

SAT[®] or ACT[®]

Which one is right for you?

TEST	ACT	SAT
TIMING	• 3 hours and 35 minutes with Essay	• 3 hours and 50 minutes with Essay
STRUCTURE	• 4 sections: English, Math, Reading, Science • Optional Essay	• 4 sections: Evidence-Based Reading, Evidence-Based Writing & Language, Math-Calculator, Math-No Calculator • Optional Essay
QUESTION TYPES	• Multiple choice and essay	• Multiple choice, grid-ins, and essay
SCORE	• Highest composite score is 36, which is the average of the 4 test scores	• Highest composite score is 1600, which is the sum of the 2 section scores
CONTENT		
READING	• 35 min—40 questions • 3 stand-alone and 1 paired passage: Natural Science, Humanities, Literature, and Social Science	• 65 min—52 questions • 4 stand-alone passages and 1 paired passage: Science, Literature, Social Science, Primary Sources, and Careers
MATH	• 60 min—60 questions • Multiple choice questions with 5 answer choices: Preparing for Higher Mathematics, Integrating Essential Skills, and Modeling	• 55 min (with calculator)—38 questions • 25 min (without calculator)—20 questions • Multiple choice and grid-in questions: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math
SCIENCE	• 35 min—40 questions • Separate science section: Data Representation, Research Summaries, and Conflicting Viewpoints	• Science passages throughout the test • Students receive an Analysis in Science Cross Test Score
WRITING & LANGUAGE/ ENGLISH	• 45 min—75 questions • 5 passages: Production of Writing, Knowledge of Language, and Conventions of Standard English	• 35 min—44 questions • 4 passages: Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science, and Expression of Ideas, and Standard English Conventions
ESSAY (OPTIONAL)	• 40 min • Students analyze 3 perspectives and give their own point of view • 4 scores, each on a scale of 2-12: Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use and Conventions	• 50 min • Students analyze a 650-750 word document and explain how the author builds an argument • 3 scores, each on a scale of 2-8: Reading, Analysis, and Writing
NOTABLE DIFFERENCES		
TIMING	• Less time per question	• More time per question
MATH	• More geometry	• More data analysis/problem solving • Math-No Calculator section
SCORING	• English, Math, Reading, and Science each make up 25% of score	• Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math each make up 50% of score
READING TOPICS	• More focus on science reading	• More focus on history/social studies reading
TEST PROVIDER	ACT	SAT
	www.ACT.org	www.collegeboard.org

Learn more about the test differences at kaptest.com/compare | 1-800-KAP-TEST