

What are the differences between the SAT and ACT?

	SAT	ACT
How many sections does each test have?	10 Sections: Three critical Reading, Three Mathematics, Three Writing, and One Experimental section	4-5 Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing (Optional)
What is the test designed to measure?	Reasoning Ability	Content Knowledge
How long is the test?	3 hours 45 minutes	3 hours 25 minutes, including the writing test
Where are the most difficult questions located in the test?	Questions in each section increase with difficulty as a student progresses through the section.	Difficult questions are randomly placed in each section.
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes, $\frac{1}{4}$ a point, except Math grid in questions	No
How is the test scored?	200-800 per section. A combined score is created for the three reading sections, the three math sections, and the total test. Reading, Math, and Writing are each worth a total of 800 points. 2400 is the highest possible combined score for the total test.	1-36 for each subject. To develop a composite score, the subject scores are averaged. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.
If a student takes a test more than once, are all the scores sent to a college?	No. SAT offers a "Score Choice" option. Students may select which scores a college/university will receive.	No. ACT offers a "Score Choice" option. Students may select which scores a college/university will receive.
Do some scholarships make use of the test results?	Yes	Yes
What content appears in the Reading section?	Sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension.	Four reading passages with 10 questions on each passage. There is a section of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science.
What content appears in the Mathematics section?	Arithmetic, data analysis, Algebra I & II, functions, and Geometry. SAT provides formulas in the test booklet.	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, functions, Geometry, and Trigonometry. No formulas are provided.
What content appears in the Writing section?	An essay and questions on grammar usage and word choice.	An essay
What content appears in the English section?	NA	Grammar
What content appears in the Science section?	NA	Charts and readings related to scientific research.
Where is this test accepted?	All four-year colleges in the US accept SAT scores.	All four-year colleges in the US accept ACT scores.