**College Testing Descriptions**

**CEEB Code: 392857 ~ Highlands Test Center Codes: SAT- 39454**

**PSAT/NMSQT –** The preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a shorter version of the SAT Reasoning Test. It is used as a practice test and is given once a year, in October at Highlands High School. The test has five sections that measure critical reading, math and writing skills. You have 25 minutes for sections 1-4 and 30 minutes for section 5. In the junior year, scores are used to determine the National Merit Scholarship qualification. Eligibility is based on students National Merit Selection Index, which is the addition of all three section of the PSAT test.

***Why take the test?***

-Get feedback about critical academic skills

-Prepare for the SAT

-Start getting ready for college

-Enter scholarship competitions

***My College QuickStart: Free resource for students***

*An online college and career planning resource that is free for you after you take the PSAT. Access this great resource to help you take the next steps towards college. View your online score report, prep for the SAT with a personalized plan of study, take a personality test to learn about careers and majors for you. Log in to My College QuickStart with the access code printed on your score report.* [*www.collegeboard.org/quickstart*](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart)

**SAT Reasoning Test –** A college admissions test that measures critical reading, mathematical, and writing abilities. The critical reading section includes reading passages and sentence completion. The writing section includes a short essay and multiple choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar usage. The mathematics section includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probabilities. The test is 3 hours and 45 minutes in length and each section is scored on a 200-800 point basis. *www.collegeboard.org*

**ACT –** The American College Test is a college admissions test that measures understanding, knowledge, and skills in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science Reasoning. ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and Universities in the U.S. There is also an optional writing section that is scored on a 0-36 point scale in each of the subject areas plus a total or composite score. The test is 2 hours and 55 minutes in length, plus 30 minutes if you include the writing section. ***It is strongly encouraged that students contact their college of interest to find out whether the SAT or the ACT is required for admission. www.act.org***

**SAT Subject Tests –** Hour long tests in specific subjects. There are 20 SAT Subject tests in five general subject areas. These tests are only required by many of the more competitive colleges. Some colleges use them for placement in appropriate courses. Please make sure that you check each college’s admissions requirements to determine whether or not this test is required, and if there are specific subjects required by that college. Each section is scored on a 200 to 800 point scale. It is typically recommended that the Subject Test be taken at the completion of the specific subject course. [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**AP Tests –** The Advanced Placement Tests are designed for academically strong students who have completed rigorous coursework in a particular subject area, particularly an AP course. However, the AP program does not require that you take an AP course before you take an AP Test. All AP tests are given at the end of May in high school. Most tests are approximately 2 to 3 hours in length. Students may take multiple exams in one year. Scores are reported on a 1-5 point scale. ***It is strongly encouraged that students check with their college of interest to determine whether or not the college accepts AP exams for credit***. You can find the exam schedules on www.collegeboard.org

Sources: www.collegeboard.org and www. act.org