

## SAT vs. ACT

### A side-by-side comparison

SAT	ACT
<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org/student" style="color: white;">www.collegeboard.org/student</a>	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org" style="color: blue;">www.actstudent.org</a>
Test consists of Math, Critical Reading, and Writing sections	Test consists of English, Math, Reading, and Science sections, with an optional Writing section
3 hours and 45 minutes long	2 hours and 55 minutes long, plus 30 minute writing section
Math section includes arithmetic, algebra, and geometry	Math section includes arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Math section includes Student-Produced Responses (or “Grid-ins”)	Math section is multiple choice only
Critical Reading passages are not chosen for relation to specific topics	Includes four reading passages in the areas of prose fiction, social studies, humanities, and natural sciences
Required essay poses general questions which students may use historical or literary examples to answer; 25 minutes. Factored into overall score	Optional essay asks students to take a specific stand on a matter relevant to high school students; 30 minutes. Not included in Composite Score
Multiple choice questions have 5 answer choices	Multiple choice questions have 4 answer choices except for the math section, which has 5 answer choices
<b>You lose points for wrong answers</b>	<b>There is no guessing penalty</b>
Each section is scored from 200-800, with 2400 as the highest possible total score	Each section is scored from 1-36 (2-12 on Writing). All section scores are averaged to find the final score. 36 is the highest possible Composite Score
Any score report sent to a college will include ALL scores on every SAT taken unless student chooses Score Choice. Check the College Board website for up-to-date options	Students can select which scores may be seen by schools receiving score reports
Administered 7 times each year	Administered 6 times each year
High School Code 447270	High School Code 447270