

SAT vs ACT

	SAT	ACT
How often is it administered?	Seven times a year	Six times a year
How long is the test?	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours, 25 min (with Writing Test)
What does the test cost?	\$52.50 Free with waiver	\$54.50 Free with waiver
What does the test measure?	Critical thinking skills, ability to analyze and solve problems, questions tend to be more “tricky”	Curriculum-based, questions are more straight-forward
How is the test structured?	10 Sections (3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing, and 1 Experimental, which is unscored)	4 Sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) plus an optional Writing Test
What is the test content?	<p>Math: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, & Data Analysis</p> <p>Reading: Reading Comprehension Sentence Completions</p> <p>Writing: Grammar Rules, Word Usage, Word Choice, Essay</p> <p>Essay: First Section, 25 Minutes Factored into overall score More abstract topic</p>	<p>Math: Arithmetic, Algebra Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry</p> <p>English: Grammar, Sentence Structure, Organization of Thoughts</p> <p>Reading: Reading Comprehension</p> <p>Science: Analysis Interpretation Evaluation Basic Content Problem Solving</p> <p>Writing: Optional Final Section, 30 Minutes, Not Included in Composite Score, Topic of importance to high school students</p>
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes. $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point is deducted for each wrong multiple choice answer.	No.
How is the test scored?	200-800 points per section that are added together for a total score of 600-2400. 0-12 for the essay. Most colleges only look at the reading and math sections.	1-36 points for each test section that are then averaged together for a composite score of 1-36. 2-12 for the essay
What is an average score?	500 per section	22 composite score
Are scores sent automatically to colleges?	No. Students must request scores be sent to colleges. 4 score reports are included.	No. Students must request scores be sent to colleges. 4 score reports are included.

Should I Take the SAT or ACT?

SAT:

- The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized college admissions test which measures a student's critical thinking skills, more specifically their ability to analyze and solve problems. The test consists of three main sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.
- Students can register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com
- The cost for the SAT is \$52.50. Students should sign up for the SAT Reasoning Test (not the SAT Subject Tests) unless otherwise noted by the college or university for which the student is applying.
- Students who would like to play college sports should include the NCAA Clearinghouse (Code- 9999) or NAIA (Code- 9876) on the list of schools to receive their scores because they will only accept scores directly from SAT/ACT.
- Students can sign up for a question a day, online, in order to prepare for the SAT. The College Board offers free, full-length, practice SAT tests and additional questions.
- An average SAT score would be a 500 in each section.
- There is a penalty for wrong answers in the multiple choice sections!
- Students with weak vocabulary and grammar skills will struggle more on the SAT.

ACT:

- The ACT test is a standardized college admissions test which consists of four curriculum-based tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. These tests are standardized multiple choice tests based on the major areas of high school and postsecondary instructional programs. The ACT Test offers an optional Writing Test which students may choose to take for college admission purposes. The ACT Test also includes a career interest inventory to assist students with career and post-secondary planning.
- Students can register for the ACT online at www.actstudent.org
- The cost for the ACT plus Writing is \$54.50. We encourage students to take the ACT plus Writing because colleges would like to see a writing sample for admissions purposes.
- Students who would like to play college sports should include the NCAA Clearinghouse (Code- 9999) or NAIA (Code- 9876) on the list of schools to receive their scores because they will only accept scores directly from SAT/ACT.
- Students can sign up for a question a day and a free prep book, online, in order to prepare for the ACT.
- An average ACT composite score is a 22 out of 36.
- There is not a penalty for wrong answers, so it is safer to guess than to skip a question!
- Students who have fast reading speeds and good comprehension skills will do well on the ACT. There is a great amount of reading material on the ACT.

Waiver Information:

- Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can obtain 2 waivers for the SAT and 2 waivers for the ACT, from their guidance counselor, to cover the cost of the test.