of x does $f(x) = 0$?

- A) One
- B) Two
- C) Three
- D) Four

1

What is 10% of 470?

- A) 37
- B) 47
- C) 423
- D) 460

27

The perimeter of an equilateral triangle is 624 centimeters. The height of this triangle is $k\sqrt{3}$ centimeters, where k is a constant. What is the value of k ?

QUESTION 12

Choice C is correct. If a value of x satisfies $f(x) = 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ will contain a point $(x, 0)$ and thus touch the x -axis. Since there are 3 points at which this graph touches the x -axis, there are 3 values of x for which $f(x) = 0$.

QUESTION 27

The correct answer is 104. An equilateral triangle is a triangle in which all three sides have the same length and all three angles have a measure of 60° . The height of the triangle, $k\sqrt{3}$, is the length of the altitude from one vertex. The altitude divides the equilateral triangle into two congruent 30-60-90 right triangles, where the altitude is the side across from the 60° angle in each 30-60-90 right triangle. Since the altitude has a length of $k\sqrt{3}$, it follows from the properties of 30-60-90 right triangles that the side across from each 30° angle has a length of k and each hypotenuse has a length of $2k$. In this case, the hypotenuse of each 30-60-90 right triangle is a side of the equilateral triangle; therefore, each side length of the equilateral triangle is $2k$. The perimeter of a triangle is the sum of the lengths of each side. It's given that the perimeter of the equilateral triangle is 624; therefore, $2k + 2k + 2k = 624$, or $6k = 624$. Dividing both sides of this equation by 6 yields $k = 104$.



Results

Sent directly to students 2-3 weeks after test.



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Links for SAT Practise

Free: Khan Academy & College Board: [SAT Practise](#)

[Link to Answers from today](#)

Paid Service: [Testtakers](#)



& we run PSATs once a year in Term 1

International SAT Dates

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Results Released
Dec. 6, 2025	Nov. 21, 2025	2-3 weeks after
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026	2-3 weeks after
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	2-3 weeks after
August 15, 2026	TBC	2-3 weeks after
October 3, 2026	TBC	2-3 weeks after

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines>



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ACT[®]

American College Testing

*English

*Maths (with calculator)

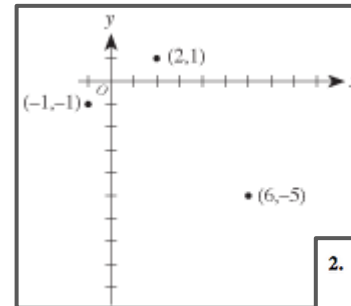
*Reading

*Science

*Essay (optional)

*Score / 36

*Average = 21



2. According to Figure 1, a Facies G rock will most likely form under which of the following pressure and temperature conditions?

	Pressure	Temperature
F.	3 kb	800°C
G.	5 kb	400°C
H.	8 kb	1,000°C
J.	11 kb	600°C

Climbing Mt. Fuji

[1]

Bundled up in wool sweaters and thick coats, and we watched the sun setting on Mt. Fuji in Japan. It was August and our clothes were stifling,

but we would have needed the warmth from our bodies sealed around us as we hiked into the high altitudes.

Three friends and I stepped away from the crowd of other hikers and spoke our intention: "Sunset at the base, sunrise at the top." [A]

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. coats while watching
H. coats, we watched
J. coats watching

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. would need
C. will need
D. need



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Choices – SAT or ACT?

- Doesn't matter for USA - 98% of US colleges accept either
- SAT historically more popular
- SAT more accepted outside USA
- ACT currently more popular in US
- Have become more similar
- Get Princeton Review to help



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What is the UCAT?

UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test)

Used by many UK and international medical and dental schools to assess skills and attributes needed for healthcare careers. Replaced BMAT.

Purpose: Tests aptitude, not academic knowledge.

Format: Computer-based, 2 hours.

Sections:

- 1 Verbal Reasoning – interpret written info
- 2 Decision Making – logical reasoning
- 3 Quantitative Reasoning – numerical skills
- 4 Abstract Reasoning – pattern recognition
- 5 Situational Judgement – ethics & professionalism

UCAT: Scoring & Use

Scoring

Sections 1–4: 300–900 each (total 1200–3600)

Situational Judgement: Band 1–4 (1 = highest)

How Universities Use It

Some set cut-off scores

Others combine with grades, interviews, or personal statements

When to Take It

July–October before application submission (must be complete before)

Tip: Prepare using official UCAT practice tests and timed mocks

Official site: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk>



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Start preparing **at least 3-6 months** in advance.

Take a practice test!

Then focus on weaknesses and do more practice tests.

And more practice!

