

Comparing rSAT to ACT

The redesigned SAT vs the ACT - which test is right for you

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Brief History of the SAT

- SAT was first introduced in 1926, almost 90 years ago
- As of 1997, the name SAT stands for nothing
- In 1926 - “Scholastic Aptitude Test”
- In 1993 - “Scholastic Assessment Test”
- 2005: analogies eliminated from the test (did not adequately reflect today’s curriculum); math section expanded to cover Algebra II concepts
- 2009: score choice introduced (students choose which scores to send to schools of their choice)

College Board introduces the new SAT

- In March 2016, the College Board introduced the redesigned SAT. The test underwent a comprehensive revision.
- Back to pre-2005 scoring scale: 400-1600
- NO guessing penalty. There's no longer a reason to leave any questions blank.
- Reading and Writing sections combined into one section.
- The essay is longer and is now optional. (The last section of the test.)

The New SAT at a Glance

Quick Facts

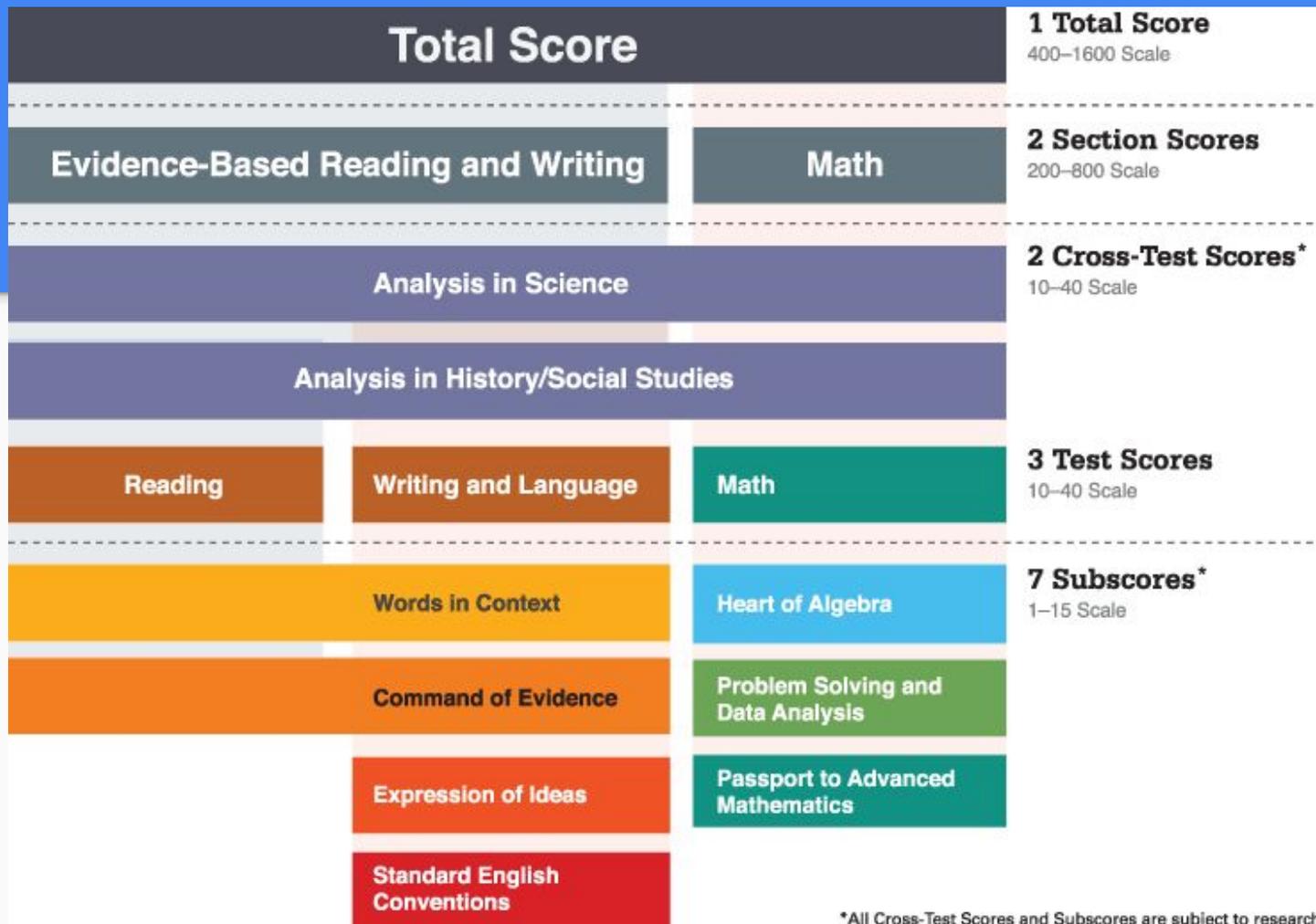
- 4 parts: Reading, Writing and Language, Math, and the optional SAT Essay
- 400–1600 score scale
- 3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT Essay – or 3 hours without it
- 4 answer choices
- NO GUESSING PENALTY

The New SAT at a Glance

Section	Length	Number of Questions
Reading Test	65 minutes	52 questions
Writing & Language Test	35 minutes	44 questions
Math Test - No Calculator	25 minutes	20 questions
Math Test - Calculator	55 minutes	38 questions

Scoring

- One composite score
- Two section scores
- Two cross-test scores
- Three test scores
- Essay Score
- Seven Subscores



*All Cross-Test Scores and Subscores are subject to research.

