ACT/dSAT INFO NIGHT FOR JUNIORS AND FAMILIES

December 4, 2023

TONIGHT'S PRESENTERS:
VAL MARSDEN FITZHUGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOANNA SOLFRIAN, DIRECTOR OF TUTORING SERVICES & LEARNING SPECIALIST
LILLIAN ADKINS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

OUR PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.
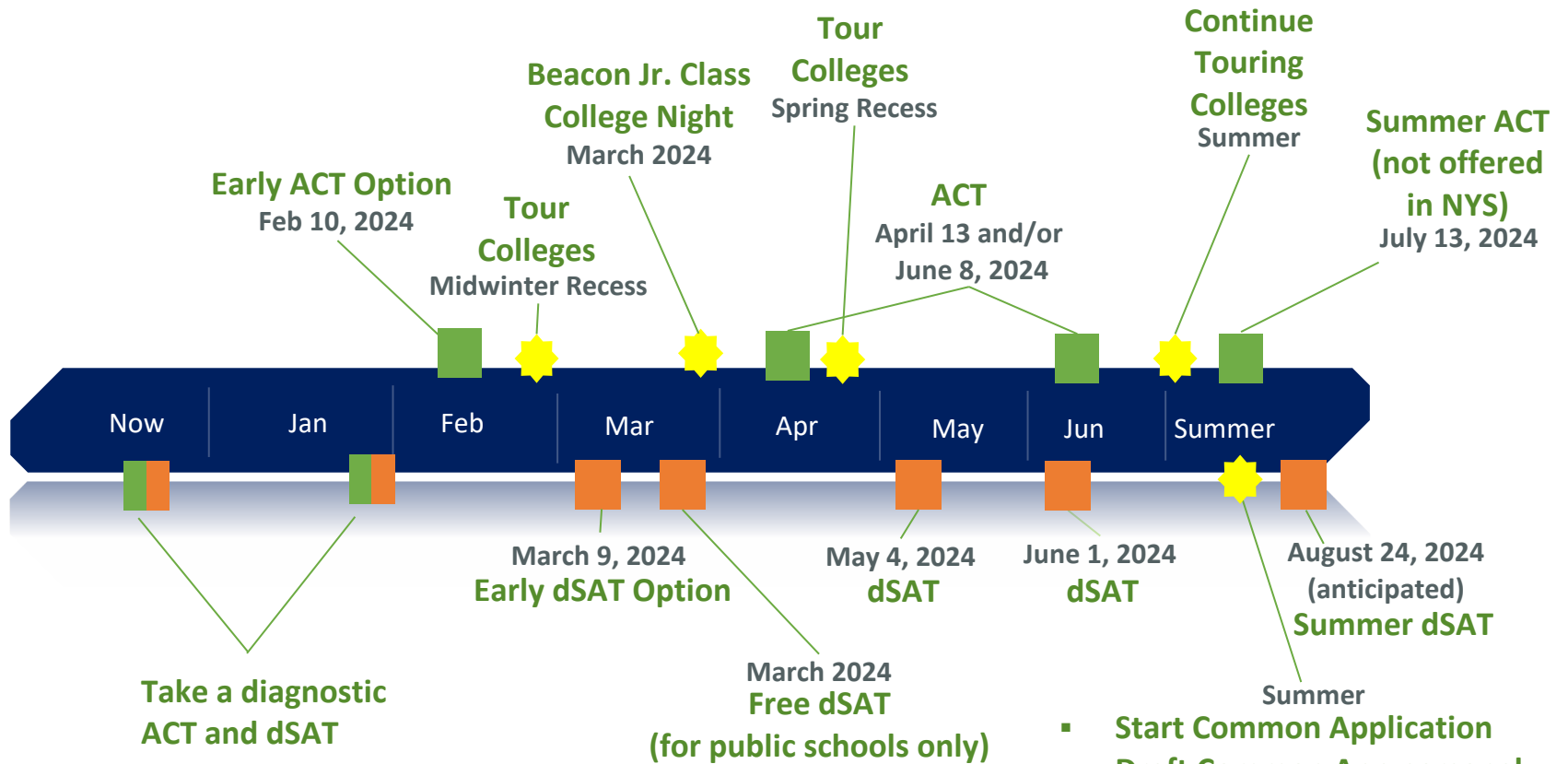**NEXT LEVEL LEARNING**
CONTACT@NYCLEARN.COM
WWW.NYCLEARN.COM

