



**Content Comparison**

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analysis (graphs and tables), arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analysis (graphs and tables), arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, Trigonometry and Logarithms</li> </ul>
<b>Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short and long passages</li> <li>• Sentence completions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 long reading passages:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) prose</li> <li>2) social sciences</li> <li>3) humanities and</li> <li>4) natural sciences</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 types of multiple choice sections that require the student to: 1) identify sentence errors 2) improve sentences and 3) identify correct paragraph changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple choice questions based on reading passages that require the student to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) improve sentences and</li> <li>2) identify correct paragraph changes.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>
<b>Science Reasoning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No science reasoning section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven passages requiring analysis of experiments and scientific data</li> </ul>

## Question Type Comparison

	SAT	ACT
<b>Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice and answer fill-in (“student generated responses”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>
<b>Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>
<b>Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay</li> </ul>
<b>Science Reasoning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple choice</li> </ul>

## Format Comparison

	SAT	ACT
<b>Sections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Math, 3 Reading, and 3 Writing sections (Essay included)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 English, 1 Math, 1 Reading, and 1 Science section, Essay</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total: 3 hours, 45 minutes</li> <li>3 Critical Reading sections (70 minutes total)</li> <li>3 Math sections (70 minutes total)</li> <li>3 Writing sections (60 minutes total, including 25 minutes for the Essay)</li> <li>1 un-scored section in Critical Reading, Math OR Writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total: 3 hours, 25 minutes</li> <li>English: 45 minutes</li> <li>Math: 60 minutes</li> <li>Reading: 35 minutes</li> <li>Science: 35 minutes</li> <li>Essay: 30 minutes</li> </ul>
<b>Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay first, followed by 5 sections in random order: three 25-minute sections, then two 20-minute sections. One 10-minute Writing section is always last.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test order is always the same: 1) English 2) Math 3) Reading 4) Science Reasoning 5) Writing.</li> </ul>

<b>Scoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each section scored on a 200-800 point scale.</li> <li>• Section scores are added for a total score of 600-2400.</li> <li>• Essay is scored on a 2-12 point scale and constitutes approximately 30% of the Writing score.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each section scored on a 1-36 point scale.</li> <li>• Writing scored on a 1-12 point scale.</li> <li>• Scores reported as a composite score (average of English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning).</li> </ul>
<b>Answer Penalties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> point deducted from the raw score for every incorrectly answered question. Approximately 4 incorrectly answered questions results in a 10-point deduction from the scaled score.</li> <li>• Deductions are not taken for incorrectly answered Math fill-in questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No point deductions for incorrectly answered questions.</li> </ul>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Do all colleges and universities accept the ACT?***

Yes. All colleges and universities in the US accept both ACT and the SAT scores.

### ***Which test “looks better” on college applications?***

Neither the SAT nor the ACT “looks better” on a college application. Both tests are viewed by college admissions boards equally in terms of credibility.

### ***How do I decide which test is best for my child?***

A good place to start is to have your child take a practice SAT and ACT test. Although each test is scored differently, you can easily compare scores by referencing online conversion tables. Free practice tests are given throughout the city and Mind Full Tutors offers 2 free practice tests.

***Does my child need to know science really well in order to score well on the ACT?***

A basic understanding of Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics is helpful. The test, however, focuses on assessing the student's ability to evaluate and make conclusions regarding scientific data, rather than specific details about a science subject (e.g., "What is the function of mitochondria?"). We have found that students score similarly on the Reading and Science Reasoning sections.

***I've heard that the ACT Writing section (essay) is optional. Is that correct?***

Yes, the Writing section is optional. As a reminder, the Writing section on the ACT includes only the essay, unlike the SAT Writing score, which factors both the Essay and the Writing multiple choice into the Writing score. To find out which colleges and universities require the Writing section, visit the ACT website.

***Does the ACT "superscore"?***

For a few years, the SAT has offered ScoreChoice™, meaning the student has the option to send the highest scores per section to colleges and universities. Some colleges and universities offer the same option for reporting ACT scores. To find out whether a school offers this reporting option, contact the college or university's admissions office.

***I've heard that one section of the SAT is not scored. Is that correct?***

Yes. The SAT includes one 25-minute critical reading, mathematics OR writing multiple-choice section that is not factored into the score. The College Board uses the un-scored section to "try out" potential future SAT questions.