

Compare the ACT and ACT Tests

ACT includes a Science Test

SAT includes one SAT Math Section on which you may not use a calculator

According to Princeton Review

	SAT	ACT
Why Take it	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships
Test Structure	Reading, Math, Writing & Language, Essay (Optional)	English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours (without Essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with Essay)	2 hours, 55 minutes (without Essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (With Essay)
Reading	5 Reading Passages	4 Reading Passages
Science	None	1 Science section - testing your criteria thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry & Trigonometry
Calculation Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator	You can use a calculator on all math questions
Essays	Optional: The essay will test your comprehension of a source text	Optional: This essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How it's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36

Should You take the ACT or SAT:

Students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT. Changes made to the SAT in 2016 have made it easier than ever to prep for both tests concurrently—and earn competitive scores on both!

The best way to decide if taking the SAT, ACT, or both tests is right for you is to take a timed test of each type. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit.

<https://www.princetonreview.com/offer/free-practice-tests?ceid=pt-sat-info#!Test-ACT>

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT tests. The SAT and ACT generally cover the same topics—Both the ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Most colleges do not prefer one over the other.