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LEARNING CENTER

as invited by

THE BEACON SCHOOL
A district public high school in New York City

Junior Year

Early ACT Option
Feb 10, 2024

Beacon Jr. Class College Night
March 2024

Tour Colleges
Midwinter Recess

Tour Colleges
Spring Recess

ACT
April 13 and/or
June 8, 2024

Continue Touring Colleges
Summer

Summer ACT (not offered in NYS)
July 13, 2024

Now | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Summer

Take a diagnostic ACT and dSAT

March 9, 2024
Early dSAT Option

May 4, 2024
dSAT

June 1, 2024
dSAT

August 24, 2024 (anticipated)
Summer dSAT

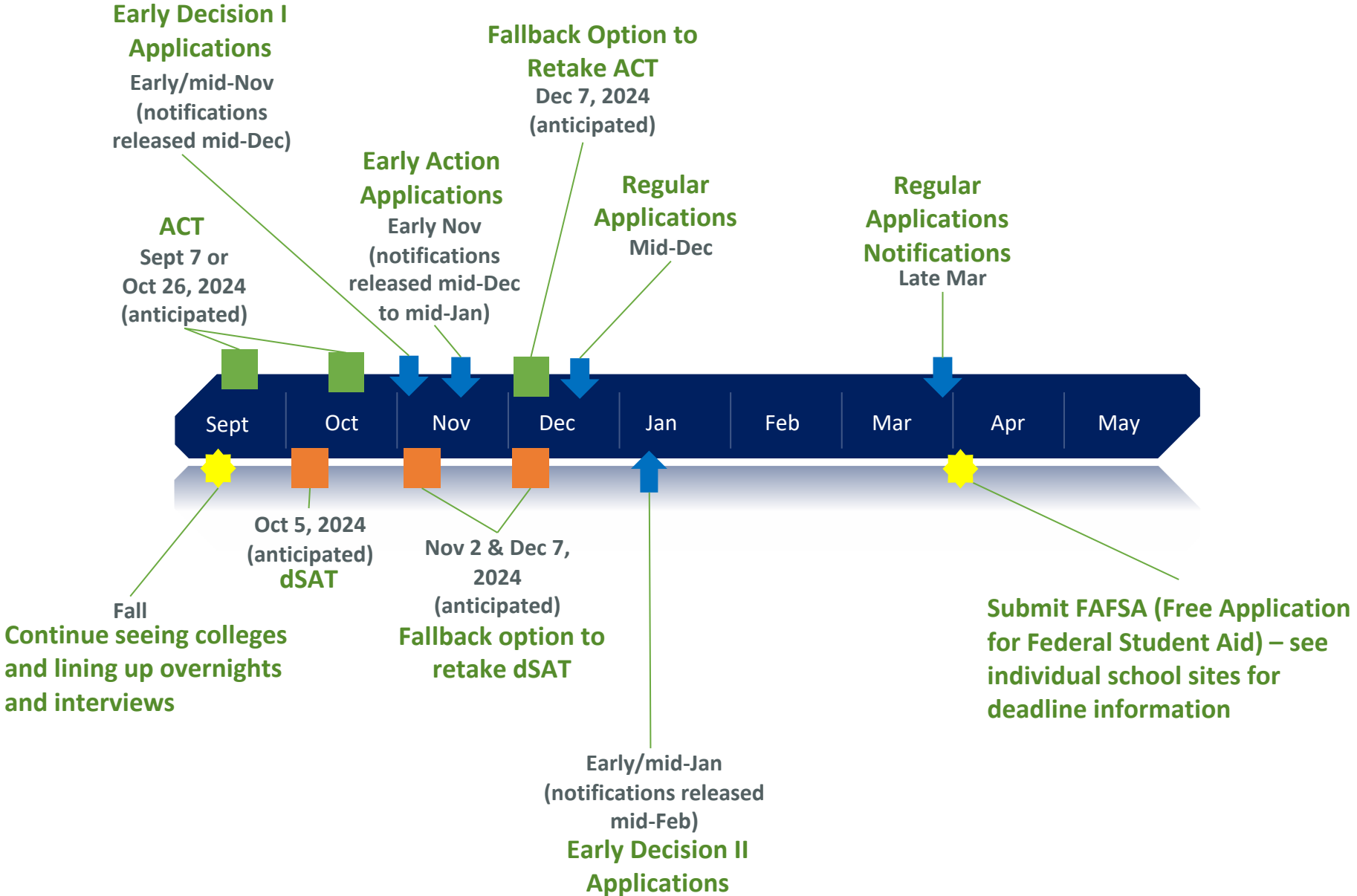**March 2024**
Free dSAT (for public schools only)

