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WHICH TEST IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Students tend to focus on the differences between the SAT and ACT. But the truth is, in many ways the SAT and ACT are very similar. They both play a key role in the college admissions process. And, mostly, they both measure one thing—how well you perform on a standardized test. Neither exam is an assessment of how smart you are, how well you’ve done in high school or how successful you will be in college.

If you want to get some exposure to both the SAT and ACT, consider taking The Princeton Review Assessment (PRA). Featuring a sampling of questions from both exams, the PRA can help you determine which test is better suited to your abilities.

Whichever test you choose to take, we have a prep program that’s right for you. Do you learn better one-on-one? If so, our SAT or ACT Private and Small Group Tutoring programs offer the greatest academic and scheduling flexibility. If learning with your peers is more appealing to you, our classroom courses may be a better option. Or you might want to try our online programs. However you choose to prepare, we **guarantee*** that you’ll get the score you need.

* For details on our guarantee, visit PrincetonReview.com.

THE TESTS

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About the SAT

The SAT is required for admission by most U.S. colleges and is often used to award scholarships and grants. The SAT is 3 hours and 45 minutes long (we know... practically a marathon) and is comprised of three content areas—Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. An unscored 25-minute Experimental section is thrown into the mix as well. The individual content areas are scored on a scale of 200–800, with a maximum score of 2400.

About the ACT

The ACT is used by virtually all U.S. colleges as an admissions requirement and is also used to award scholarships. The ACT is approximately 3 hours long (add a half-hour if you plan on writing the optional essay at the end of the exam) and is comprised of four tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. These tests are each scored on a scale of 1–36, and the scores are then averaged to a composite overall score of 1–36.



Why Prep With Us?

Each year we help millions of students achieve higher scores on the SAT and ACT. All of our teachers come with outstanding qualifications and undergo rigorous training. Count on us to deliver the customized, targeted preparation you need to achieve your best possible score.

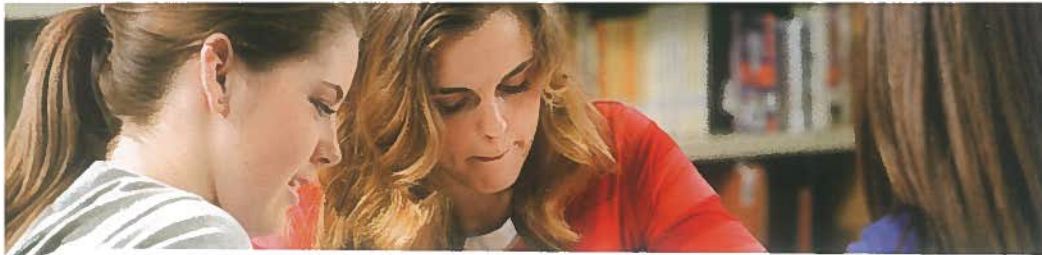


SUBJECT	SCORE	TIME	CONTENT
Critical Reading 67 questions (3 sections)	200–800	Two 25-min sections One 20-min section	Reading Comprehension Sentence Completion Short Reading Passages
Math 54 questions (3 sections)	200–800	Two 25-min sections One 20-min section	Basic Arithmetic Algebra I Algebra II Geometry
Writing 49 questions 1 essay (2 multiple-choice grammar sections)	200–800 Subscores: essay 2–12, multiple-choice 20–80	One 25-min section One 10-min section One 25-min essay	Grammar Essay

FACT: Traditionally, the SAT has been the dominant college admissions test up and down the Eastern seaboard and on the West Coast. ACT country can be found in the Midwest and South. Nearly all colleges accept either test!

