

TEACH Bulletin

Thorough Education Achieved in a Caring Home

Number 28

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SAT Scores and Admission to NZ Universities

The SAT I is a three-hour primarily multiple-choice test designed to predict how well you are likely to do in university. It measures your verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. SAT II are tests in specific subjects and are one hour long and also multiple-choice. The subject tests fall into five general areas: English, History and Social Studies, Mathematics, Sciences and Languages. These test scores are extensively used for admission purposes by universities in the USA and elsewhere. The tests can be sat on four dates in New Zealand, mostly in Auckland, but also at sites in Wellington and Nelson.

The *TEACH* Bulletin Editor wrote the following to the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (which represents all NZ universities) on 1 June 1999:

Each year a growing number of home schoolers aspire to enter a New Zealand university and find it difficult because of the strong emphasis on traditional qualifications such as School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate and University Bursary. These are particularly hard for home educated students to obtain, either because they are completely internally assessed or because the administrative hurdles to "linking" with a registered school are simply too high to negotiate.

We understand each candidate for university admission can approach the Academic Registrar in the hopes of presenting a portfolio that would gain the candidate Provisional Entrance to the University.

I have received what appear to be conflicting reports from the enquiries I have made to date. Matthew Huntington of the New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation, PO Box 3465, Wellington, has indicated that SAT scores generally are not acceptable to NZ Universities when they are proffered by New Zealand domestic students. Yet I have met NZ domestic students who claim to have been admitted to NZ Universities on the strength of their SAT scores, which tests they sat at one of the three SAT

testing centres in New Zealand.

Could you please advise us of the NZVCC policy regarding the acceptance of SAT scores as an entrance qualification for NZ domestic students? Thanks.

Yours faithfully, Craig S. Smith

The following letter, dated 3 June 1999, was sent in reply by Angela Warren, Academic Officer of the NZVCC:

The only policy the New Zealand universities have regarding SAT is that persons educated in the United States of America must produce a SAT score in addition
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California Corrodes Parental Say in Education

In the April 1999 *Legal-Legislative Update*, the newsletter of the Private and Home Educators of California (Roy Hanson, 661 6th St. #117, Lincoln, CA 95648-1824, ph 916-786-3523), a number of actual bills before the California State Legislature in Sacramento are outlined. This makes for rather disturbing reading if one surmises that legislative tactics used in one country could well be used by lobby groups in another.

Assembly Bill 804, introduced by Fred Keeley (Democrat), adds Educational Neglect as a dangerous new category of child abuse and neglect. If this bill becomes law, Child Protection Services and Juvenile Court judges would be making determinations as to whether home-based educational services are legal. (Such a law in NZ would mean CYPS people as well as MoE and ERO would have

power to judge our home education efforts.)

AB 513 seeks to lower required entrance age of compulsory education from 6 to 5 years of age.

Senate Bill 277 establishes Commission for the Development of the Master Plan for Universal Preschool for children 3 and 4 years of age. Universal Preschool is a key part of Goal #1 of GOALS 2000 — *Ready to Learn*.

SB 305 mandates a summit to develop a Master Plan for Parenting Education. Key points are the development of an approved curriculum of parenting education and the licensing of professionals most suitable to teach parents parenting skills. Government-controlled parenting education is viewed by some as a step toward parental licensing of only those approved by the state.



DESK COPY

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to a High School Diploma when applying for admission to a university in this country. This is what a student in the USA must do when applying to a US university and the New Zealand universities do not wish to make it easier for foreign students to enter a New Zealand university than it is to enter one in their own country.

Home Education Foundation

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SAT may be used by other individuals to support an application for admission to a New Zealand university, but that application must include an academic certificate of some kind. Generally we might expect such a certificate to be somewhat below the standard that we consider sufficient for university entrance (e.g. from a country where secondary education stops at about the level of our Form 6), so that a good score in SAT might convince a university that the applicant is indeed admissible. If no certificate were available then we would need evidence that the applicant had undertaken schooling to the level of our Form 6, such as in the case of a home-schooled student in New Zealand. Overseas-domiciled students would have difficulty gaining admission this way, but it is conceivable that persons with permanent resident status in New Zealand might be successful. However, on its own SAT is not considered to be an entrance qualification.

I am not aware of any occasion when a university has admitted a student on the strength of SAT alone, but I shall make some enquiries and if necessary send you a follow-up letter.

