

THE ACT VS. THE NEW SAT

ACT	NEW SAT
Type of Test	Type of Test
The ACT is an achievement test that measures what you learned in school. The ACT is a more straightforward test and tends to be easier to understand.	The SAT is an aptitude test that measures reasoning and data analyzing abilities. The SAT questions can be more trickier to understand.
Length	Length
3 hours, 25 minutes (with writing component)	3 hours, 50 minutes (with writing component)
Components	Components
English: 45 minutes Math: 60 minutes Reading: 35 minutes Science: 35 minutes Essay: 40 minutes (optional – only do the essay if the college you’re applying to needs it)	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Reading: 65 minutes Writing and Language: 35 minutes Math (no calculator): 25 minutes Math (with calculator): 55 minutes Essay: 50 minutes (optional – only do the essay if the college you’re applying to needs it)
Scoring	Scoring
4 answer choices per question No penalty for guessing or incorrect answers.	4 answer choices per question No penalty for guessing or incorrect answers.
Reading Section	Reading Section
Contains 4 passages with 10 questions per passage.	Contains 4 passages with 10-11 questions per passage (total of 52 questions).
Science Section	Science Section
Analysis, Knowledge, Problem-Solving	No science section. There are science related questions within the math and reading sections.
Math Section	Math Section
Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Plane Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry Formulas are not provided Calculators are allowed	Pre-Algebra, Algebra, less Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry Some of the formulas are provided Contains open-ended questions 2 sections – 1 with calculator, 1 without calculator
Essay	Essay
The essay is an optional 40-minute section that is not factored into the composite score.	The essay is an optional 50-minute section that is not factored into the composite score.
Scoring	Scoring
Students receive a score that ranges from 1-36 for each section, and then an overall composite score that averages the four sections.	There are two sections that are scored, the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math Section. They are each scored on a scale from 200-800 and then combined together for a total score from 400-1600.
Top Scores	Top Scores
36	1600