

A.C.T., S.A.T. *SUPERCOURSE REVIEWS TEST PREP*

With Coach David Diciccio, Class Instructor (1-800-937-6388)

First Some Friendly Advice: College-bound teenagers should plan when they will take college admission tests. Demanding extracurricular activities (sports, work, marching band, clubs, and plays) can make it difficult for students to prepare for, take, or retake these important tests.

These courses are for juniors. Younger students are welcome IF they have completed or are currently enrolled in Algebra II and Chemistry.

Class time is performance coaching in English, vocabulary (SAT), math, reading, science (ACT), and essay writing test-taking strategies. The coach, Mr. Diciccio, utilizes short drills and demonstrations to train students in the what, where, when, why, and how of test-taking. NO class time is used for practicing. Instead, do-at-home workbooks contain **real** ACT and **real** SAT questions and practice tests. The tuition includes the workbooks.

Don't let the comparatively lower prices of *SUPERCOURSE REVIEWS* make you think our courses are not of high quality. On the contrary, we have actually had students take our courses after taking much more expensive courses and in every case the students found *SUPERCOURSES* to be more helpful in preparing for the tests. How can we offer superior quality courses at affordable prices? First, we can hold fewer sessions since we don't use scheduled class time for practicing. Students aren't burned out or bored by taking test after test after test and it's easier on their very busy schedules. Second, WE ARE NOT a big corporation or franchise so we don't spend 2,3, or more times the money on overhead and marketing than we do on class development like our higher-priced competitors do. Our goal is and has always been to deliver the most time-effective, effort-effective, and cost-effective programs possible. The parents of over 10,000 Northeast Ohio students have learned that quality test-prep doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg! *--Coach Diciccio, 22 years of test-prep*

Questions Mr. Diccio(1-800-937-6388) is frequently asked:

- Q1. Why should a student take both the ACT and the SAT?

Each college admissions department will use the higher of the two scores for program/scholarship decisions (a special statistical table is used for this purpose). Because there exists no reliable way to predict which test a student will score higher on, I recommend a student seriously prepare for and take both tests at least once. After receiving both scores, the student should then concentrate on retaking the test she or he scored the highest on. That being said, it is a fact that the ACT has become the No.1 college admission test. Why? It is less expensive, easier for most students to prepare for, and is more student friendly overall.

- Q2. Can good students prepare for the ACT and SAT on their own?

Yes. However, it can be very lonely and overwhelming. Most students lack the organization skills and discipline to do it. By participating in a class, students generally prepare 2, 3, 4, or even more times the amount they would all by themselves. This results in them scoring much higher. Parents often mention books or software that they bought which just ended up collecting a lot of dust under their child's bed. In addition, much of the theory and many of the strategies which I teach do not exist in any commercially available book. Students also benefit from the encouragement and inspiration that only a LIVE experience can provide.

- Q3. How much of an increase can a student expect from taking your courses?

Motivated students who attend EVERY class second (makeups are available) and complete 100% of ALL assignments typically increase their ACT score by 2 or 3 points and/or their SAT score by 150 to 220 points. It doesn't seem to matter how high the student's score already is. Recently (Summer 2009), one of our students from Brunswick H.S. raised his ACT score from a 27 to a 33.

- Q4. Do you guarantee that a student will increase their score?

No. I hold up three(3) signs at the start of every course which read: I cannot guarantee that you will increase your score, but attending EVERY class second and doing some of the practice makes getting a higher score possible... doing More of the practice makes getting a higher score Likely... doing ALL of the practice makes getting a higher score PROBABLE. Actually, a student doesn't 'get' a higher score she/he works hard and 'earns' a higher score. When a student doesn't

improve it's ALWAYS because of missed classes and/or uncompleted assignments.

- Q5. *Is there anything a parent can do to help their child be successful?*

Yes. Practice assignments are given to the students in writing each week. There are eight(8) assignments on each homework sheet. A conscientious parent can become my Assistant Coach and physically check to see if their child is doing the assignments. *Asking* their child if they are doing the homework is not enough. A student who does only one of eight(8) assignments can technically answer 'yes' to that question. The best procedure is to physically check their child's homework for 100% completion. The ACT Only course is 13 hours with 23 hours of outside practicing. Taking the ACT/SAT Combined course adds 8 more class hours and 16 additional hours of practicing. Ordinarily, this translates to about 40 minutes a day of practicing on non-class days right up to each test date. Intervening holidays makes the practicing load lighter. For this reason, the winter courses are the best.

- Q6. *What if a student is not going to do any of the practice exercises you assign, is there any value to taking your course?*

Yes. In particular, if a student is having trouble managing their time during a test, I teach a lot of strategies for time management which require 'memorizing' not 'practicing'. I had a student call me once to explain how he had done none of the assignments yet still raised his ACT score 3 points. He said I put too much emphasis on the importance of practicing. I replied, "Gee... just think how much MORE your score would have increased IF you had done the practice exercises." He didn't like my answer. I'll stick to my answers to the previous questions.

- Q7. *Should a student take the test(s) before taking your course(s)?*

It is not necessary, but it does no harm. Students who haven't taken the test(s) yet will simply score higher than they would have. Why waste money taking a test that you know you are not going to do well on? There are free practice tests available in every high school guidance office. Take one of those instead. Whenever a student takes an 'early' test they should always sit for one in which the questions and answers are available. This costs extra, but it is definitely worth the money. Students can then revisit their mistakes so as to avoid making similar mistakes on a future test. Question and answer services are currently available for the December, April, and June ACT's and the October, January, and May SAT's.