

SAT vs. ACT

GENERAL INFORMATION

SAT

ACT

FORMAT

- 3 hours without essay
- 3 hours 50 minutes with essay
- 2 hours 55 minutes without essay
- 3 hours 35 minutes with essay

SCORING

- *Scored on a scale of 400-1600
- 2 scores: Math and Reading/Writing
- Two sections can be **superscored
- *Scored on a scale of 1-36
- 4 scores of 1-36 averaged for a composite score
- Four sections can be **superscored

DIFFICULTY

- Trickier questions
- More straightforward

TIMING

- Average 70 sec/question (more time)
- Average 50 sec/question (fast pace)

GUESSING

- No penalty
- No penalty

STRUCTURE

- 4 sections
- 4 sections

*Use a concordance table to compare SAT and ACT scores.

**Superscored: Most colleges will take your best scores from any test taken.



SAT vs. ACT



	SAT		ACT	
	STRUCTURE	CONTENT	STRUCTURE	CONTENT
Reading	<p>Evidence-based reading: 65 minutes/ 52 questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 passages: (500-750 words) • 1 paired passage » 1 Fiction » 2 Social Sciences » Historical Document » 1 Science • Vocab in context (more difficult) • Two-part question • Lexile Level: 9–12th grade 	<p>General Reading: 35 minutes/ 40 questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 passages: (700-900 words) • 1 paired passage » 1 Fiction » 1 Social Science » 1 Humanities » 1 Science • Vocab in context (less difficult) • No two-part questions • Lexile Level: 9–10th grade
Math	<p>Calculator Math: 55 minutes/ 60 questions</p> <p>No Calculator Math: 25 minutes/ 20 questions</p> <p>80% multiple choice 20% fill-in Formulas provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Problem Solving • Data Analysis • Heart of Algebra • Geometry • Trigonometry • Multi-Step/ Multi-Concept problem solving 	<p>Calculator Math: 60 minutes/ 60 questions</p> <p>No Calculator Math: No questions</p> <p>100% multiple choice No Formulas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I • Algebra II • Functions • Geometry • Trigonometry • Straight-forward application of a single math concept
Science		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Science Section 	<p>Science Reasoning: 35 minutes/ 40 questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables and graphs • Limited science knowledge necessary
English	<p>Writing: 35 minutes/ 44 questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests Grammar/Usage • Reading Level: 9–12+ grade complexity 	<p>English: 75 minutes/ 45 questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests Grammar/Usage • Reading Level: 9–10th grade complexity
Essay	<p>(Optional) 50 minutes to complete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a 650-700 word passage • Explain how the author builds his or her argument using rhetorical analysis • Analytical Essay 	<p>(Optional) 40 minutes to complete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given three different perspectives on a debatable issue (50 word statements) • Evaluate each and present your opinion • Argument Essay