

ACT OR SAT?

Summary Overview

	SAT	ACT
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For college admissions and merit-based scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For college admissions and merit-based scholarships
Test Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Writing & Language Math Essay (Optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Math Reading Science Reasoning
Math Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry & Trigonometry
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Science Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 science section testing critical thinking skills (not specific science knowledge)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Reading passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Reading Passages
Calculator Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A calculator is allowed on all math questions.
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scored on a scale of 400-1600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scored on a scale of 1-36

On which test will I do better?

The ACT is designed to evaluate overall educational development whereas the SAT is designed to evaluate a student's general thinking and problem-solving abilities. The ACT may include more grammar and punctuation, whereas the SAT includes more vocabulary. Both tests are approximately the same duration and neither test penalizes a test-taker for incorrect answers.

Each test has a somewhat different structure, so the very best way to determine which test is better suited for you is to take a practice test of each. That way you can receive an actual score and compare the results on both tests to make a determination regarding which is most appropriate for you. Practice tests are widely available online.