You will be aware that the Tertiary Education White Paper published late last year removed the concept of university entrance from the indicative legislation, although no mention of this was made

TEACH Bulletin

is a monthly publication of the Home Education Foundation, and is concerned with those things which may impact on home educators. Articles will deal with political developments, statist and professional trends, correspondence with educationalists, and other items of general interest to home educators. Information herein is not to be construed as legal advice.

TEACH Bulletin is available for a subscription of \$16 per year for 11 issues (none in December) or two years for \$30.

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Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and reject not your mother's teaching.
— Proverbs 1:8

in the paper itself. While there is no draft legislation yet before the House the universities are making plans for the possible future environment. There is nothing further I can say about this at present.

A similar letter was sent to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, and Bill Lennox, Communications Manager, wrote the following reply on 9 June:

The Qualifications Authority establishes the legal university entrance requirement that is based on results in University Bursaries examinations and, recently, on Qualifications Framework credits. The Authority does not have a role in establishing provisional entrance criteria. The Authority therefore has no policy on interpretation of SAT scores.

In summary, it seems that each university is free to exercise discretion in admitting students on a "provisional" basis. SAT scores alone, if they are really good, "might convince a university that the applicant is indeed admissible." Homeschooled students and their parents will want to put together a portfolio of work demonstrating the student's best in lieu of any school-leaving certificate. This plus SAT scores could well do the trick. And the NZVCC indicated that some kind of change is in the wind. Stay tuned for future developments.

In the meantime, home-educated students who may well end their secondary careers with no formal certificates from an educational institution should not panic. Instead, look ahead to what path you want to follow. If it includes entrance to a tertiary institution, then go and talk to the institution's admissions officer NOW, describing your situation and proposed course of study. Get them to suggest areas of study you will need. Visit them regularly (make up reasons: to get their advice on this or that resource you're using, what the latest developments are in xyz, what professional journals

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Trading Post



For Sale:

A Beka

Spelling 1.....\$10
Spelling 2.....\$10

Bob Jones

K5 Beginnings: Home Teachers Manuals A, B, C; Reader set + 13 books; Phonics Chart; Teaching Visuals Chart; Student Response Cards; 3 Audio Cassettes; etc.....\$100

Music Gr 1: Teachers Edition; Student Text; 2 x Student Workbook; 5 Cassettes.....\$80

Spelling 1, Teachers Ed....\$15

Before Alpha, book of learning games for under fives (pre-reading skills)...\$10

Reading Master, complete set barely used.....\$250

Contact:

Shelley
ph. (04) 564-4716
(Wainuiomata)

Wanted:

Understanding Writing by Bradrick

Contact:

Alison
ph. (04) 478-9736
(Wellington)

For Sale:

Rod & Staff

Understanding Our Community Grade 3 Social Studies.....\$5

God's Marvelous Works, Book One, Gr. 4 Science....\$10

God's Marvelous Works Book Two, Gr. 5 Science...\$10

Contact:

Phillipa
ph. (06) 378-7345
kelly.phillipa@xtra.co.nz
(Masterton)

Wanted: Urgently!

Bob Jones, Reading Workbook, Grade 1

Contact:

Raewyn, ph. (03) 576-5238
shand@ts.co.nz

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related to your proposed major would be good to subscribe to, etc.) and make your name and face known, so that when you come to enrol, you will be an old friend, and obviously a keen customer. While there, become familiar with the course textbooks you will eventually need at the institution's library...you cannot check them out, but you can go in and read anything there and probably sit in on the library's familiarisation seminars as if you owned the place.

If your path is more down the practical line, talk to family friends who have careers or jobs in the industry you are interested in. Make it your business to learn all you can about the industry or business you are aiming for. Go and chat with that business's human resource development officer (employment officer or boss) and ask him/her for advice about grooming yourself for a position with that firm. Get your parents to pull strings, I mean, put in a good word for you among their employer friends.

The whole point of the exercise is that you need to emphasise your strengths and unique attributes as a home schooler, NOT your paper qualifications, of which you may have none at all because of being home educated. So show potential employers and admissions officers what you do have: attitude, eagerness, respect, etc., etc. I have the research article which says that academic qualifications came 22nd on the top 20 items employers like to see in prospective employees! So go for it.

Book Buyers' Delight

Followers of the "Trading Post" column will be keen to learn of a web site which tells you where you can buy virtually any book that can be bought on the Internet, who charges what price and how much it will be to ship it to you:

www.acses.com

To find a book, search by either author, title, keyword or ISBN. Now this is marvellous for those of us who know what book we want. It will also bring up books that have introductions written by the author!! When the book appears, it has all the other publishing information (just what one needs for making academic references).

