



## Key differences between the ACT and SAT

	ACT	SAT
<b>Time Limit</b>	60 seconds per question  <i>(Calculator subsection 87 seconds per question)</i>	75 seconds per question  <i>(No Calculator Subsection)</i>
<b>Question Types</b>	Multiple choice 5 answer options	Multiple choice 4 answer options
<b>Math Tested Concepts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Functions</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Trigonometry</li> </ul> <i>*No formulas are provided</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic</li> <li>• Problem-solving</li> <li>• Data analysis</li> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Pre-calculus</li> <li>• Trigonometry</li> </ul> <i>*Formulas provided</i>
<b>Content Covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar &amp; usage</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Science reasoning</li> <li>• Writing (optional)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Relevant words in context</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Grammar &amp; usage</li> <li>• Analytical writing (optional)</li> </ul>
<b>Test Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>English:</b> 45-min section;</li> <li>• <b>Math:</b> 60-min section; (w/ calculator)</li> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> 35-min section;</li> <li>• <b>Science:</b> 35-min section;</li> <li>• <b>Writing:</b> 40-min essay (<i>optional</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> 65-min section;</li> <li>• <b>Math 1,</b> 25-min section (no calculator)</li> <li>• <b>Math 2,</b> 55-min section (w/ calculator);</li> <li>• <b>Writing &amp; Language:</b> 35-min section;</li> <li>• <b>Essay:</b> 50-min section (<i>optional</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Calculator Policies</b>	Calculator usage allowed on all questions	2 sections- one with a calculator and another without

Resources compiled from content from: <https://www.studypoint.com/ed/act-vs-sat/>, [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), and <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-vs-act-infographic>



<b>Test Style</b>	Straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher	Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving
<b>Scoring</b>	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores range from 1-36.  Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges from 1-36.	Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800.  Composite SAT score is the sum of the two-section scores and ranges from 400-1600.
<b>Penalty for Wrong Answers?</b>	No – you do not lose points for incorrect answers	No – you do not lose points for incorrect answers
<b>Difficulty Levels</b>	For the English and Reading sections, the difficulty level of the questions is random.  For the Math section, questions generally increase in difficulty as you progress through the section.  For the Science section, passages generally increase in difficulty as you progress through the test.	Math questions generally increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section.  Reading passage questions generally progress chronologically through the passage, not by difficulty level.  Writing & Language passage questions do not progress by difficulty level.
<b>Registration deadline?</b>	Typically about five to six weeks before the test date	Typically about four weeks before the test date
<b>Offered when?</b>	Seven times per year: February, April, June, July, September, October, December ( <i>check your countries dates and times as these are subject to change</i> )	Seven times per year: March or April, May, June, August, October, November, December ( <i>check your countries dates and times as these are subject to change</i> )
<b>More Information</b>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>

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