TESTS	SCORE	TIME	CONTENT
English 75 questions (1 test)	1–36	45 minutes	Sentence Structure, Grammar and Usage, Punctuation, Rhetorical Skills
Math 60 questions (1 test)	1–36	60 minutes	Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry
Reading 40 questions (1 test)	1–36	35 minutes	Passages based on Prose Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences
Science Reasoning 40 questions	1–36	35 minutes	Charts and Graphs, Experiments, Conflicting Viewpoints
Writing (1 test, optional)	Subscore: 2–12; will account for 1/3 of English/Writing score	30 minutes	Essay

FACT: Both the SAT and the ACT test Math and Verbal, but one key difference is that the ACT has a Science test. Don't worry, you don't need to know anything about amoebas or chemical reactions; the Science portion is more of a reading test.



How Do the Tests Compare?

	SAT	ACT
How often is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
What is the test structure?	Ten -section exam: three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	Four -test exam: English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and an optional Writing test An Experimental test is added to exams on certain dates only and is clearly labeled experimental.
What is the test content?	Math: up to Basic Geometry and Algebra II Science: none Reading: sentence completion; short and long critical reading passages; reading comprehension Writing: an essay; questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice	Math: up to Trigonometry Science: charts; experiments Reading: four passages, one each of prose fiction, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences English: stresses grammar Writing: an essay (optional)
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes	No
How is the test scored?	200–800 for each subject, added together for a combined score—2400 is the highest possible combined score	1–36 for each test, averaged together for a composite score—36 is the highest possible composite score
Are all scores sent to schools?	Unless you enroll in Score Choice™, all of your scores will be reported to colleges.	You can choose which scores get sent to colleges.
Are there other uses for the exam?	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs
What is the best time to register?	At least six weeks before the test date	At least five weeks before the test date
Need more information?	The College Board: collegeboard.com	ACT, Inc.: 319-337-1000, ACT.org

FACT: What do SAT and ACT stand for? Nothing! The companies that create the tests have officially declared that the letters S – A – T and A – C – T have no meaning. That wasn't always the case. Previously, SAT stood for Scholastic Assessment Test and ACT stood for American College Test.

The Essay

Both the SAT and the ACT include an essay. Not surprisingly, there are differences between the two.

SAT

The SAT essay is mandatory

The essay is the first section on the exam

Graded holistically (a fancy way of saying that the essay is graded as a whole instead of a collection of criteria)

Time limit: 25 minutes

ACT

The ACT essay is optional

If you decide to do the essay, you'll find it at the end of the exam

The ACT essay is graded according to a strict rubric (a fancy way of saying that certain criteria must be met to earn a given score)

Time limit: 30 minutes

At first glance, students often find SAT essay questions to be more daunting. Here are examples of both:

ACT: *In your view, should high schools become more tolerant of cheating?*

SAT: *What is your view of the claim that something unsuccessful still can have some value?*

This may be a shocker, but there are some similarities. Both require that you handwrite the essay with a pencil (making your IM skills moot). Also, both the SAT and the ACT essays are scored similarly. Two graders will read your essay and each assign it a score of 1–6. These scores are then added together to produce a final score of 2–12.

OPTIONS



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You've Got Options

Your SATIACT score is a pivotal component of your college applications. That's why when you prepare with us, we guarantee* that you'll get a higher score.

Since students have different learning styles AND schedules, we offer a variety of preparation programs.

Private Tutoring

Want to work on your own master plan to ace the SAT or ACT? With ultimate convenience, flexibility, and personalization, our Private Tutoring programs are all about you. Whether you need comprehensive prep or just a few hours, we'll handpick a personal tutor to create a plan tailored to your exact goals.

Small Group Tutoring

If you want the personalized instruction of a private tutor with the added bonus of peer interaction, choose Small Group Tutoring. You'll work with 2 – 3 other students and one of our top-notch tutors.

SATIACT Ultimate Classroom

Our most comprehensive and personalized course option, Ultimate Classroom delivers real results. Through a smart combination of thorough lessons, extensive in-class review, and customized test-taking strategies, our Ultimate Classroom course gets you ready to achieve your best score. We'll teach you everything you need to know AND practice with you in class to make sure you've mastered it!