When to start

You could start from Year 10!

Good to start preparing towards end of Year 11.

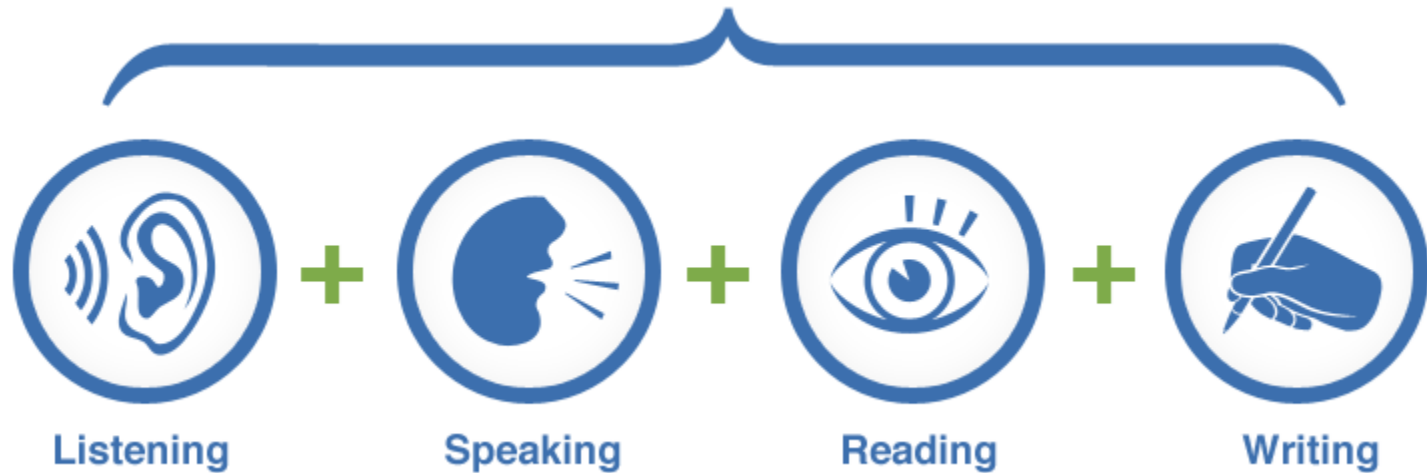
Should take test by Term 1 or 2 of Year 12.

You can then re-do if needed in Year 13.

Final Points

- Students should test 2-4 times – most colleges will take the best score
- Some universities SUPERScore (look at highest scores across all tests)
- You can check a university's average score for incoming freshman
- Some will want to see scores
- Know the last date scores can be submitted
- To apply to Thai universities, you'll need to have your best SAT score ready by September

English Language Proficiency



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IELTS

International English Language
Testing System

(Academic)

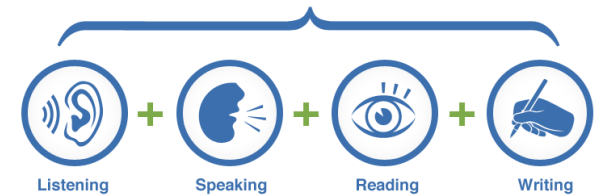
Preferred in UK / Australia / Canada/
Netherlands

Scored 1-9 (most universities will ask
for 6.5/7 - **depends on course**)

2 Year “shelf life”

British Council Phuket

Language Tests



Have a go!



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TOEFL

Preferred in US

Scored /120

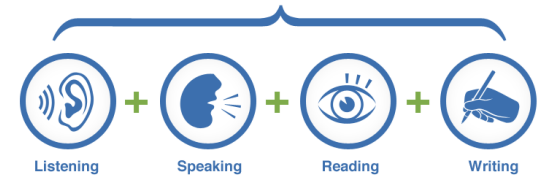
Average requirement is 80

Easier!

2 Year “shelf life”

Test centres in Thailand

Language Tests



CAMBRIDGE

PET / FCE / CAE / CPE

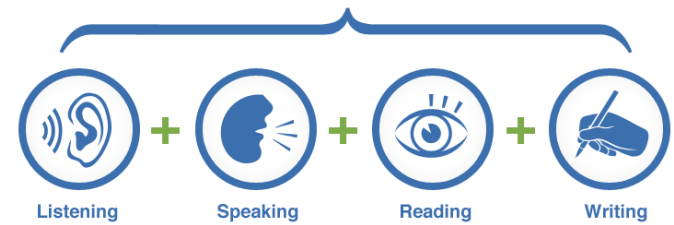
CAE - usual requirement

Merit / Pass / Fail or A / B / C

“Lifetime” certificate

Test Centres in Thailand

Language Tests



Language Tests

Students must:

