

Comparing the ACT® with the SAT®

ACT

- Math
- Reading
- English
- Science
- Optional Essay

Composite score: 1-36
Section scores for English, Math, Reading and Science (1-36 each)

2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)
3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

None

- 2 sections (English, Reading)
- Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
 - Reading passages drawn from Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences

Arithmetic
Algebra I & II
Geometry
Trigonometry

- The essay is optional (40 minutes, timed)
- Students will need to write about perspectives on an issue; they relevant to high school students and evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on a complex issue; they will be scored in ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use



SECTIONS



SCORING



LENGTH



PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS



READING AND WRITING



MATH



ESSAY

SAT

- Math
- Evidence-based Reading and Writing
 - Reading
 - Writing and Language
- Optional Essay

Total score: 400-1600
Section scores for Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200-800

3 hours (without essay)
3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)

None

- 2 sections (Reading Test, Writing and Language Test)
- No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words
 - Reading passages will draw from significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts
 - Passages will include complex structure and vocabulary
 - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation

Arithmetic
Algebra I & II
Geometry
Trigonometry

- The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed)
- Students will be provided with a substantial passage (600-700 words) and asked to analyze how the author built his or her argument; students will need to understand the techniques the author used to write persuasively

SAY YES TO THE RIGHT TEST

ACT or SAT—which test is right for you? Here’s what you need to know.



What’s on the test?

ACT: Math, Reading, English, Science and an optional essay

SAT: Math, Evidence-based Reading and Writing, and an optional essay



How is it scored?

ACT: Overall score of 1-36 (1-36 in each test)

SAT: Overall score of 400-1600 (200-800 in each section)



How long is it?

ACT: 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)

3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

SAT: 3 hours (without essay); 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)



Do wrong answers cost points?

ACT: No

SAT: No



Which test is best?

Neither test is harder than the other, so the best test is the one you’re most comfortable with. **Try a Free Practice Test** for each—your results will help you figure out what’s right for you.



Want all the details?

Check out our complete comparison chart on the reverse side.

Free Consultation with Our Test Experts

Still not sure which test to take? Give us a call at **800-2Review (800-273-8439)**. We’ll help determine your core strengths and test-taking approach.

For more info about the ACT or the SAT, visit **PrincetonReview.com**.

ACT | SAT



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