Summer
- **Start Common Application**
- **Draft Common App personal statement**
- **Start looking at writing requirements from colleges that don't accept Common Application**

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Senior Year

Early Decision I Applications
Early/mid-Nov (notifications released mid-Dec)

Fallback Option to Retake ACT
Dec 7, 2024 (anticipated)

Early Action Applications
Early Nov (notifications released mid-Dec to mid-Jan)

Regular Applications
Mid-Dec

Regular Applications Notifications
Late Mar

ACT
Sept 7 or Oct 26, 2024 (anticipated)

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May

Oct 5, 2024 (anticipated)
dSAT

Nov 2 & Dec 7, 2024 (anticipated)
Fallback option to retake dSAT

Fall
Continue seeing colleges and lining up overnights and interviews

Submit FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – see individual school sites for deadline information

Early/mid-Jan (notifications released mid-Feb)
Early Decision II Applications

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WHY TAKE ACT/dSAT?

- Options for college admissions testing are the ACT or the dSAT

- Regardless of potential changes in admissions requirements, Beacon recommends that juniors test starting in the spring

- You might be sitting on a score that will HELP your application

- A good score can distinguish you from a similar applicant

- Superscoring (taking highest section score from different test sittings)

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HISTORY OF TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

During COVID

- Colleges suspended ACT/dSAT requirements and became either "test-optional" (scores considered if students had them) or "test-blind" (scores not considered at all)
- Colleges evaluated based on grades, extra-curriculars, and Common Application essay (aka "personal statement")

Post-COVID

- Many colleges that went test-optional are likely to stay that way
- Many colleges that are test-optional will still be interested in scores
- See FairTest.org for more information
- Also see individual college websites

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ACT vs dSAT AT-A-GLANCE

	ACT	**dSAT**
Scoring	▪ 4 separate scores (English, Math, Reading, Science) scaled from 1-36 (averaged to one 1-36 score)	▪ 2 separate scores (Reading & Writing, Math) scaled from 200-800 (totaled to one 400-1600 score)
Length and timing	▪ 2 hours, 55 minutes ▪ 215 questions ▪ Less time per question on the ACT	▪ 2 hours, 14 minutes ▪ 98 questions ▪ More time per question on the dSAT
Science	▪ Separate Science section devoted to analyzing and interpreting data ▪ Counts as a quarter of overall score	▪ No such section, although some questions in both Reading & Writing and in Math will involve analyzing and interpreting data
Math	▪ Counts as a quarter of overall score ▪ Calculator permitted ▪ Multiple choice (5 options) ▪ Questions get more advanced as test progresses	▪ Counts as a half of overall score ▪ Calculator permitted and Desmos calculator app built in ▪ Some geometry formulae provided ▪ Contains 78% multiple choice (4 options) and 22% free response questions ▪ Adaptive: Module 1 performance determines difficulty level of Module 2

ACT vs dSAT AT-A-GLANCE

	ACT	dSAT
Reading and English (ACT) /Reading & Writing (dSAT)	▪ Two separate sections ("English" and "Reading") ▪ Long passages with many questions per passage ▪ Concrete questions with answers directly from the text	▪ One combined section ("Reading & Writing") ▪ Short passages with one question each ▪ Adaptive: Module 1 performance determines difficulty level of Module 2 ▪ Some questions will involve analyzing and interpreting text
Essay	▪ OPTIONAL: Analyze and evaluate 3 perspectives on an issue & your own perspective and how they relate	▪ *N/A (the College Board eliminated the essay in early 2020)*
Better suited for students who…	▪ are endurance testers and move quickly ▪ can become comfortable with the Science section ▪ are less interested in math ▪ want to demonstrate writing strength in the essay ▪ are anxious about the adaptive nature of the dSAT or prefer a paper test ▪ want several years of official practice materials	▪ prefer a shorter test ▪ want to demonstrate math strength ▪ prefer data/chart and word problems in math ▪ are daunted by progressively harder questions on the ACT Math section ▪ enjoy shorter passages and shifting attention/novelty ▪ prefer the digital modality ▪ don't mind fewer practice materials

Passage VII

The *human threshold of hearing* is the minimum intensity at each sound frequency required for a sound to be heard by humans. The *human threshold of pain* is the maximum intensity at each sound frequency that humans can tolerate without pain.

