



# SAT/ACT Prep Course Overview



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Member:

European Council Of International Schools (ECIS)

National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)

Overseas Association For College Admission Counseling (OACAC)



## WHO / WHAT IS ASI?

Academic Services International is an independent test preparation company specializing in SAT / ACT test preparation. ASI was founded by experienced teachers who developed a very unusual test prep program that focuses on the test repetition and question recognition, not content and solutions. This unique focus produces dramatic score increases and has, as a result, spread by word-of-mouth to over 45 international and American schools in 30 countries around the world. Our mission is to provide a quality course, comprised of a very innovative methodology, scholastic excellence, and sound educational theory and philosophy. We combine all these to show students how to prepare a comprehensive and successful strategy for taking the SAT / ACT test. Our value emphasizes our focus on educational excellence and success, not profit.



## WHAT SETS US APART?

### Content / Method:

- The SAT / ACT is a “how to ” test. It is **NOT** a critical thinking test. Critical thinkers over think the test. They bring too many possibilities “to the table,” spend too much time evaluating these possibilities, and then, because they now have so many possibilities to consider, are more likely to choose a wrong answer. (This is why very bright students do not get comparably high scores.) The SAT / ACT must be approached as a **STANDARDIZED TEST** - find the **CLUE** in the question, find the match in the answer choices and move on.
- Other courses generally teach vocabulary and math. We do not. Except for vocabulary, students **ALREADY KNOW** all the content that is needed. Focus does not need to be on learning new content, just recognizing when to apply the content that has already been learned.
- It is the question that is important, not the solution to that question. This is a very repetitious test. Only a few types of questions are repeatedly asked. If the test taker solves one question but fails to recognize the other 4 or 5 that are exactly the same solution, scores will be minimized. Because the types of repeated question are few, the student only needs to learn the few types and then learn to recognize that type each and every time it is repeated. The solution for each is exactly the same: if you know how to solve the one, you can solve every other one exactly like it! This minimizes the time needed to prepare for the test.
- The SAT / ACT is a very repetitious test. The student needs to be aware of this and then learn to recognize the receptiveness to be able to effectively “work” the test. It also involves good test taking skills which are no longer taught to students in school and, although many are just common sense, must be pointed out to the student.

## Faculty:



We place a strong emphasis on the quality of ASI teachers. They are selected for their skills at teaching as well as intercultural strengths. Each is a retired New York State certified classroom teacher with over twenty-five years of established teaching experience. Their proven teaching skills are supplemented by an intensive four part training in the specifics of the ASI techniques and ongoing refresher programs for continued improvements through shared experience.

## ASI Structure:

The ASI course is a 22 hour program, offered on the school premises over two consecutive weekends. Everything that is needed to know about the SAT / ACT - the what and the how - can be taught in 22 hours. Individual tutoring as needed is provided during the weekdays between formal session at no additional cost to the student. If any student wants to repeat the course in a subsequent session, in whole or in part, it is also free of charge.

## Scores:

It is often believed that one cannot prepare for the SAT / ACT. Our statistics prove that you CAN prepare for these tests, substantially improving your test-taking skills and dramatically raising scores. Individual increases range from 100 to 700 points! Average scores range from 250 to 300 points. From time to time we check the relevance of ASI practice tests. in a controlled group. The average increase of those who took the ASI course was reported three times higher than those who did not take the course. Another school with a high PSAT base reported that the SAT test scores of those who did not take the ASI course went below the PSAT level by an average of 10 points. Those who did take the course on an average showed an increase of 130 points over the PSAT base. The correlation between SAT scores and the SAT practice score has ranged between 85 and 97%

## Student Focus:

We are a small company of educators with extensive teaching as well as management experience behind us. The single-minded goal of ASI is to help students. We do so by remaining a small company which can respond to students needs without the encumbrances of a larger company. We remain small and committed and, therefore, effective in helping student achieve substantial score increases

*This is what we do. It is all we do. So we do it*



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM ASI?

