THE SAT VS. THE ACT

THE REDESIGNED SAT sees a return to the 1600-point scale. There are two section scores: Reading and Writing, and Math.* The four timed sections of the SAT range from 25 minutes to 65 minutes. The Essay is optional and scored separately. The essay does NOT factor into the total score.

THE ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36. There are four sections: English, Math, Reading, and Science.** All four sections are averaged to generate the total composite score, and each section ranges from 35 to 60 minutes. The Essay is optional and scored separately. The essay does NOT factor into the composite score.

* The new SAT covers much more advanced verbal and math topics than the ACT. In most cases, the new SAT requires more preparation time.

** The Science section is not designed to assess students’ knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology. It is designed to assess scientific-reasoning skills and the ability to interpret data, charts, graphs, and studies.

Neither the new SAT nor the ACT has a WRONG ANSWER PENALTY.
### THE SAT

1 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test:
   - **Writing and Language:**
     - 4 passages/11 questions each (35 minutes)

1 Mathematics Test:
   - No calculator: 20 questions (25 minutes)
   - Calculator allowed: 38 questions (55 minutes)
   - Contains student-produced response questions
   - Includes formulas to reference

**Specification and Range of Math:**
   - Advanced Algebra
   - Interpretation of Data
   - Geometry & Arithmetic
   - Trigonometry

50-Minute Essay Test (optional):
   - 3 Subscores:
     - Reading
     - Analysis
     - Writing
   - 2-8 points each section

### THE ACT

1 English Section:
   - 75 questions (45 minutes)
   - 5 passages/15 questions each

1 Reading Section:
   - 40 questions (35 minutes)
   - 1 Prose passage
   - 1 Social Science passage
   - 1 Humanities passage
   - 1 Natural Science passage

1 Mathematics Section:
   - 60 questions (60 minutes)
   - Calculator allowed
   - No student-produced response questions
   - Does not include formulas to reference

**Specification and Range of Math:**
   - Geometry
   - Algebra
   - Arithmetic
   - Basic Trigonometry

1 Science Section:
   - 40 Questions (35 minutes)

40-Minute Essay Test (optional):
   - 4 Subscores:
     - Ideas and Analysis
     - Development and Support
     - Organization
     - Language Use and Conventions
   - 2-12 points each section (2-12 points total)

### Answer Choices for Multiple Choice Questions:

- **THE SAT:**
  - Total length: 3 hours & 50 minutes

- **THE ACT:**
  - Total length: 3 hours & 35 minutes

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Some selective colleges require or recommend the optional essay on either the SAT or the ACT. Students applying to selective colleges should consider the optional essay MANDATORY on both the SAT and the ACT. The essays on both exams are scored separately and do NOT affect the total scores.

**Schedule a free mock ACT or SAT today!**

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