



TESTIVE

A (NEW) SAT/ACT Comparison Chart

The SAT and ACT are both standardized tests used by colleges for admissions purposes. Both are usually taken on a Saturday morning with a No. 2 pencil in hand. Most colleges/universities accept either test interchangeably. That said, they aren't the same test. Here's a quick look at how they stack up against one another. *Note: this chart compares the Redesigned (NEW) SAT to the ACT. This test will be used beginning in March 2016.*

	(NEW) SAT	ACT
Length	3 hours (plus 50 minutes if doing the Writing)	Just under 3 hours (175 minutes) (+ 30 minutes if doing the Writing)
Structure & Parts	Math: 80 minutes, 58 questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculator Portion: 55 minutes, 38 (8 grid-in, 30 multiple-choice) • No-Calculator Portion: 25 minutes, 20 questions (5 grid-in, 15 multiple-choice) Evidence-Based Reading & Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Reading Test: 65 minutes, 52 questions • 1 Writing and Language Test: 35 minutes, 44 questions Essay (Optional): 50 minutes, 1 essay	Math: 60 minutes, 60 questions, all multiple-choice, calculators permitted Reading: 35 minutes, 40 questions, all multiple-choice English: 45 minutes, 45 questions, all multiple-choice Science: 35 minutes, 40 questions, all multiple-choice Writing (Optional): 30 minutes, 1 essay prompt
Scoring	Total score of 400-1600 Individual scores (Math and Reading & Writing) of 200-800 Subscores within/across sections/categories Separate Essay score of 2-8 on each of 3 essay components	Composite score of 1-36 (average score from the individual tests) Individual test scores of 1-36 (Math, Reading, English, Science) Subscores within sections/categories Separate Writing score of 2-12
Math Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart of Algebra (i.e. linear equations, functions, etc.) • Problem-Solving & Data Analysis (aka Social Science math) • Passport to Advanced Math (complex equations, i.e. quadratics) • Additional Topics in Math (mostly plane geometry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra • Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry • Plane Geometry/Trigonometry
Evidence-Based Reading (SAT) / Reading (ACT) Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words in Context • Command of Evidence • Analysis in History/Social Studies • Analysis in Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Comprehension (passage-based)
Writing and Language (SAT) / English (ACT) Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of Ideas (development, organization and effective language use) • Standard English Conventions (sentence structure, conventions of usage, convention of punctuation) • Words in Context • Command of Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage/Mechanics • Rhetorical Skills
Science Content	No distinct science section, however science passages appear in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation • Analysis • Evaluation • Reasoning • Problem-Solving
When Offered	7x/year: October, November, December, January, March, May, June	6x/year: September, October, December, February, April, June