

SAT	vs.	ACT
content-based test	Type of Test	content-based test
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math • Reading • Writing and Language • Essay (Optional) 	Test Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math • Reading • English • Science • Essay (Optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hours (without essay) • 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay) 	Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) • 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving	Test Style	Straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800. Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranged from 400-1600.	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
No – you do not lose points for incorrect answers	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	No – you do not lose points for incorrect 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
Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis 	Math	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry and Trigonometry
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
Seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	Six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates)
Typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration deadline?	Typically about five to six weeks before the test date
www.collegeboard.com	More Information	www.act.org

