

Let's Compare SAT vs ACT

	SAT	ACT																																
Fee	General test cost: \$47.50 (\$64.50 with essay) Subject Test Cost: \$26 + \$22 per test for *fee waiver may be available	General test cost: \$50.50 (\$67 with essay) *fee waiver may be available																																
Test Purpose	Focuses on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success	Designed to measure curriculum knowledge and achievement in: English, mathematics, reading and science. Contains analytic and problem solving exercises.																																
Test Content and Scoring	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Includes 1 Reading section and 1 Writing & Language section. Evidence-based reading and writing: edit and improve passages.</td> <td>Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Mathematics</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2 sections, includes Calculator and No-Calculator sections. Numbers & Operations, Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Data Analysis.</td> <td>Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Essay (Optional)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Read a passage and write an essay explaining how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience.</td> <td>Scored from 2-8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>More about SAT test scoring: SAT composite: the sum of your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics scores, out of 1600. The optional essay is not factored into your composite score.</p>	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Includes 1 Reading section and 1 Writing & Language section. Evidence-based reading and writing: edit and improve passages.	Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score	Mathematics		2 sections, includes Calculator and No-Calculator sections. Numbers & Operations, Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Data Analysis.	Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score	Essay (Optional)		Read a passage and write an essay explaining how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience.	Scored from 2-8	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">English</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Includes Punctuation, Grammar Usage, Sentence Structure.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Mathematics</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Includes Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Reading</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading Comprehension based on multiple passages.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Science</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Interpretation, Analysis, Evaluation, Reasoning, and Problem-solving Skills required in the Natural Sciences.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Essay (Optional)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning and writing a short essay.</td> <td>Scored from 2-12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>More about ACT test scoring: ACT composite: the average of the 4 sections from 1-36. The optional essay is not factored into your composite score.</p>	English		Includes Punctuation, Grammar Usage, Sentence Structure.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.	Mathematics		Includes Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.	Reading		Reading Comprehension based on multiple passages.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.	Science		Interpretation, Analysis, Evaluation, Reasoning, and Problem-solving Skills required in the Natural Sciences.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.	Essay (Optional)		Planning and writing a short essay.	Scored from 2-12
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Test Style Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly multiple choice • More difficult as test progresses • Emphasis on vocabulary • No calculator for 1 math section • SAT does not have a Science Section, while ACT does 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All multiple choice • Difficulty remains even throughout test • Emphasis on punctuation and grammar • All math sections have calculator use • ACT has Science Section, SAT does not 																																
Method of Scoring	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing.	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing																																
Average Scores	500 for each section is considered average.	17 – 23 is considered average for each section.																																
Subject Test (optional)	Separate set of 1 hour tests in: Literature, US History, World History, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Language (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Japanese, Korean). Please note that only some colleges require SAT Subject Tests.	There are no ACT Subject Tests. Some colleges will use ACT scores to fulfill the subject test requirement.																																

Last Revised 5.13.2019

2019-2020 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019*	June 14, 2019
September 14, 2019	August 16, 2019
October 26, 2019	September 27, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 29, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020

* No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February and July test dates

To register online visit: www.act.org

Registration Questions: (319) 337-1270

2019-2020 SAT & Subject Tests Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019
August 24, 2019	July 26, 2019
October 5, 2019	September 6, 2019
November 2, 2019	October 3, 2019
December 7, 2019	November 8, 2019
March 14, 2020*	February 14, 2020
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020

*SAT Subject Tests not offered on this date

To register online visit: www.collegeboard.org

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