

SAT, ACT or both? 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?	7 times per year	6 times per 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 and vocabulary Two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section	Includes four passages: prose fiction, social sciences, humanities and natural sciences One 35-min. section
Writing	Three sections: one graded essay (25-min.) and two multiple-choice sections (10 and 25 min.)	One optional writing test, 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 866-756-7346	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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