

# SAT and ACT Comparison Chart

## SAT

## ACT

Score Range	400-1600 (Math and Verbal)	1 - 36 (Composite = Average Scores)
Penalty	No wrong answer penalty	No wrong answer penalty
Score Choice	The option to send the results from one test administration	Same as the SAT
Total Time	3 hours 50 minutes (including essay)	3 hours 35 minutes (including essay)
Section Info	<p><b>Section:</b>      <b>Total Time:</b>      <b>Score Range:</b></p> <p>Math                  80 min                  200-800</p> <p>Reading &amp; Writing</p> <p>    Reading          65 min                  200-800</p> <p>    Writing          35 min                  200-800</p> <p>    Essay              50 min                  2-8 (in 3 areas)</p>	<p><b>Section:</b>      <b>Total Time:</b>      <b>Score Range:</b></p> <p>Math                  60 min                  1 - 36</p> <p>Reading              35 min                  1 - 36</p> <p>English                45 min                  1 - 36</p> <p>Science                35 min                  1 - 36</p> <p>Writing                40 min                  1 - 36</p>
Math	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Arithmetic, Algebra I, Data Analysis, Algebra II, Geometry, and Trigonometry</p> <p><b>Only on SAT:</b> standard deviation &amp; polynomial division multiple-choice and grid-in questions</p> <p>58 questions                  83 seconds/question</p>	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Same as the SAT (more Geo &amp; Trig)</p> <p><b>Answer Choices:</b> ACT has 5 (SAT = 4)</p> <p><b>Only on ACT:</b> logs &amp; matrices</p> <p>60 questions                  60 seconds/question</p>
Science	<b>NOT tested on the SAT</b>	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Interpretation of complex graphs of scientific topics, but no specific science knowledge is required</p> <p>40 questions                  53 seconds/question</p>
Reading	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Big Picture, Detail, Logic, Inference, Vocabulary in Context, and Compare/Contrast questions</p> <p><b>Only on SAT:</b> Evidence &amp; Integrating Graphs questions</p> <p>52 questions                  75 seconds/question</p>	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Same as the SAT</p> <p><b>Only on ACT:</b> Cause and Effect and Sequence of Events questions</p> <p>40 questions                  53 seconds/question</p>
Writing/English	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Grammar and Punctuation</p> <p>44 questions                  48 seconds/question</p>	<p><b>Tested areas:</b> Same as the SAT</p> <p>75 questions                  36 seconds/question</p>
Optional Essay	<p><b>Task:</b> analyze the effectiveness of an argument</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 50 minutes</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b> scored separately</p>	<p><b>Task:</b> analyze and integrate multiple perspectives</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 40 minutes</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b> scored separately <i>and</i> combined with English Score to generate Writing score. <b>The Writing Score is not included in the ACT composite Score.</b></p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> The "optional" Essay is often REQUIRED by colleges. Verify with <b>your</b> colleges before registering for the exam. You CANNOT register for the essay on the day of the exam at the exam site. You must register for the essay at the same time you register for the exam.</p>		

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