

Comparing the ACT and SAT Tests

SAT

ACT

Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.

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- Reading
- Writing & Language
- Math
- Essay (Optional)

- English
- Math
- Reading
- Science Reasoning
- Essay (Optional)

- 3 hours (without essay)
- 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)

- 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)
- 3 hours, 25 minutes (with essay)

5 reading passages

4 reading passages

None

1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (your specific science knowledge)

Covers:

- Arithmetic
- Algebra I & II
- Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis

Covers:

- Arithmetic
- Algebra I & II
- Geometry and Trigonometry

Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.

You can use a calculator on all math questions.

Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.

Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.

Scored on a scale of 400–1600

Scored on a scale of 1–36