Because the SAT and the ACT are now very similar, we provide resource material for both of the tests and show how what is instructed to prepare for one test is also applicable for the other..

### **The Official SAT Study Guide by the College Board:**

Included with the course, the book is used extensively to correlate ASI methodology and strategy with actual SAT test and to provide students with test-taking practice using actual test questions.

### **The Real ACT Prep Guide by ACT, Inc.:**

Also included with the course, the book is used extensively to correlate ASI methodology and strategy with actual ACT test and to provide students with test-taking practice using actual test questions.

### **The ASI Student Manual:**

The student manual is the centerpiece of the ASI course. It was written exclusively for ASI in the context of the ASI method. This manual is not available commercially or through any other company.

### **Flash Cards / Interactive Online Practice / Highlighter**

The course includes a set of flash cards to aid practice and review. Just because we can't be with students as they practice SAT tests, it doesn't mean they are on their own. They will be provided with answers and detailed explanations for ALL test questions for verbal and math sections of the *Official Study Guide* (available as interactive online practice). It is all they need to continue and finish practice for the ASI test method. But it is more than practice. Practice just for the sake of practicing, unless it is clear what has just been learned, is meaningless practice. Students become very good at perpetuating the same error. The color-coded explanations don't just provide the answers, but more importantly, a detailed explanation for why they should never have picked the incorrect answer they chose. Because students can lose as many as 200 points on these tests by missing key words that identify the questions and assure the correct solution, students learn to use a highlighter to condition the mind to find ALL these clue words.

### **Time Management Strategy:**

Because the SAT / ACT is a timed test, speed is as important as accuracy on test day. The student only has a limited time during which to earn as many points as possible. It is crucial for a student to develop an efficient time management strategy for maximizing speed and personal strengths. During the course, we will help each student to recognize these factors and adapt individual strategies for continuing improvement.



## Timed Practice Testing:

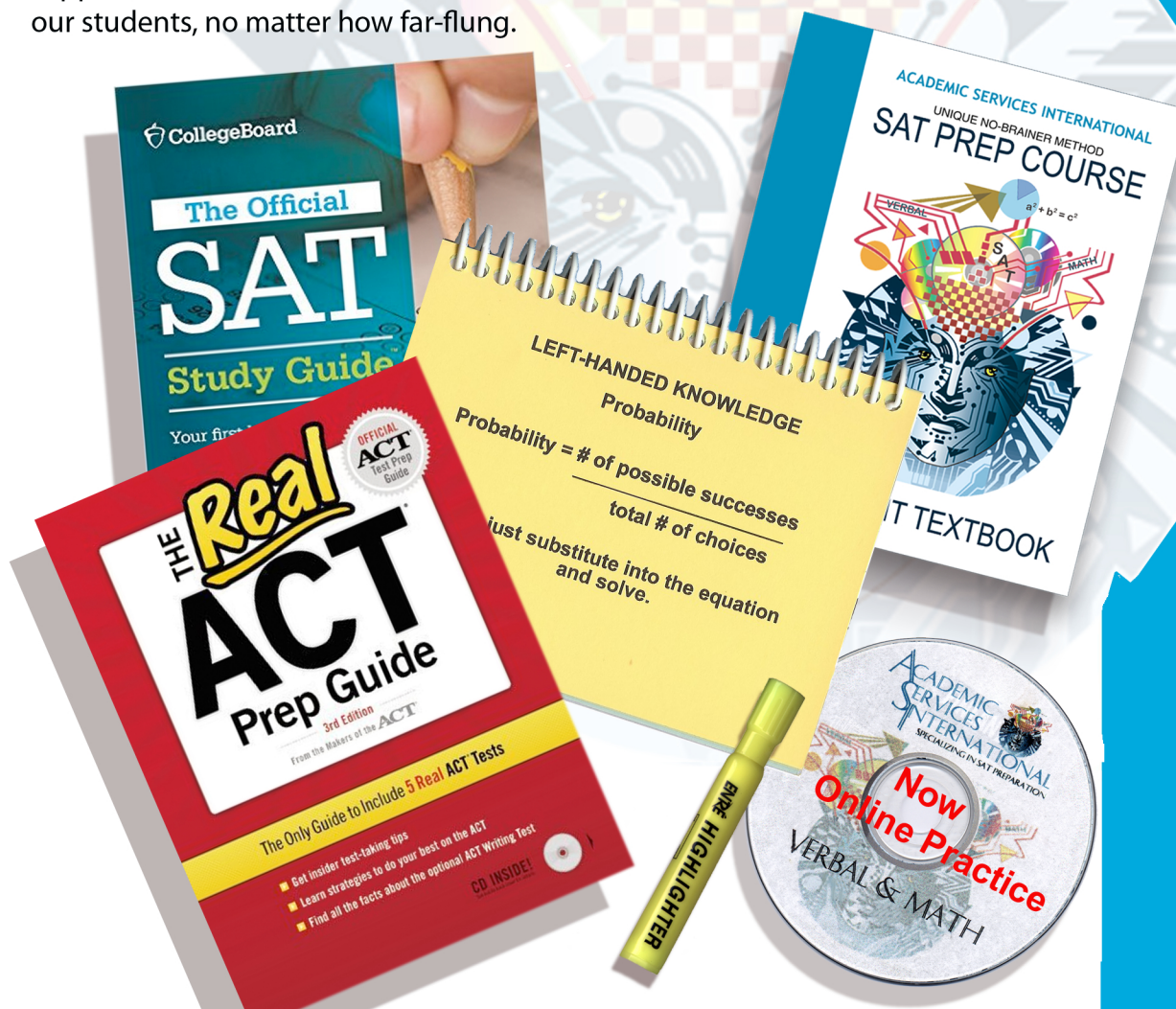
As part of the ASI course, students will complete a timed SAT practice test to determine their baseline score. Each section of the test is corrected and explained in the context of the ASI method. By completing an entire SAT test together, students learn the best strategies for continuing to practice on their own. And because the method for taking both the SAT and the ACT is the same,

