

COMPARING THE TESTS: SAT & ACT

	SAT	ACT
Format & Length	<p>5 sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Reading • 1 Language & Writing • 2 Math • 1 Essay (optional) <p>4 answer choices for multiple-choice questions</p> <p>Total 3 hrs w/o essay Time 3 hrs 50 mins w/essay ~70 seconds/question, on average</p>	<p>5 sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 English • 1 Math • 1 Reading • 1 Science • 1 Essay (optional) <p>5 answer choices for math 4 answer choices for other sections</p> <p>Total 2 hrs 55 mins w/o essay Time 3 hrs 35 mins w/essay ~40 seconds/question, on average</p>
Scoring	<p>Combined score: 400-1600 (sum of first 2 scores):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Writing: 200-800 • Math: 200-800 • Essay: 2-8 (3 scores: Reading, Writing, Analysis) <p>12 additional scores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Test Scores: Reading, Writing, Math • 2 Cross-Test Scores: Analysis in Science, Analysis in History/Social Studies • 7 Subscores: Expression of Ideas, Standard English Conventions, Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving & Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math 	<p>Composite score: 1-36 (average of first 4 scores):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English: 1-36 • Math: 1-36 • Reading: 1-36 • Science: 1-36 • Essay: 2-12 (plus 4 subscores) <p>4 subscores & indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM Score • Career Readiness Indicator • English-Reading-Writing Score • Text Complexity Indicator
SAT & ACT: No penalty for wrong answers.		
Reading	<p>5 reading passages (700-750 words), 65 minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 regular passages • 1 paired passage • 52 questions <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US & world literature • History & social studies • Science <p>Includes informational graphics</p>	<p>4 reading passages (700-900 words), 35 minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 regular passages • 1 paired passage • 40 questions <p>Content (always in this sequence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prose fiction • Social science • Humanities • Natural Science
<p>SAT Reading emphasizes vocabulary in context more than ACT Reading. At least one SAT passage is more challenging than all of the ACT passages. SAT tests ability to draw inferences/conclusions from evidence; ACT tests speed & instant recall.</p>		
Writing/ English	<p>Revise & correct errors in 4 writing passages, 35 minutes — 44 questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar & usage • Punctuation • Structure • Rhetoric <p>Includes informational graphics</p>	<p>Revise & correct errors in 5 writing passages, 45 minutes — 75 questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar and usage • Punctuation • Structure • Rhetoric
<p>SAT Writing emphasizes vocabulary in context more than ACT Writing. SAT Writing questions > 50% rhetoric; ACT Writing questions < 50% rhetoric. SAT Writing passages tend to require a higher level of reading than ACT English passages.</p>		

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Math	<p>Content (Algebra is King!):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry (< 10%) Trigonometry Problem-Solving & Data Analysis Statistics, Probability Emphasis on word problems & questions in real-world context <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes 45 multiple-choice questions 13 grid-in questions Math formulas provided (at start of each section) 1st section: no calculator (34% of all math questions) 2nd section: calculator OK 	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry (~25%) Statistics, Probability Trigonometry <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes 60 multiple-choice questions No math formulas provided Calculator allowed on all questions Questions more straight-forward than SAT 																												
<p>SAT: almost ⅔ algebra, limited geometry; ACT: more evenly balanced algebra & geometry. SAT Math questions often require multi-step, multi-concept problem-solving. ACT Math questions generally involve straightforward application of a single math concept.</p>																														
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional 50 minutes Closely read and analyze a 650-750-word source document, then write about how the author builds his or her argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional 40 minutes Read a background paragraph on a complex issue, analyze and evaluate 3 perspectives, create your own perspective 																												
Science	<p>No separate science section</p> <p>Science infused in all sections of the test and reported as a separate “cross-test score”</p>	<p>Tests reasoning more than knowledge, and the ability to interpret tables, graphs, and charts in the context of topics from these fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Physics Chemistry Earth/Space Science <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 passages 40 questions 35 minutes 																												
Test Dates (2020 - 2022)	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Sept 26, 2020</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Aug 28, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 3, 2020 *</td> <td>Oct 2, 2021 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 7, 2020</td> <td>Nov 6, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec 5, 2020</td> <td>Dec 4, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar 13, 2021 *</td> <td>Mar 12, 2022 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 8, 2021 *</td> <td>May 7, 2022 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 5, 2021</td> <td>June 4, 2022</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">* Question & Answer Service available</p>	Sept 26, 2020	Aug 28, 2021	Oct 3, 2020 *	Oct 2, 2021 *	Nov 7, 2020	Nov 6, 2021	Dec 5, 2020	Dec 4, 2021	Mar 13, 2021 *	Mar 12, 2022 *	May 8, 2021 *	May 7, 2022 *	June 5, 2021	June 4, 2022	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Oct 10, 2020</td> <td style="width: 50%;">June 12, 2021 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 17, 2020</td> <td>July 17, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 24, 2020</td> <td>Sept 11, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 25, 2020</td> <td>Oct 23, 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec 12, 2020 *</td> <td>Dec 11, 2021 *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb 6, 2021</td> <td>Feb 5, 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 10, 2021 *</td> <td>Apr 9, 2022 *</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">* Test Information Release available</p>	Oct 10, 2020	June 12, 2021 *	Oct 17, 2020	July 17, 2021	Oct 24, 2020	Sept 11, 2021	Oct 25, 2020	Oct 23, 2021	Dec 12, 2020 *	Dec 11, 2021 *	Feb 6, 2021	Feb 5, 2022	Apr 10, 2021 *	Apr 9, 2022 *
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