The figure below displays, for sounds in water and in air, the human thresholds of hearing and of pain. The figure also shows *S*, the percent increase in air density and water density that accompanies the compression of air and water by sound waves of given intensities. Sound intensities are given in decibels (db) and frequencies are given in hertz [(Hz); 1 Hz = 1 cycle/sec].
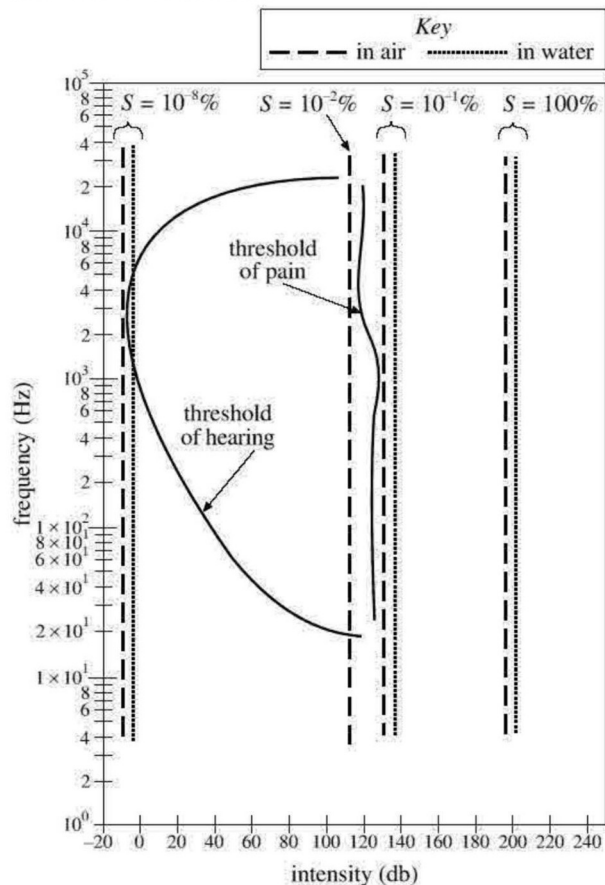
Figure adapted from Rita G. Lerner and George L. Trigg, eds., *Encyclopedia of Physics*, 2nd ed. ©1991 by VCH Publishers, Inc.

38. Based on the figure, a sound of a given frequency will have the highest intensity for which of the following sets of conditions?

	Sound is passing through:	S
F.	water	100%
G.	water	$10^{-8}\%$
H.	air	100%
J.	air	$10^{-8}\%$

Section 1, Module 1: Reading and Writing

31:18

Directions ⌄

Hide

100% 🔋

Annotate

More

Ablation Rates for Three Elements in
Cosmic Dust, by Dust Source

Element	SPC	AST	HTC	OCC
iron	20%	28%	90%	98%
potassium	44%	74%	97%	100%
sodium	45%	75%	99%	100%

Earth's atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic dust originating from several sources: short-period comets (SPCs), particles from the asteroid belt (ASTs), Halley-type comets (HTCs), and Oort cloud comets (OCCs). Some of the dust's material vaporizes in the atmosphere in a process called ablation, and the faster the particles move, the higher the rate of ablation. Astrophysicist Juan Diego Carrillo-Sánchez led a team that calculated average ablation rates for elements in the dust (such as iron and potassium) and showed that material in slower-moving SPC or AST dust has a lower rate than the same material in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. For example, whereas the average ablation rate for iron from AST dust is 28%, the average rate for _____.

10 🔖 Mark for Review

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

(A) iron from SPC dust is 20%.

(B) sodium from OCC dust is 100%.

(C) iron from HTC dust is 90%.

(D) sodium from AST dust is 75%.

