

ACT vs. SAT

	ACT	SAT
Test Type	Curriculum-based, tests knowledge of subjects learned in HS	Reasoning-based, tests reasoning and critical thinking skills
Test Length	3 hours, 25 minutes	3 hours, 45 minutes
Test Structure	4 Sections (5 with optional writing)	10 Sections
Reading	40 questions, 35 minutes	3 sections, 2-25 minute sections, 1-20 minute section
Math	60 questions, 60 minutes	3 sections, 2-25 minute sections, 1-20 minute section
Writing	1 prompt, 30 minutes (optional)	3 sections, 1-25 minute section, 1-10 minute section 1 prompt 25 minutes
English	75 questions, 45 minutes	
Science	40 questions, 35 minutes	
Unscored Section	none	1 unknown section, 25 minutes
Section Scores	possible points 1-36 per section	possible points 200-800 per subject
Total score	Average 4 sections, 1-36	Add 3 subject scores (W, R, M), 600-2400 total
Average Score	21.1	Around 500 per section
Question Types	All multiple choice	Multiple choice and a few open-ended (Math)
Wrong Answer Penalty	none (Guess)	1/4 subtracted for each wrong answer (Guess if you can narrow the choices)
Cost	\$31, \$46 with optional Writing Section	\$45, Writing not optional
Fee Waivers (see your counselor)	Free/Reduced Lunch, 2 Junior Year, 2 Senior Year	Free/Reduced Lunch, 2 total, can be used Junior or Senior year
Remaining Test Dates	April 4, June 13	March 14, May 2, June 6
Registration Deadlines	Feb 27, May 8	Feb 10, March 31, May 5
Website	http://www.actstudent.org/	http://www.collegeboard.com/
Test Prep	online, bookstore, software, course	online, bookstore, software, course

Still unsure on which one to take?

Go online.

Take the practice tests to see which is higher to help you decide to take one or both tests.