It will compare prices between on-line bookshops in ascending order in whatever currency you want!!!! (Except NZ dollars, at present anyway.) If the search results in a note that says, "non-US title", hit the "Start Price Comparison" button anyway, and up will come the UK publishers or whoever they are with all the information. It will track down CDs and movie videos as well!

This site seems like the ultimate shopping guide, showing you where the goods you want are, rather than having to search every on-site bookshop yourself. This gives you access to a lot more than what Amazon offers.

Home Schooler Wins National Geography Bee

David Beihl, 13, of Saluda, South Carolina, became the first home schooler to win this prestigious competition sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The final of the 11th annual competition was held in Washington, D.C., on 26 May 1999. Over five million youngsters in the US and its territories and defence schools competed in the elimination matches leading to the final.

Beihl has never been to conventional schools, doing all his study at home, and attributed his success to "study and prayer". He won a US\$25,000 scholarship from the society and a seven-day trip to Sydney, Australia.

Diana Waring Home Education Author and Convention Speaker

Home Education Consultant and Counsellor of Home Schooling Dads **Bill Waring**
and their three teenagers

September Itinerary:

- 3 Sept - Interview with Radio Rhema
- 4 Sept - South Auckland WORKSHOP. Contact: Christine (09)292-8454
- 6 Sept - Dargaville meeting. Contact: Kathy (09)439-0099
- 7 Sept - Whangarei meeting. Contact: Sharyne (09)433-5617
- 8 - 9 Sept - Mangonui meeting. Contact: Kathy (09)406-0904
- 11 Sept - North Shore WORKSHOP. Contact: Dorinda (09)480-6878 or Lesley ph. (09)483-8036
- 13 - 17 - Sept Hamilton - Tauranga area. Contact: Peter (07)838-2479

September 4, 1999 **South Auckland (Papakura)** September 4, 1999

Venue: Papakura Baptist Church, 54 Clevedon Rd., Papakura

Cost: \$30 per single or couple. Teens with adults free. No facilities for children. Feeding infants welcomed.

Contact: Christine, ph. (09) 292-8454

Programme:

9:15 - 10:30 Keynote address by Diana and Bill Waring

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS - Join Bill and Diana as they make the different learning styles of children come alive through the use of skits, colour, comedy and concrete examples.

10:30 - 11 Morning tea

11 - 12:30 Options

- a) DADS TO THE RESCUE - featuring Bill Waring and a panel of homeschooling fathers
- b) THE SECRET DIARY OF A HOMESCHOOLED TEENAGER - featuring Isaac Waring and a panel of homeschooled teenagers
- c) MUMS' S.O.S. (SHARING OUR SECRETS) - featuring Diana Waring and a panel of homeschooling mothers

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3pm

HISTORY VIA THE SCENIC ROUTE - join Diana for a whirlwind tour of fascinating events and unforgettable people in the Middle Ages.

September 11, 1999 **North Shore Workshop** September 11, 1999

Venue: Windsor Park Baptist Church, 550 East Coast Rd., Mairangi Bay, North Shore, Auckland.

Cost: \$30 per single or couple. Teens with adults free. No facilities for children. Feeding infants welcomed.

Contact: Dorinda, ph (09) 480-6878 or Lesley, ph. (09) 483-8036

Programme:

9:15 - 10:30 Keynote address by Diana and Bill Waring

BEYOND SURVIVAL - A GUIDE TO ABUNDANT LIFE HOMESCHOOLING

10:30 - 11 Morning tea

11 - 12:30 Options

- d) TEENAGERS' VIEWPOINT - Homeschooled teenagers, including Isaac Waring, discuss their experiences.
- e) SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES OF HOMESCHOOLING - Bill Waring and Pastor John Hitchcock (NB - there are 6 other sessions in this block covering basic subjects such as Maths, Reading, Art, Science etc.)

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3pm Options

f) MAKING HISTORY COME ALIVE - Why we need to teach history, where to obtain resources, how to make it interesting. There will be a special emphasis on the lives of the early settlers, including Laura Ingalls Wilder - by Diana Waring.

g) - PREPARING FOR HOMESCHOOLING - Children 0 - 6 years

h) - TAKING A CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL

i) - HOMESCHOOLING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

j) - THE FATHERS ROLE IN HOMESCHOOLING - panel discussion including Bill Waring