## Extra Help And Personal Attention:

Our interactive approach to learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. Students are encouraged to set up time for extra help with their specific needs outside of scheduled class times. For the duration of their stay, our teachers are available to the students.

## Post Course Follow-up Facility:

Just as our teachers are available outside of class hours, they continue to be available after the course is over and they've returned home. Like any skills, those we teach must be practiced in order to be perfected. Students will learn how to practice most efficiently during their course time, but when inevitable questions arise, they are not on their own. Even after the course is over, one-on-one e-mail support will still be there as students continue to hone their SAT skills. Our teaching staff answers e-mails messages within twenty-four hours, often on the same day. To continue our tradition of total support, an interactive website is under construction as a further resource for all of our students, no matter how far-flung.





## WHAT ABOUT THOSE SAT / ACT MYTHS?

The SAT / ACT is NOT the sole criteria for college admittance, but it is a significant one. It is the one part of the formula that can be changed immediately, unlike grades, rank or student profile. Good grades but a low SAT score raises doubt about student potential, possibly necessitating a more critical look at student records. Low grades with a high SAT score leaves room for the benefit of doubt. And the SAT / ACT score is a primary factor in determining scholarships and grants.

Just eliminating stupid errors can raise a score as much as 200 points. We teach test-taking skills needed to score. In essence, we demystify the SAT / ACT process.

Another common myth is that the SAT / ACT is hard. The truth is, it is the question that can be difficult, often written in lengthy and obscure passages or confusing terminology. The solution and answer are most often easy. Students are given the keys to demystifying and interpreting questions.



## WHAT DOES ASI EXPECT FROM STUDENTS AND PARENTS?

**Students:** The ASI method is a process, not rote memorization. Students must hone the test-taking skills being taught by practicing and mastering the method. This is achieved through practice tests and assigned homework. It is only by completing these assignments that students can know what has been mastered and what has not. At this time, mistakes can be recognized and corrected with the help of an instructor. The assignments are designed to force students to make the most common mistakes that are often made on the SAT / ACT, driving home lessons they will never forget. Better these mistakes are made with us than on the SAT / ACT test day.