25. Last month, Lucie had total expenditures of $900. The pie chart below breaks down these expenditures by category. The category in which Lucie's expenditures were greatest is what percent of her total expenditures, to the nearest 1% ?
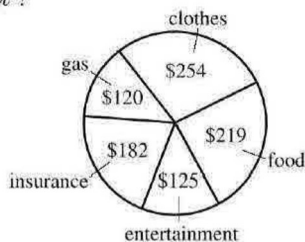

A. 24%
B. 28%
C. 32%
D. 34%
E. 39%

26. In the figure shown below, the measure of $\angle BAC$ is $(x + 20)°$ and the measure of $\angle BAD$ is $90°$. What is the measure of $\angle CAD$?
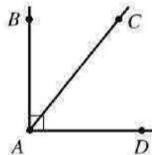
F. $(x - 70)°$
G. $(70 - x)°$
H. $(70 + x)°$
J. $(160 - x)°$
K. $(160 + x)°$

27. What is the perimeter, in inches, of the isosceles right triangle shown below, whose hypotenuse is $8\sqrt{2}$ inches long?
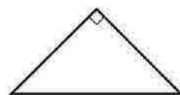
A. 8
B. $8 + 8\sqrt{2}$
C. $8 + 16\sqrt{2}$
D. 16
E. $16 + 8\sqrt{2}$

28. The equation $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ is graphed in the standard (x,y) coordinate plane below for real values of a, b, and c. When $y = 0$, which of the following best describes the solutions for x ?
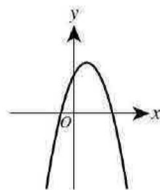

F. 2 distinct positive real solutions
G. 2 distinct negative real solutions
H. 1 positive real solution and 1 negative real solution
J. 2 real solutions that are not distinct
K. 2 distinct solutions that are not real

29. What is the product of the complex numbers $(-3i + 4)$ and $(3i + 4)$?

A. 1
B. 7
C. 25
D. $-7 + 24i$
E. $7 + 24i$

30. The radius of the base of the right circular cone shown below is 5 inches, and the height of the cone is 7 inches. Solving which of the following equations gives the measure, θ, of the angle formed by a slant height of the cone and a radius?
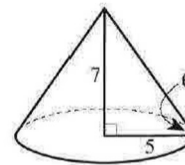
F. $\tan \theta = \frac{5}{7}$
G. $\tan \theta = \frac{7}{5}$
H. $\sin \theta = \frac{5}{7}$
J. $\sin \theta = \frac{7}{5}$
K. $\cos \theta = \frac{7}{5}$

31. To make a 750-piece jigsaw puzzle more challenging, a puzzle company includes 5 extra pieces in the box along with the 750 pieces, and those 5 extra pieces do not fit anywhere in the puzzle. If you buy such a puzzle box, break the seal on the box, and immediately select 1 piece at random, what is the probability that it will be 1 of the extra pieces?

A. $\frac{1}{5}$
B. $\frac{1}{755}$
C. $\frac{1}{750}$
D. $\frac{5}{755}$
E. $\frac{5}{750}$

32. What fraction lies exactly halfway between $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$?

F. $\frac{3}{5}$
G. $\frac{5}{6}$
H. $\frac{7}{12}$
J. $\frac{9}{16}$
K. $\frac{17}{24}$

29. What is the product of the complex numbers $(-3i + 4)$ and $(3i + 4)$?

A. 1
B. 7
C. 25
D. $-7 + 24i$
E. $7 + 24i$

Calculator X^2 ⋮
            Reference   More

9   🔖 Mark for Review   📝

An airplane descends from an altitude of 9,500 feet to 5,000 feet at a constant rate of 400 feet per minute. What type of function best models the relationship between the descending airplane's altitude and time?

Ⓐ Decreasing exponential

Ⓑ Decreasing linear

Ⓒ Increasing exponential

Ⓓ Increasing linear

Public Health and Individual Freedom

Most people want to be healthy, and most people want as much freedom as possible to do the things they want. Unfortunately, these two desires sometimes conflict. For example, smoking is prohibited from most public places, which restricts the freedom of some individuals for the sake of the health of others. Likewise, car emissions are regulated in many areas in order to reduce pollution and its health risks to others, which in turn restricts some people's freedom to drive the vehicles they want. In a society that values both health and freedom, how do we best balance the two? How should we think about conflicts between public health and individual freedom?

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the conflict between public health and individual freedom.