- *Check requirements
- *Know timings
- *Book tests
- *Prepare for tests
- *Send scores

School will help with:

- *Interpreting websites
- *Planning testing
- *Waivers

Approximate Costs

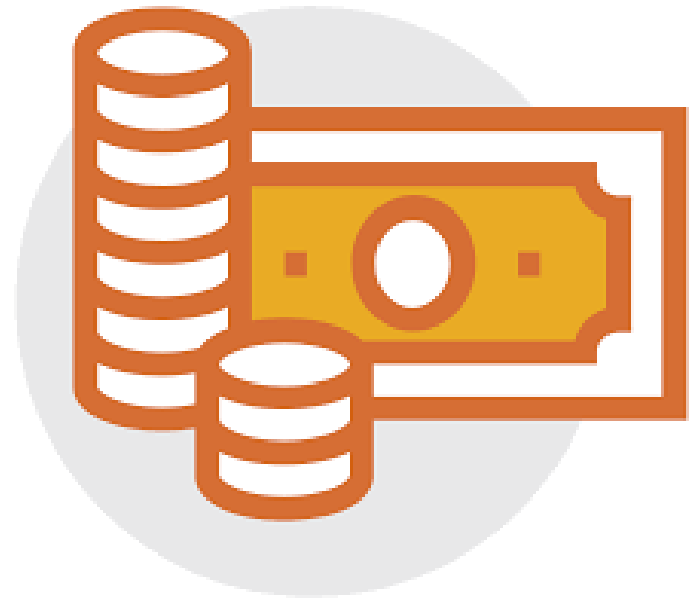
TOEFL - 7,750฿

IELTS - 8,000฿

SAT - \$111 / 3,800฿

PSAT -\$20 / 700฿

ACT - 1809 / 2400฿



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So...?

Make sure you know if your child needs to do tests!

Know the timeline

Help plan preparation

Make sure your child keeps on top of school work...
don't abandon everything for tests!

ASK IF YOU AREN'T SURE!

Useful Websites

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

<https://parents.collegeboard.org/college-board-programs/sat>

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

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html>

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html>

<https://www.britishcouncil.or.th/en/exam/ielts/book-test>

<https://phuketpals.org/>

<https://www.ets.org/toefl>

<https://ielts.idp.com/thailand>

UPrep Parent Sessions

Dates 2025/26	Topic
1: 27 th August 2025	Introduction to UPrep
2: 10 th September 2025	Your child's 5 year plan
3: 24 th September 2025	Choosing subjects and careers
4: 8 th October 2025	Comparing different university systems
5: 29 th October 2025	Applying to Thai universities
6: 12 th November 2025	Application and standardised testing
7: 26 th November 2025	Applying to the UK and Europe
8: 10 th December 2025	Applying to USA and Canada
9: 7 th January 2026	Applying to Australia, New Zealand
10: 21st January 2026	Applying to Asian universities
11: 4 th February 2026	Alternative pathways and gap years
12: 4th March 2026	Fees, funding and finances
13: 18th March 2026	UPrep For Parents by Parents going to the Netherlands and/or the UK
14. 29th April 2026	Applying to Oxbridge
15. 13th May 2026	Applying to Ivy League and top US universities

What Next?

Make an appointment.
Need advice?
Have any questions or
concerns?
Confused about what
next?

Ask us!

egraham@headstartphuket.com
sthomas@headstartphuket.com
nroscoe@headstartphuket.com
toom@headstartphuket.com



To book an appointment, scan!



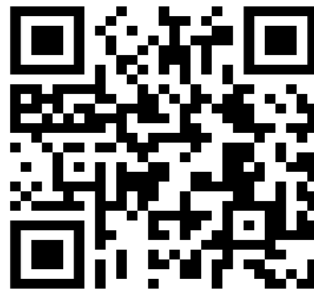
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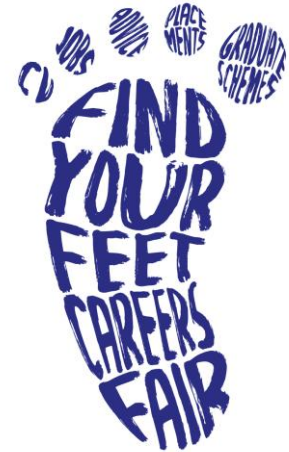


Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers

Do you (or a contact) have expertise in these areas?

- Hospitality / Tourism
- Engineering / Architecture
- Computing / Digital Media
- Charities / Development
- Food and Beverage
- Entrepreneurship
- Medical / Psychology
- Art / Design
- Entrepreneurship / Marketing / Commerce





QUESTIONS?



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