



# Advice For The Class of 2020

**Be Pragmatic & Practical.** Understand the importance of the exams in your admissions timeline, but keep your anxieties in check and do not buy into the hype or fear and loathing of others around you. This is a necessary part of your application package, so understand your options, and make it work for you. This will account for at least 1/3 of your college application-admission exam score, transcripts/GPA, extra curricular/sports/honors/awards, and your application essay. Your GPA and your extra curricular activities you have been working on for years - now is the time to boost both. Volunteer, intern, join groups, and put your academics first this year. Your exam score will take at least 6-9 weeks to prepare for, and you should plan on taking it at least 2-3 times. Take a deep breath, remain calm, and know that you will do fine.

**Stay Focused & Engaged.** Junior year will be a challenging year. Stay grounded, stay focused, and do not let it overwhelm you. With a plan in place, you will leave your junior year knowing your current GPA, you will have 2-3 admissions exams scores, have taken your subject exams, and will have refined your college list so you can fine-tune your prospects going into the fall of your senior year. Stay engaged! No matter the route you take, you should enter your junior year knowing your plan of attack, what exam dates you are looking at, and when you will start preparing for each in order to build time into your life for these. Proper planning will lead to future success.

**Plan & Prepare!** Set long-term, attainable goals for your junior year. Plan your calendar, work out dates, birthdays, family events, social events, etc...into your preparation. Any route allows for you to sample another exam and readjust your plan as you go, but you have to have a blueprint to start!

1. If using the SAT, we advise preparing and taking the March, May or June, and August exam dates. \*We advise taking Subject Exams on the May SAT date to coincide with AP Exams.
2. If using the ACT for admissions, we advise preparing and taking the April, June, and July or Sept. exam dates.

**Be Resilient.** There will be setbacks and unexpected distractions, don't let them knock you down! Have a plan in place and adjust accordingly as you maneuver through your junior year. Preparing for college is hard work and involves some frustration and disappointments - Don't let them derail you. Grow into your potential with thoughtful and realistic planning. Remain confident in your long term goals and aspirations- They will develop and form as you work through your junior year and start the admissions process.

**We are here to help you navigate the entire college process - Be in touch!**

The Atlas Test Prep Team

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