

9 Key Differences Between the SAT and ACT

- *Time per question* is shorter for ACT compared to the SAT
- *Science section* included on ACT
- *No calculator subsection* for SAT
- *Math focus*
 - Both tests include algebra, however, ACT has a larger geometry focus
- *Math formulas*
 - ACT: does not provide diagram of math formulas
 - SAT: provides diagram of math formulas
- *Math and final score*
 - ACT: 1/4 of your final score is math
 - SAT: 1/2 of your final score is math
- *Multiple choice math*
 - ACT: only multiple choice math questions
 - SAT: combination of multiple choice and short answer
- *Evidence support reading*
 - SAT will require you to indicate a specific passage to support your answer. This is absent on the ACT.
- *Essay*
 - The ACT has an optional essay, whereas the SAT recently removed their optional essay.

Quiz: Should you take the ACT or SAT?

Question	Yes	No
Do you perform well under time pressure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you okay with not answering every question on a test?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you struggle to explain why you think an answer is correct?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a hard time with high level vocab words?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you spot details in a passage without reading it closely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you dread doing math without a calculator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you excel in geometry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you prefer each topic be tested separately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand experimental design?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you like science?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scroll to the
bottom of the
QR code to find
your answer!



SAT
VS.
ACT

Which test is right
for you?

SAT

Testing time: 3 hrs (no essay)

of Questions: 154

Time per question: 80 seconds

Score range: 400 - 1600

Test components:

Reading: 65 mins
52 questions

Math: 80 mins
58 questions

Writing and Language:
35 mins
44 questions

What are the SAT and ACT?

The SAT and ACT are standardized tests that colleges use for admissions and merit-based scholarships.

All colleges and universities in the U.S. accept **BOTH** tests and do not distinguish between the two.

Both tests attempt to measure college readiness and future academic success.

ACT

Testing time: 2 hrs 55 mins + 40 min essay (optional)

of Questions: 215

Time per question: 49 seconds

Score range: 1 - 36

Test components:

Reading: 35 mins
40 questions

Math: 60 mins
60 questions

English: 45 mins
75 questions

Science: 35 mins
40 questions