

Which test should you take?

ACT or SAT

	ACT	SAT
Length	3 hours, 25 minutes (including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)	3 hours, 45 minutes
Sections	4 Required Test Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (Optional)	10 Sections: 3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing (incl. the Essay), 1 Experimental (unscored)
Reading (ACT)/ Critical Reading (SAT)	4 reading comprehension passages, 10 questions per passage	Mix of reading comprehension and sentence completion questions which require vocabulary expertise
Science	Science reasoning (analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and problem solving)	Science not included
Math	Math accounts for 1/4 of overall score • Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry (4 questions)	Math accounts for 1/3 of overall score • Arithmetic, algebra, geometry and algebra II
Essay	Last thing you do (optional); 30 minutes • Not included in composite score	First thing you do; 25 minutes • Factored into overall score
Scoring	Total composite score of 1–36 (based on average of 4 tests) • 4 scores of 1–36 for each test • Score of 0–12 for the optional Essay	Total score out of 2400 • 3 scores 200–800 for each section • 2 sub-scores: 20–80 for writing multiple choice and 0–12 for the Essay
Wrong Answer Penalty	No wrong answer penalty	Yes, 1/4 point per wrong answer (except for Math student-produced response questions)
Test Contact Information	✓ ACT, Inc. (319) 337-1000 www.ACT.org	✓ Educational Testing Service (ETS) www.ets.org ✓ The College Board 1-866-756-7346 www.collegeboard.com

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