

ACT vs. SAT

What's Good for YOU?

How do you determine which college entrance exam to take? Colleges will accept both, but which will YOU be more successful in taking? Try a practice test of each to determine which option would be better for YOU.

Practice Tests

<http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-test> <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>

General information about each test

<http://www.collegeboard.org> <http://www.actstudent.org>

	SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) <i>(new structure – Spring 2016)</i>	ACT (American College Test)
Length	3 hours (+ instructions & breaks)	2 hours 55 minutes (+ instructions & breaks)
Sections	Three sections: - Reading - Writing & Language - Math - <i>Writing/Essay (optional; adds 50 minutes)</i> Can take just SUBJECT tests	Four sections: - English - Math (some Trig) - Reading - Science - <i>Writing (optional, adds 30 minutes)</i>
Content	-Questions will require multiple steps to get an answer. -The reading passages will include complex structure & vocabulary. -Foundational math skills will be more important. -Reasoning and critical thinking skills will be paramount.	-Assesses content knowledge -Contains Science section (SAT does not) -Questions tend to be more straight forward
Scoring	Aggregate score 400-1600 2 sections (200-800 each)	Composite score 1-36 based on average of 4 sections (English , Math, Reading, Science) Score 0-12 for optional essay
Penalties	No penalties for wrong answers	No penalties for wrong answers
When It Is Offered	Seven times per year: January March May June October November December	Six times per year: February April June September October December
Should I do writing/essay portion?	List of colleges that require essay portion of test -- https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/college-essay-policies	See if YOUR college requires Writing https://actapps.act.org/writPrefRM/
2015-16 Cost	\$43 (+\$11.50 for optional writing)	\$39.50 (+\$17 for optional writing)