**Parents:** After the instructor leaves, parents should encourage their child to continue to practice SAT / ACT type questions from the Official SAT Study Guide book as they have been taught. The final score your student can achieve will be directly proportionate to the amount of practice time he or she puts into these practices. We urge the parent to encourage the student to complete all assigned homework on time and to continue the SAT / ACT practice after the instructor has gone.



## WHAT ASI IS NOT

ASI is NOT affiliated with any college and we cannot guarantee acceptance to a college. We cannot guarantee a specific score. This will depend on student commitment to learn and practice the ASI method.

ASI is NOT a quick fix. We teach the test-taking skills needed for this test. Starting with the knowledge students already have, our method builds on this base, but is directed by the predictability and idiosyncrasies of the SAT / ACT.



## TYPICAL COMMENTS

### Student Comments:

- It's Theji from Sri Lanka from the American International School of Johannesburg. I attended your SAT Prep Course a week before the May test date. When I took it (before the course) I got 1250 in total (590 in maths, 670 in critical reading and writing). This time I got 1500 with 800 for the maths section. I just wanted to thank you for the invaluable skills you taught me.
- I had a course from ASI at SYA China this year in April. I went from a 1500 to a 1570. I literally got home from traveling for a week today and checked it, and got an 800 in Math, 770 in Critical Reading and Writing. I exploded! Your program works! Thanks for everything that you do. You help make kids' futures be brighter.

### Student and Guidance Comments on Other Courses:

- I indeed will recommend this course to others. I have not taken a similar course before. This course presented a different method to take the SAT. And it really works.
- Thank you for the course. I can actually say this course really works. Princeton Review doesn't. This was the best SAT course I have ever taken.
- I have so many SAT books laying on my shelf but they are just not encouraging. The motivational part of this course was as important as the course itself.
- It seems that overall, students and parents like the course and the timing. The comment from students that they liked it better than Princeton Review is worth noting.

### Parents on Course Impact:

- I just wanted to let you know how very glad we are that Russell participated in the SAT program. On the practice test he improved his total score from approximately 900 to 1200. He is more confident, focused and motivated to do well in his studies.
- I just want to recommend the (ASI) SAT prep course provided at ASH this spring. Emily raised her math score 170 points. The pointers and study materials were well worth the course fee.
- I wanted to thank you for all the difference you made to Vaibhav through this course. He has become more confident and sure of studies ahead.
- Just wanted to let you know how my son did after taking the SAT prep class. He had taken the PSAT twice prior to the prep class, getting scores of 1150 and 1300. Then he took your class. After he took the SAT, I called the phone number that gives you early results and heard that he got 730 verbal and 710 math for a total of 1440!!

### Guidance Counselors on ASI Program:

- I just wanted to contact you regarding the recent program which was run for us here at TASIS. It was a superb experience for all of the students and we appreciate the professionalism with which the teacher ran the course.
- Clearly (the teacher) carried on in a most professional and warm manner. The ASI personal touch is one of the important aspects that set the course above and beyond the more commercial brands.
- As I may have mentioned, we had used other test preparation companies in the past and the level of service and professionalism that you offer is unparalleled.
- The course went very well; I'd say the best so far! I got excellent reviews from the students who made comments like, ... 'I've really learned a lot', 'she is actually really teaching us something', 'she really takes her stuff seriously' (thought that comment was so funny!), 'thank you so much for recommending the course to us', etc... Now I'm crossing fingers that they'll all practice and increase their scores! So thank you for sending us wonderful teachers!
- Thanks again for your care and attention. I gave one of the students who lives in my neighborhood a ride home yesterday and then back in to school this morning, a boy who has moved around a lot and doesn't really have a hard and fast mother tongue so therefore his test scores have been dismal. He's a wonderful kid of whom I am very fond and it made me happy to hear him talk about how much his confidence has been boosted by your instruction. It's working already!