

Recommendations for SAT Subject Tests

Students take Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history and social studies, mathematics, science, and language. The content of the tests evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year. The following recommendations have been developed by Department Heads in conjunction with the College Counseling Office to advise Williston students as they consider which Subject Tests to take. For each subject, students should have mastered the course (earning a B+ or higher) before taking the test, unless otherwise noted.

Science

Our science courses are developed to teach critical thinking skills, which entail in-depth learning about topics central to the study of science. In doing so, a few topics on Subject Tests may not be fully covered and therefore could benefit from supplemental preparation. Students should consult their teachers to determine if additional preparation would prove helpful in preparing for a Subject Test in the sciences.

Biology M (molecular) or Biology E (ecological)

- Strongly recommend either Biology test for any student who has completed AP Biology.

Biology M (molecular)

- Performed strongly in a one-year course in Honors Biology with laboratory experience.
- Performed strongly in a course in algebra and gained familiarity with simple algebraic concepts such as ratios and direct and inverse proportions (Algebra 1).

Biology E (ecological)

Strongly recommend this Biology test for any student who has completed AP Environmental Science.

Chemistry

- Performed strongly in a one-year introductory chemistry course at the college preparatory level with laboratory experience (Chemistry).
- Successfully completed a course in algebraic relationships, ratio and direct and inverse proportions, and exponents (Algebra 1).
- Strongly recommend the Chemistry test for any student who has completed Honors or AP Chemistry.

Physics

- Through consultation with college-level science faculty, we have constructed our standard physics course around mechanics to maximally develop the critical thinking skills of our students. Students who plan to pursue advanced Physics courses are encouraged to take the

Subject Test as early as December of the year they are taking AP Physics 1, as they will have covered the pertinent content by then. It should be noted that the course Physics 4310 or 4315 does not prepare students for the subject test.

- Performed strongly in a course in simple algebraic, trigonometric and graphical relationships, and the concepts of ratio and proportion (Algebra 2).
- Strongly recommend the Physics test for any student who has completed AP Physics 1 or C.

Science Department:

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Mathematics

Math Level 1 • Appropriate for a strong student who has successfully completed Pre-Calculus. Although an Honors Algebra II student would be prepared for this level at the end of the school year, it is recommended that he/she wait and take Math Level 2 because he/she will be able to handle the more advanced work after completing Honors Pre-Calculus.

- Students are advised to prepare additionally for some content on the Math 1 Subject Test that is not included in our Pre-Calculus course: probability and statistics, sequences, imaginary numbers, and logic.

Math Level 2

- Appropriate for a student who has successfully completed Honors Pre-Calculus or is currently taking or has completed AP Calculus.
- Students are advised to prepare additionally for some content on the Math 2 Subject Test that is not covered in Honors Pre-Calculus such as sequences and series, probability and statistics, logic and matrices.

Math Department:

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History

United States History • The curriculum for United States History standard classes, as well as the AP United States History course, will serve as effective preparation for the SAT Subject Test in United States History. However, it is recommended that students complete the course before taking the Subject Test.

- Knowledge gained from social studies and outside reading is helpful.

World History

- Students who have taken World Civilizations as well as European History I, II, and III, or AP European History, will be reasonably well prepared for the SAT World History Test.
- It is recommended that students prepare additionally for this test by studying Latin American History on their own since neither of the courses mentioned above consider Latin American History in their curriculum.

History Department:

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English Literature

- Performed strongly in AP English Language (11th grade), a class that focuses on close, critical reading in American literature from a variety of historical periods and genres.
- Possesses a working knowledge of basic literary terminology, such as speaker, tone, theme. Symbol, image, irony, alliteration, stanza, etc.
 - Possesses a wide range of independent reading experience

English Department:

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Language French, Spanish, Latin, Chinese

- Recommended for juniors or seniors who have been studying French, Spanish, Latin or Chinese at the Honors level for three years and who have demonstrated strong performance.
- Strongly recommended for students who have successfully completed level IV, V or AP language classes.

Language Department:

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Additional Resources

To learn more about Subject Tests, we recommend that you go to the College Board website for detailed explanations of each test, opportunities to take mini-practice tests, free downloadable publications and information about test preparation:
<http://www.collegeboard.org/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>

Since Subject Test policies vary, we recommend that students carefully review the specific requirements for each college to which they are considering filing an application. Visit <http://mytutor.com/one-on-one/sat-subject-tests/> for more information regarding Subject Tests, college admission policies, and test dates.