

SAT	Vs.	ACT
Reasoning test	Type of Test	Content-based test
Critical Reading: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Math: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Writing: 1, 25-min essay, 1, 25-min section, and 1, 10-min section	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section Math: 1, 60-min section Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 30-min essay (optional)
Reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, and math	Content Covered	Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Tricky, questions can be phrased in ways that make them difficult to decipher	Test Style	Straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math, Critical Reading, and Writing scores will each range between a 200-800; total SAT score ranges between 600-2400	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
Yes – you lose $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point for incorrect answers) except on the grid-in math questions). Do NOT guess!	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	No – you do not lose points for incorrect answers. You WILL guess at the end and leave no question blank.
Yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges.	Score Choice?	Yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
Questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	Difficulty Levels	Difficulty level of the questions is random and mixed throughout each section.
Arithmetic, data analysis, algebra I and II, functions, geometry; formulas are provided in the test booklet	Math Levels	Arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
With private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	Tends to be More Popular?	With public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
Seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered When?	Six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates)
Typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration Deadline?	Typically about five to six weeks before the test date
www.collegeboard.org	More Information	www.act.org