Perspective One	**Perspective Two**	**Perspective Three**
Our society should strive to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of people. When the freedom of the individual interferes with that principle, freedom must be restricted.	Nothing in society is more valuable than freedom. Perhaps physical health is sometimes improved by restricting freedom, but the cost to the health of our free society is far too great to justify it.	The right to avoid health risks is a freedom, too. When we allow individual behavior to endanger others, we've damaged both freedom and health.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the conflict between public health and individual freedom. In your essay, be sure to:

- analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

ACT

dSAT TOOLS

Section 2, Module 1: Math

Directions ⌄

31:47

Hide

96% 🔋

Calculator X^2 More
Reference

18   🔖 Mark for Review   ABC

$$6x + 7y = 28$$
$$2x + 2y = 10$$

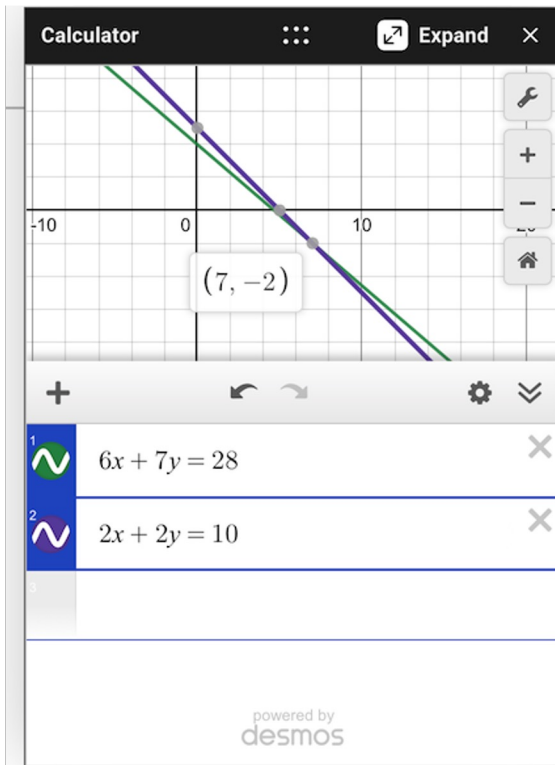The solution to the given system of equations is (x, y). What is the value of y?

- Ⓐ -2

- Ⓑ 7

- Ⓒ 14

- Ⓓ 18

dSAT TOOLS

dSAT TOOLS

Section 1, Module 1: Reading and Writing

Directions ⌄

29:30

Hide

99% 🔋

Annotate   More

Ablation Rates for Three Elements in
Cosmic Dust, by Dust Source

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10 🔖 Mark for Review   APC

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

(A) iron from SPC dust is 20%.

(B) sodium from OCC dust is 100%.

(C) iron from HTC dust is 90%.

(D) sodium from AST dust is 75%.

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dSAT TOOLS

Section 1, Module 1: Reading and Writing

30:19

Directions ⌄

Hide

Annotate | More

99% 🔋

Cross out answer choices you think are wrong.

Ablation Rates for Three Elements in Cosmic Dust, by Dust Source

Element	SPC	AST	HTC	OCC
iron	20%	28%	90%	98%
potassium	44%	74%	97%	100%
sodium	45%	75%	99%	100%

Earth's atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic dust originating from several sources: short-period comets (SPCs), particles from the asteroid belt (ASTs), Halley-type comets (HTCs), and Oort cloud comets (OCCs). Some of the dust's material vaporizes in the atmosphere in a process called ablation, and the faster the particles move, the higher the rate of ablation. Astrophysicist Juan Diego Carrillo-Sánchez led a team that calculated average ablation rates for elements in the dust (such as iron and potassium) and showed that material in slower-moving SPC or AST dust has a lower rate than the same material in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. For example, whereas the average ablation rate for iron from AST dust is 28%, the average rate for _____

10 🔖 Mark for Review

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

(A) iron from SPC dust is 20%.

(B) ~~sodium from OCC dust is 100%.~~ Undo

(C) iron from HTC dust is 90%.

(D) ~~sodium from AST dust is 75%.~~ Undo

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TEST ANXIETY

What is it?

- a seemingly uncontrollable amount of nervousness

- symptoms: head going blank, discouraging self-talk, re-reading without absorbing, intrusive thoughts, an inability to refocus

What can one do about it?

