

## 12. Comparison Chart: SAT vs. ACT

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
Number of Questions	170 questions	215 questions
Overall Time	3 hours and 45 minutes	2 hours and 55 minutes without essay 3 hours and 25 minutes with essay
Test Organization	10 sections: 3 math, 3 reading comprehension, 2 grammar, 1 essay, and 1 experimental section in math, reading, or grammar (which is difficult to identify and not included in score).	4 sections plus optional essay. An experimental section is given on some dates and is identifiable. One subject per section: math, science, reading, “English” grammar.
Section Lengths	25 minutes each: essay, 2 math, 2 reading, 1 grammar and 1 experimental. 20 minutes each: 1 math and 1 reading. 10 minutes: 1 grammar .	Grammar, 45 minutes; math, 60 minutes; reading, 35 minutes; science, 35 minutes; and essay, 30 minutes.
Type of Questions	There are 10 student-produced response questions in the math section. The rest of the test is made up of 5-choice multiple choice questions. Each section is arranged from easy to hard questions except critical reading, which follows the passage.	All 4-choice multiple-choice except Math , which has 5 choices. No order of difficulty except Math – easy to hard.
Penalty for Guessing	1/4 point subtracted for incorrect answers	No penalty for incorrect answers
Scoring	Each subject receives a score of 200-800. 3 scores added for a composite score of 600-2400. Essay is scored 2-12 and is included in the Writing score.	Each subject receives a score of 1-36. Scores averaged for a composite score of 1-36. Essay is scored 2-12 and is included in combined English score.
Essay	25 minutes, first section of test. Topics: general truths, sayings, historic quotes. Essays are available to colleges.	30 minutes, last section of test (optional). Topics: subjects of concern to high school students. Essays are available to colleges.

# A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Fast Facts Handbook

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
Subjects/Skills tested	Math through the first semester of Algebra II Reading, Vocabulary, and Grammar Questions require much decoding	Math through basic trig Reading and Grammar Most questions are straightforward
Calculators	Scientific graphing calculator allowed	Scientific graphing calculator allowed
When Offered	Seven times each year: January, March, May, June, October, November, December Most students test on Saturday; Sunday is available for documented religious reasons	Six times each year: February, April, June, September (limited locations) October, December Most students test on Saturday; non-Saturday is available for documented religious reasons
Where Offered	Both tests are given at most area high schools at least once a year. Some schools offer both tests each time offered SAT Subject Tests cannot be taken on same day as SAT. SAT test dates differ from ACT dates.	
Ease of registration	Easy, online, by mail, by phone	Easy, online, by mail, by phone
Preparation	Practice questions online at ACT and SAT websites, books in library and for purchase; online practice for free, group classes and individual tutoring are available for both tests.	
Fees	\$49.00 for regular registration; includes scores sent to 4 schools, each additional school \$10.50 essay included in registration Late registration add \$75.00 Standby testing add \$43.00 Changing date or place \$25.00 Scores free online; by phone \$15.00	\$34.00 for regular registration; includes scores sent to 4 schools, each additional school \$10.00 with writing \$49.50 Late registration add \$21.00 Standby testing add \$42.00 Change place/date \$21.00 Scores free online, early release \$17.00
Score Choice	Students can opt to have a single test date Date for SAT/single Subject Test result sent to colleges. See college websites to determine how test scores are used.	Send selected test result to selected colleges Test scores cannot be broken down by subject and sent separately. Some colleges will use multiple test results to create a composite; others use a single score date only.
Other tests	SAT Subject Tests are required by some colleges	Some colleges accept ACT with Writing instead of SAT plus SAT Subject Tests
Question/Answer Service	For some test dates, students may receive a copy of their test booklet and a printout of their answers and the correct answers. See websites for available dates and fees.	
More Information	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>