



## THE ACT VS. THE SAT

ACT	SAT
<b>Type of Test</b>	<b>Type of Test</b>
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 trickier to understand.
<b>Length</b>	<b>Length</b>
2 hours, 55 minutes – without essay 3 hours, 40 minutes – with essay	3 hours – without essay 3 hours, 50 minutes – with essay
<b>Components</b>	<b>Components</b>
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 calc): 25 minutes Math (calc): 55 minutes Essay: 50 minutes (optional – only do the essay if the college you're applying to needs it)
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
4 answer choices per question 5 answer choices per question for Math	4 answer choices per question
<b>Writing Section</b>	<b>Writing Section</b>
45 minutes for 75 questions Contains 5 passages with 15 questions each Not arranged in order of difficulty	35 minutes for 44 questions Contains 4 passages with 11 questions each Students will have to reference some tables and graphs Not arranged in order of difficulty

<b>Reading Section</b>	<b>Reading Section</b>
35 minutes for 40 questions Contains 4 passages with 10 questions per passage	65 minutes for 52 questions Contains 4 passages with 10-11 questions per passage
<b>Math Section</b>	<b>Math Section</b>
60 minutes for 60 questions Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Plane Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry Formulas are not provided Calculator is allowed on the entire Math test Math test is arranged in order of difficulty – easy to hard	No Calculator section – 25 minutes for 20 questions Calculator section – 55 minutes for 38 questions Arithmetic, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Heart of Algebra, Geometry, Precalculus, Trigonometry Some of the formulas are provided Contains open-ended questions 2 sections – 1 with calculator, 1 without calculator
<b>Science Section</b>	<b>Science Section</b>
35 minutes for 40 questions Analysis, Knowledge, Problem-Solving	No science section. There are science related questions within the math and reading sections.
<b>Essay</b>	<b>Essay</b>
The essay is an optional 40-minute section that is not factored into the composite score.	The essay is an option 50-minute section that is not factored into the composite score.
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
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 section and the Math Section. They are each scored on a scale from 200-800 and then combined together for a total score from 400-1600.
<b>Top Scores</b>	<b>Top Scores</b>
36	1600