- identify it and activate a strategy

- get out of your head and into your body: flex your muscles, stretch, do a breathing sequence, use positive self-talk, move on to a different question

How does test anxiety affect test prep?

- prep should include practical strategies for those who suffer from it

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Accommodations for the ACT/dSAT *can* include time and a half, double time, and/or use of a computer (more rarely: a reader and testing over multiple days)

- Students qualify for accommodations due to a history of learning issues, an IEP, or a neuropsychological evaluation with a learning disability diagnosis

- Contact: Asst. Principal Ms. Baidy-Crews, ncrews@beaconschool.org

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ACT DATES FOR 2024

2024 ACT Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024
July 13, 2024*	June 7, 2024
September 7, 2024**	August 2, 2024**
October 26, 2024**	September 20, 2024**
December 7, 2024**	November 1, 2024**

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date. Students may wish to register out-of-state.

**As of December 4, 2023, these dates are anticipated.

Register at www.act.org. The ACT will notify you via email of your scores and allow you to view your score reports online.

dSAT DATES FOR 2024

2024 dSAT Dates

dSAT Date	Registration Deadline
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024
March 2024* (date TBD)	N/A
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024
August 24, 2024**	July 9, 2024
October 5, 2024**	August 13, 2024
November 2, 2024**	September 17, 2024
December 7, 2024**	November 8, 2024

*New York State will offer a free SAT to all public school students in March 2024 (date TBD). Schools automatically register all students to take it on site.

**As of December 4, 2023, these dates are anticipated.

For all dSAT dates other than the school-administered test in March 2024, register at www.collegeboard.org. College Board will notify you via email of your scores and allow you to view your score reports online.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN TO-DO LIST

❑ Have your student take a free practice test!

    ❑ ACT/dSAT and detailed report with Next Level

    ❑ A full ACT and dSAT
        ❑ Visit Beacon college office for options for free tests
        ❑ Take a free online ACT from the ACT.org site
        ❑ Take a free online dSAT from the CollegeBoard.org site

❑ Look at your child's calendar to see if there are busy times to avoid

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STUDENT TO-DO LIST

- ❏ Take one each of dSAT and ACT

- ❏ Take the dSAT at Beacon in March 2024

- ❏ Attend Beacon's College Night in March 2024

- ❏ MOST IMPORTANT: keep grades up!

- ❏ Extra-curriculars

- ❏ Volunteering

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USEFUL RESOURCES

- **ACT Academy:** Free personalized online ACT practice resource program

- **College Board:** Four free online practice dSAT exams available through Bluebook app

- **Khan Academy:** Official College Board resource for free personalized online dSAT preparation – includes targeted exercises in dSAT format

- **Fair Test** (www.fairtest.org): Lists test-optional and test-blind colleges. Good for students whose test scores do not match their native intelligence or abilities

- **Niche** (www.niche.com): Includes a convenient college search tool, allowing you to customize your search based on major, student body size, target test scores, and ED/EA admissions

- **Scholly** (www.myscholly.com): Scholarship app that matches students with potential scholarships, tracks application status (including deadlines), and provides guidance on how to write attention-getting essays

- **Beacon College Office Website:** www.beaconcollegeoffice.com

- **Summer Service Options:** Volunteer opportunities through NYC Dept. of Youth

NEXT STEPS WITH NEXT LEVEL

Here are sample timelines for each grade. Next Level can help with any or all of the below:

10th GRADE
- Prepare for the spring digital PSAT
- Which test is the better fit? Email for a courtesy diagnostic session or consult* (*NEW FAMILIES ONLY*)
- Keep up the grades: seek academic support, if needed

11th GRADE
- Determine whether the ACT or dSAT is the better fit and set up tutoring
- Take practice tests (Next Level offers proctored exams of actual ACT publications)
- Refine college list

SUMMER BEFORE 12TH GRADE
- Work on Common Application essay as well as supplements
- Prepare for any remaining tests such as ACT and dSAT

12TH GRADE
- Finish application essays and supplements and prepare to interview at target schools
- Retake any remaining tests such as ACT and dSAT
- Finalize and submit all applications

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MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NYCLEARN.COM/BEACON

MENTION THIS PRESENTATION FOR A COURTESY SESSION *(**NEW FAMILIES ONLY**)*: CONTACT@NYCLEARN.COM WWW.NYCLEARN.COM