

Comparing the ACT® with the SAT®

ACT	- English - Math - Reading - Science - Optional Writing Test	 SECTIONS	SAT	- Evidence-based Reading and Writing - Reading - Writing and Language - Math - Optional Essay
	- Composite score: 1–36 - Section scores for English, Math, Reading and Science: 1–36 each - Writing Test: 2–12	 SCORING		- Total score: 400–1600 - Section scores for Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200–800 - Essay: 2–8
	2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test) 3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)	 LENGTH		3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)
	None	 PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS		None
	- Two sections (English, Reading) - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation - Four reading passages in 35 minutes that are drawn from Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences	 READING AND WRITING		- Two sections (Reading Test, Writing and Language Test) - No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words - Five reading passages in 65 minutes that are drawn from significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
	- One 60-minute section - Calculator allowed - Arithmetic - Algebra I & II - Geometry - Trigonometry	 MATH		- Two sections totaling 80 minutes - Calculators are only allowed on one of the two sections - Arithmetic - Algebra I & II - Geometry - Trigonometry
	- The Writing Test is optional (40 minutes, timed) - Students will need to write about perspectives on an issue relevant to high school students and evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on that issue; they will be scored on ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use	 ESSAY		- The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed) - Students will be provided with a substantial passage (600–700 words) and asked to analyze how the author built his or her argument; students will need to understand the techniques the author used to write persuasively

Still not sure which test is for you? We can help! Call us at **1-800-2Review (800-273-8439)** or visit **PrincetonReview.com**.

SAY YES TO THE RIGHT TEST

ACT or SAT—which test is right for you? Here’s what you need to know.



What’s on the test?

ACT: English, Math, Reading, Science and an optional Writing Test

SAT: Evidence-based Reading and Writing, Math, and an optional essay



How is it scored?

ACT: Composite score of 1–36 (1–36 in each test)

SAT: Total score of 400–1600 (200–800 in each section)



How long is it?

ACT: 2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test)

3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)

SAT: 3 hours (without essay)

3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)



Do wrong answers cost points?

ACT: No

SAT: No



Which test is better?

Neither test is harder than the other, so the best test is the one you’re most comfortable with. **Try a Free Practice Test** for each—your results will help you figure out what’s right for you.



Want all the details?

Check out our complete comparison chart on the reverse side.

Free Consultation with Our Test Experts

Still not sure which test to take? Give us a call at **800-2Review (800-273-8439)**. We’ll help determine your core strengths and test-taking approach.

For more info about the ACT and the SAT, visit **PrincetonReview.com**.

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