

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	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Section:</td> <td>Total Time:</td> <td>Score Range:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>80 min</td> <td>200-800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading & Writing</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Reading</td> <td>65 min</td> <td rowspan="2">200-800</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Writing</td> <td>85 min</td> </tr> </table>	Section:	Total Time:	Score Range:	Math	80 min	200-800	Reading & Writing			Reading	65 min	200-800	Writing	85 min	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Section:</td> <td>Total Time:</td> <td>Score Range:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>60 min</td> <td>1 - 36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading</td> <td>35 min</td> <td>1 - 36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>45 min</td> <td>1 - 36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td>35 min</td> <td>1 - 36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing</td> <td>40 min</td> <td>1 - 36</td> </tr> </table>	Section:	Total Time:	Score Range:	Math	60 min	1 - 36	Reading	35 min	1 - 36	English	45 min	1 - 36	Science	35 min	1 - 36	Writing	40 min	1 - 36
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Math	<p>Tested areas: Arithmetic, Algebra I, Data Analysis, Algebra II, Geometry, and Trigonometry</p> <p>Only on SAT: complex numbers, dividing polynomials, and standard deviation</p> <p>58 questions 80 minutes 83 seconds/question</p>	<p>Tested areas: Same as the SAT</p> <p>Only on ACT: logs and matrices</p> <p>60 questions 60 minutes 60 seconds/question</p>																																
Science	<p>NOT tested on the SAT</p>	<p>Tested areas: Interpretation of complex graphs of scientific topics, but no specific science knowledge is required</p> <p>40 questions 35 minutes 53 seconds/question</p>																																
Reading	<p>Tested areas: Big Picture, Detail, Logic, Inference, Vocabulary in Context, and Compare/Contrast questions</p> <p>65 questions 65 minutes 60 seconds/question</p>	<p>Tested areas: Same as the SAT</p> <p>Only on ACT: Cause and Effect and Sequence of Events questions</p> <p>40 questions 35 minutes 53 seconds/question</p>																																
Writing/English	<p>Tested areas: Grammar and Punctuation</p> <p>44 questions 35 minutes 43 seconds/question</p>	<p>Tested areas: Same as the SAT</p> <p>75 questions 45 minutes 36 seconds/question</p>																																
Optional Essay	<p>Task: analyze the effectiveness of an argument</p> <p>Time: 50 minutes</p> <p>Scoring: scored separately</p>	<p>Task: analyze and integrate multiple perspectives</p> <p>Time: 40 minutes</p> <p>Scoring: scored separately <i>and</i> combined with English Score to generate Writing score. The Writing Score is not included in the ACT composite Score.</p>																																

NOTE: The "optional" Essay is often REQUIRED by colleges. Verify with **your** 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.

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