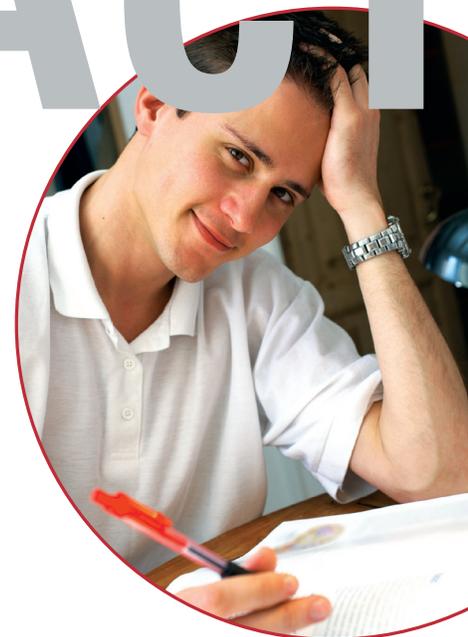


What are the differences?
Check out this side-by-side comparison
and see for yourself.

SAT vs. ACT



SAT

ACT

How often is it administered?

Seven times per year

Six times per year

What is the test structure?

Ten-section exam:
Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental
The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.

Five-section exam:
English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing (optional)
An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.

What is the test content?

Math: up to geometry and algebra II
Reading: sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension
Writing: grammar, usage, word choice, and a mandatory essay

Math: up to trigonometry
Science: charts, graphs, and data interpretation
Reading: four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science
English: stresses grammar
Writing: optional essay

Is there a penalty for wrong answers?

Yes, 1/4 of a point for each wrong answer on multiple-choice questions

No

How is the test scored?

200–800 per section, added together for a score of 600–2400
2–12 for the essay

1–36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score
2–12 for the Writing Test

Are all scores sent to schools?

Yes. If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report includes the scores the student received on every SAT taken.

No. There is a “Score Choice” option. Students can choose which schools receive their scores AND which scores the schools see.

Are there other uses for the exams?

Scholarship purposes
Certain statewide testing programs

Scholarship purposes
Certain statewide testing programs

Need more information?

Educational Testing Service (ETS):
609-771-7600, ETS.org
The College Board: collegeboard.com

ACT, Inc.: 319-337-1270,
ACTstudent.org

800-2Review • PrincetonReview.com

**The
Princeton
Review**

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