

SAT vs. ACT

Colleges typically accept both the SAT and ACT scores equally. Help students evaluate the characteristics of each exam to determine which best fits their needs.



Scores



Structure



Time



Questions



Test Prep



Reading



Science



Math



Calculator



Essay

SAT	ACT
The SAT is scored on a scale of 400 - 1600	The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 - 36
3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional essay
3 hours + 50-minute optional essay	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute optional essay
154	215
Free online test prep for all students through Khan Academy	Free online test prep for fee waiver students through Kaplan
The SAT has 5 reading passages	The ACT has 4 reading passages
No science section	Science section that tests critical thinking skills
The SAT and ACT cover the same math concepts	
Calculator allowed for some math questions	Calculator allowed for all math questions
The SAT essay focuses more on comprehension of the source text	The ACT essay focuses more on evaluation and analysis of complex issues