

SAT vs ACT

| | SAT | ACT |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Why Take It | Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships. | Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships. |
| Test Structure | Reading Writing & Language Math Essay (Optional) | English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional) |
| Length | 3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay) | 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay) |
| Reading | 5 reading passages | 4 reading passages |
| Science | None | 1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge) |
| Math | Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis | Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry and Trigonometry |
| Calculator Policy | Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator. | You can use a calculator on all math questions. |
| Essays | Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text. | Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues. |
| How It's Scored | Scored on a scale of 400-1600 | Scored on a scale of 1-36 |

2018 Test Dates

SAT

May 5

June 2

August 25

October 6

November 3

December 1

ACT

June 9

September 8

October 27

December 8