

SAT **or** ACT? That is the question.

Long before you sit down to take the test, you're faced with one of its toughest questions: **Which one to take?** The SAT and ACT serve the same function and have a good deal in common—both are lengthy, challenging and treated like the holy grail of college admissions.

See how the two compare.

	SAT	ACT
What type of test is it?	The SAT is a reasoning test	The ACT is a content-based test
How often is it offered?	7x / year	6x / year
How long is the test?	3 hours 45 min	3 hours + 30 min if you choose to do the essay
Math	Up to basic geometry & algebra Two 25-min sections and one 20-min section	Up to trigonometry One 60-min section
Science	None	Charts & experiments, one 35-min section
Reading	Sentence completion, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension, vocabulary Two 25-min sections and one 20-min section	4 passages, one each of prose fiction, social sciences, humanities and natural sciences One 35-min section
Writing	1 essay, graded as a whole instead of a collection of criteria One 25-min essay, one 25-min section and one 10-min section	1 optional essay, points awarded when certain criteria are met
Do sections get progressively more difficult?	Yes	No
How is it scored?	200-800 for each section added together for a combined score ranging from 600-2400	1-36 for each section averaged together for a composite score ranging from 1-36
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes, wrong answers will cost you 1/4 of a point	No
Score Choice	Yes	Yes
Registration information	Visit CollegeBoard.com or call 609-921-9000	Visit ACTStudent.org or call 319-337-1270

Preparing for the SAT and/or the ACT?

Our prep programs are designed with you in mind and provide a personalized prep experience that fits your learning style, schedule and budget. PrincetonReview.com/College

Which Test Is Best for You?

In lieu of a crystal ball we created The Princeton Review Assessment (PRA), a test designed to help you determine on which exam you'd score higher. PrincetonReview.com/PRA

SAT | ACT

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