Changes to the Math Portion

- Increased focus on algebraic and general problem solving, data interpretation.
- Geometry still present, but accounts for a smaller portion of the test.
- New NO CALCULATOR portion.
- New extended-thinking questions in the Math section:
 - a word problem followed by several related questions
 - open-response (student-produced answer), NOT multiple choice
 - tests problem-solving skills
 - focuses on mathematical understanding

Tips for Preparing for the Math Portion

- Lose the calculator. Learning to work without a calculator will help improve real mathematical understanding. (Consider completing math homework by hand without calculators.)
- To practice with graphs, review ACT Math and Science materials. This will help improve data interpretation and graphing skills.

The New Evidence-Based Reading/Writing

- Greater focus on reading and lesser focus on vocabulary.
- Emphasis on parsing real-world texts.
- Vocabulary focuses on determining shades of meaning (implications).
- Test will use real-world documents drawn from history and culture.

Tips for Preparing for the English Portion

- Use study materials developed for the Literature SAT Subject Test to practice “unpacking” passages.
- Browse important historical texts from different eras to become familiar with the language.
- Focus on understanding vocabulary, not on memorizing many new words.
- Keep a vocabulary journal.

The New Essay

- Essay is optional, but some schools may still require it. Investigate requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- You will now be asked to provide a critical evaluation of a given passage rather than your own free-form response to an open-ended topic.
- Focuses on critical analysis.

Tips for Preparing for the Essay

- The skills acquired while preparing for the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion will help prepare for the Essay portion of the test.
- Pay attention to how authors construct their essays, and use evidence and language to support their arguments.

Brief History of the ACT

- Unhappy with the SAT, Everett Franklin Lindquist, professor at the University of Iowa, founded the American College Testing Program.
- ACT was first introduced in 1959, 33 years after the first SAT was administered.
- ACT started out as “American College Test”, but is now known just as ACT.
- As of 2007, every college in the US accepts ACT for admission.
- In 2012, for the first time the number of students taking the ACT surpassed that of the number of students taking the SAT.

Scoring

How ACT calculates the multiple-choice test scores and the Composite score

1. First we count the number of questions on each test that you answered correctly. We do not deduct any points for incorrect answers. (There is no penalty for guessing.)
2. Then we convert your raw scores (number of correct answers on each test) to scale scores. Scale scores have the same meaning for all the different forms of the ACT, no matter which test date a test was taken or what set of questions you took.
3. Your **Composite score** and each **test score** (English, mathematics, reading, science) range from 1 (low) to 36 (high). The Composite Score is the average of your four test scores, rounded to the nearest whole number. Fractions less than one-half are rounded down; fractions one-half or more are rounded up.
4. We compute your seven **subscores** (Usage/Mechanics, Rhetorical Skills, etc.) in the same way, but subscores range from 1 (low) to 18 (high). There is no direct, arithmetic relationship between your subscores and your test scores—this means your subscores do not necessarily add up to your test score.

(Source: <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/understand/>)

Composition of the Test

(Source: <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/understand/>)

Test	Number of Questions	Subscores
English	75	Usage/Mechanics (40 questions) Rhetorical Skills (35 questions)
Mathematics	60	Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry Plane Geometry/Trigonometry
Reading	40	Social Studies/Natural Sciences (20 questions) Arts/Literature (20 questions)
Science	40	

The ACT at a Glance

(Source: <http://www.kaptest.com/act/kaplan-act-prep/all-about-the-act>)

Section	Length	Question Type
English	45 minutes	40 Usage/Mechanics Questions 35 Rhetorical Skills Questions
Mathematics	60 minutes	14 Pre-Algebra Questions 10 Elementary Algebra Questions 9 Intermediate Algebra Questions 9 Coordinate Geometry Questions 14 Plane Geometry Questions 4 Trigonometry Questions
Reading	35 minutes	10 Social Studies Questions 10 Natural Sciences Questions 10 Literary Narrative or Prose Fiction Questions 10 Humanities Questions
Science	35 minutes	15 Data Representation Questions 18 Research Summary Questions 7 Conflicting Viewpoint Questions
Writing Test	40 minutes	