

Comparing the ACT® with the SAT®

ACT

- English
- Math
- Reading
- Science
- Optional Writing Test

- Composite score: 1-36
- Section scores for English, Math, Reading and Science: 1-36 each
- Writing Test: 2-12

- 2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test)
- 3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)

- None

- Two sections (English, Reading)
 - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
 - Four reading passages in 35 minutes that are drawn from Prose Fiction (or Literary Narrative), Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences

- One 60-minute section
- Calculator allowed
 - Arithmetic
 - Algebra I & II
 - Geometry
 - Trigonometry

- The Writing Test is optional (40 minutes, timed)
- Students will need to make an argument 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



SECTIONS



SCORING



LENGTH



PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS



READING AND WRITING



MATH



ESSAY

SAT

- Evidence-based Reading and Writing
 - Reading
 - Writing and Language
- Math
- Optional Essay

- Total score: 400-1600
- Section scores for Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200-800
- Essay: 2-8

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

- None

- Two sections (Reading Test, Writing and Language Test)
 - 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
 - Emphasis on word choice and editing skills

- Two sections totaling 80 minutes
- Calculators are only allowed on one of the two sections
 - Emphasis on Algebra I & II
 - Arithmetic
 - Few questions on Geometry and Trigonometry

- 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



Do wrong answers cost points?

ACT: No

SAT: No



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)



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.



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)



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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