

COMPARISON CHART: SAT VS. ACT

SAT	vs.	ACT
Reasoning Test	Type	Content-based Test
3 hours, 50 minutes for optional Essay Evidence Based Reading: 1 65-min section Writing & Language: 1 35-min section Math: 1 25-min section (no calculator), 1 55-min section (with calculator) Essay: 1 50-min essay (optional)	Test Format	3 Hours, 25 Minutes for optional Essay English: 1 45-min section Math: 1 60-min section Reading: 1 35-min section Science: 1 35-min section Essay: 1 30-min essay (optional)
Reading comprehension, sentence completion, vocabulary, word context, grammar & usage, math, and essay (optional).	Content Covered	Reading comprehension, grammar & usage, math, science reasoning, charts and experiments, and essay (optional).
Mostly straightforward – some questions are tricky, but most are focused on in-depth content understanding.	Test Style	Straightforward – questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher.
Two subject scores range from 200-800 . Total SAT score is the total of subject scores and ranges from 400-1600 . Optional Essay score ranges from 2-8 . Subscores for every test.	Scoring	Four subject scores range from 1-36 . Composite ACT score is the average of subject scores and ranges from 1-36 . Optional Essay score ranges from 0-12
No. You do not lose points for incorrect or blank answers.	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	No. You do not lose points for incorrect or blank answers.
Yes. You can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges.	Score Choice?	Yes. You can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges.
Questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage).	Difficulty Levels	Difficulty level of the questions is random .
Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Problem Solving, Data Analysis, Geometry, Statistics, Trigonometry; formulas are provided in the test booklet.	Math Levels	Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Functions, Geometry, Trigonometry; no formulas are provided.
With private schools and schools on the east and west coasts . However, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores.	Tends to be more popular?	With public schools and schools in the Midwest and south . However, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
7 times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December.	Offered when?	6 times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December.
Typically about four weeks before the test date.	Registration deadline?	Typically about five to six weeks before the test date.
www.collegeboard.com	For More Information:	www.act.org