

Schedule your SAT Subject Tests for Both May and June

By Mick Rosenblum

If you've read some of my previous articles, you know that I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of admissions test timing. Taking these tests at the wrong times (before students are adequately prepared) accounts for astonishingly large numbers of low scores. Naturally this is true for the SAT Subject tests as well as the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT.

Typically, students will schedule their SAT Subject Tests for a single sitting (usually June of the eleventh grade year), and take the SAT Reasoning Test in May. But what happens when something doesn't go quite right, and the student has to retake one or more of the SAT Subject Tests. Guess what. . . The student will have to wait until the following fall for a retake, long after he or she has forgotten much of the subject matter from the spring semester.

In that all-too-common scenario, parents are left with little choice but to incur the added expense of hiring a private teacher (like me) to reteach the coursework in preparation for a fall sitting. But even then, a Subject Test retake early in the first semester of the senior year will preempt one of the three SAT Reasoning Test opportunities in the fall. What a mess!

After the spring semester of the junior year, you should never have to revisit any of the Subject Tests. If the college or university of your choice requires SAT Subject Tests or if you have not yet narrowed down your college or university choices, consider scheduling three SAT Subject Tests in May and three in June, and leave your remaining Sat Reasoning Tests and ACTs for the next fall. You will have less pressure and improved opportunities for desirable scores. Naturally, if you have a particular list of colleges or universities in mind, check their websites to verify admissions test deadlines. Call me, and we can discuss the matter in detail.