

# COMPARING THE TESTS: SAT & ACT

	SAT	ACT
<b>Format &amp; Length</b>	5 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• 1 Language &amp; Writing</li> <li>• 2 Math</li> </ul> 4 answer choices for multiple-choice questions  Total   3 hrs (optional essay discontinued in Spring 2021)  ~70 seconds/question, on average	5 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 English</li> <li>• 1 Math</li> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• 1 Science</li> <li>• 1 Essay (optional)</li> </ul> 5 answer choices for math 4 answer choices for other sections  Total   2 hrs 55 mins w/o essay Time   3 hrs 35 mins w/essay  ~40 seconds/question, on average
<b>Scoring</b>	Combined score: 400-1600 (sum of first 2 scores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading &amp; Writing: 200-800</li> <li>• Math: 200-800</li> </ul> 12 additional scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Test Scores: Reading, Writing, Math</li> <li>• 2 Cross-Test Scores: Analysis in Science, Analysis in History/Social Studies</li> <li>• 7 Subscores: Expression of Ideas, Standard English Conventions, Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving &amp; Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math</li> </ul>	Composite score: 1-36 (average of first 4 scores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English: 1-36</li> <li>• Math: 1-36</li> <li>• Reading: 1-36</li> <li>• Science: 1-36</li> <li>• Essay: 2-12 (plus 4 subscores)</li> </ul> 4 subscores & indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEM Score</li> <li>• Career Readiness Indicator</li> <li>• English-Reading-Writing Score</li> <li>• Text Complexity Indicator</li> </ul>
<b>SAT &amp; ACT: No penalty for wrong answers.</b>		
<b>Reading</b>	5 reading passages (700-750 words), 65 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 regular passages</li> <li>• 1 paired passage</li> <li>• 52 questions</li> </ul> Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US &amp; world literature</li> <li>• History &amp; social studies</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul> Includes informational graphics	4 reading passages (700-900 words), 35 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 regular passages</li> <li>• 1 paired passage</li> <li>• 40 questions</li> </ul> Content (always in this sequence): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prose fiction</li> <li>• Social science</li> <li>• Humanities</li> <li>• Natural Science</li> </ul>
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.		
<b>Writing/ English</b>	Revise & correct errors in 4 writing passages, 35 minutes — 44 questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar &amp; usage</li> <li>• Punctuation</li> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Rhetoric</li> </ul> Includes informational graphics	Revise & correct errors in 5 writing passages, 45 minutes — 75 questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar and usage</li> <li>• Punctuation</li> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Rhetoric</li> </ul>
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.		

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<b>Math</b>	<p><b>Content (Algebra is King!):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Geometry (&lt; 10%)</li> <li>Trigonometry</li> <li>Problem-Solving &amp; Data Analysis</li> <li>Statistics, Probability</li> <li>Emphasis on word problems &amp; questions in real-world context</li> </ul> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 minutes</li> <li>45 multiple-choice questions</li> <li>13 grid-in questions</li> <li>Math formulas provided (at start of each section)</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> section: no calculator (34% of all math questions)</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> section: calculator OK</li> </ul>	<p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-Algebra</li> <li>Algebra 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Geometry (~25%)</li> <li>Statistics, Probability</li> <li>Trigonometry</li> </ul> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 minutes</li> <li>60 multiple-choice questions</li> <li>No math formulas provided</li> <li>Calculator allowed on all questions</li> <li>Questions more straight-forward than SAT</li> </ul>																												
	<p>SAT: almost ⅔ algebra, limited geometry; ACT: more evenly balanced algebra &amp; 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>																													
<b>Essay</b>	<p>Optional essay discontinued in Spring of 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional</li> <li>40 minutes</li> <li>Read a background paragraph on a complex issue, analyze and evaluate 3 perspectives, create your own perspective</li> </ul>																												
<b>Science</b>	<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"> <li>Biology</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Earth/Space Science</li> </ul> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 passages</li> <li>40 questions</li> <li>35 minutes</li> </ul>																												
<b>Test Dates (2020 - 2022)</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 &amp; 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-collapse: collapse;"> <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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