

# High Stakes Testing

## Freshman Seminar, Ellet High School

**What are High Stakes Tests?** When a test determines whether you can advance, graduate, or enroll, it would be considered a high stakes test. Presently, your job as a freshman is to prepare yourself for the most important test in high school: The Ohio Graduation Test (OGT.) If you do not pass this test, you cannot graduate from an Ohio public school. Your goal is to prepare for this test and pass it.

When is the OGT given? You will first take the OGT in March of your sophomore year. You will be expected to pass five sections: reading, writing, math, science and citizenship. Each of these tests is based upon the STANDARDS, BENCHMARKS, and INDICATORS being taught in your content area classes. This is why it is important that you concentrate in classes and learn the standards, benchmarks and indicators being taught. Your teachers' lesson plans will include this focus every day in order to better prepare you for the test.

If you do not pass any of the five parts of the OGT, you will be offered other opportunities to take the portion/s of the test you did not pass. You will have up to seven chances to pass the test. The test includes multiple choice and written response questions in each of the five subject areas.

**Will I ever have to take other high stakes tests in high school?** If you are planning to go to college, you will have to take the ACT or SAT.

The ACT (American College Testing) is a standardized multiple-choice test meant to predict first-year college grades. While the SAT predominates on the East and West Coasts, the ACT is more common in the Midwest, Southwest, and Deep South. The ACT has four individual tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The score report includes a composite ranging from 1-36, a score for each individual test, and sub scores.

The SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) is this nation's oldest, most widely used college entrance exam. The SAT I is composed of two sections, Verbal and Math, each scored on a 200-800 point scale. The 138 questions are nearly exclusively multiple-choice; ten math questions require students to "grid in" the answer. By design, the test is "speeded" which means that many test takers are unable to finish all the questions. The SAT II, formerly "achievement tests", is one hour subject oriented exams, entirely in a multiple choice format (except for the SAT II "writing" test, which includes one 20-minute essay).

### Works Cited

National Center for Fair and Open Testing. *Fair Test*. <http://www.fairtest.org/facts/act.html>

Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio Graduation Test*. <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT/default.asp>