SATIACT Classroom

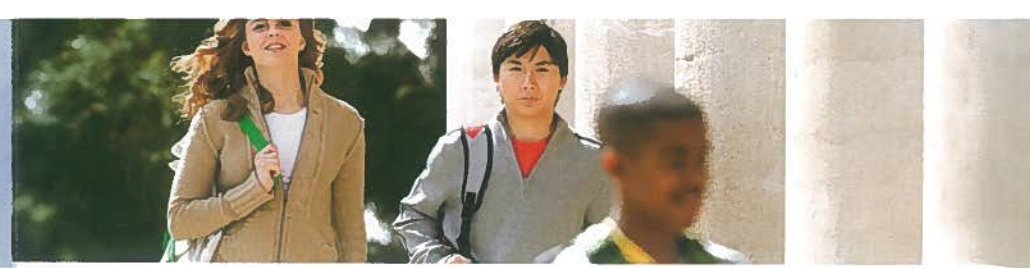
Our Classroom courses focus on the most important information you need to know to get your best score. With expert instruction on the most common types of questions that appear on the test and personalized feedback on your essay, you'll be confident and ready on Test Day.

Online Programs

We'll bring the classroom to you! Experience all the benefits of our superior coaching delivered in a convenient and highly interactive online setting that fits your lifestyle. We offer several options—from Online Private Tutoring to *LiveOnline* courses and self-paced programs.

► Our programs are effective and in high demand. To enroll or learn more, call us today at **800-2Review** (800-273-8439) or visit us online at **PrincetonReview.com**.

* Visit PrincetonReview.com/guarantee for details on our guarantee.



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How Can We Help?

Getting into college can be tough, but it doesn't need to be stressful. How well you prepare for the SAT or the ACT can minimize your overall stress level. When you work with The Princeton Review, we guarantee* that your test-prep program will result in a higher score.

We're proud of what we do. We spend literally millions of dollars studying standardized tests. Slight adjustments and trends are rapidly incorporated into our course methodology, giving our students an advantage over those who prepare elsewhere.

The Princeton Review offers multiple options to prepare for the SAT or the ACT.

* For details on our guarantee, visit PrincetonReview.com.

SAT Sample Questions

Critical Reading

- In its time, Jackson Pollock's work was considered extremely _____, employing a style of abstract spots and swirls of paint, which the art world had never before encountered.
 - naturalistic
 - innovative
 - mundane
 - obsolete
 - artistic
- Modern writers, _____ to drape reality with pretty phrases, show us everything, putrid and pure, with a grim _____.
 - aspiring . . . reality
 - hesitating . . . innocuousness
 - disdaining . . . candor
 - purporting . . . determination
 - endeavoring . . . fascination

Math

- If $9b = 81$, then $3b =$
 - 1
 - 3
 - 9
 - 18
 - 27
- Increase x by 40 percent, and then decrease the resulting number by 60 percent. The final result will be
 - 20 percent greater than x
 - equal to x
 - 20 percent less than x
 - 44 percent less than x
 - 56 percent less than x

ACT Sample Questions

Science Reasoning

Hypothesis 2

Termites are known to have highly developed sensory organs for smell. The convulsive motions of a soldier termite do not emit sound messages but instead accompany the release of pheromones or scent. The characteristic scent of the soldier termite serves as a warning to members of the colony. Head-striking is a ritual that does not, by itself, carry any information about the danger or its distance from the colony.

- Which of the following observations would support Hypothesis 2?
 - Soldier termites strike their heads against wood or other nest materials when food is found and no danger is present.
 - All types of termites, not just soldier termites, convulse and strike their heads when danger is present.
 - Termites respond more quickly to danger signals when no wind is present.
 - Termites respond more quickly to danger signals during daylight hours.

Math

- In isosceles triangle ABC , $\angle B$ and $\angle C$ are congruent. If the measure of $\angle A$ is 76° , then what is the measure of $\angle B$?
 - 28°
 - 45°
 - 52°
 - 76°
 - 104°

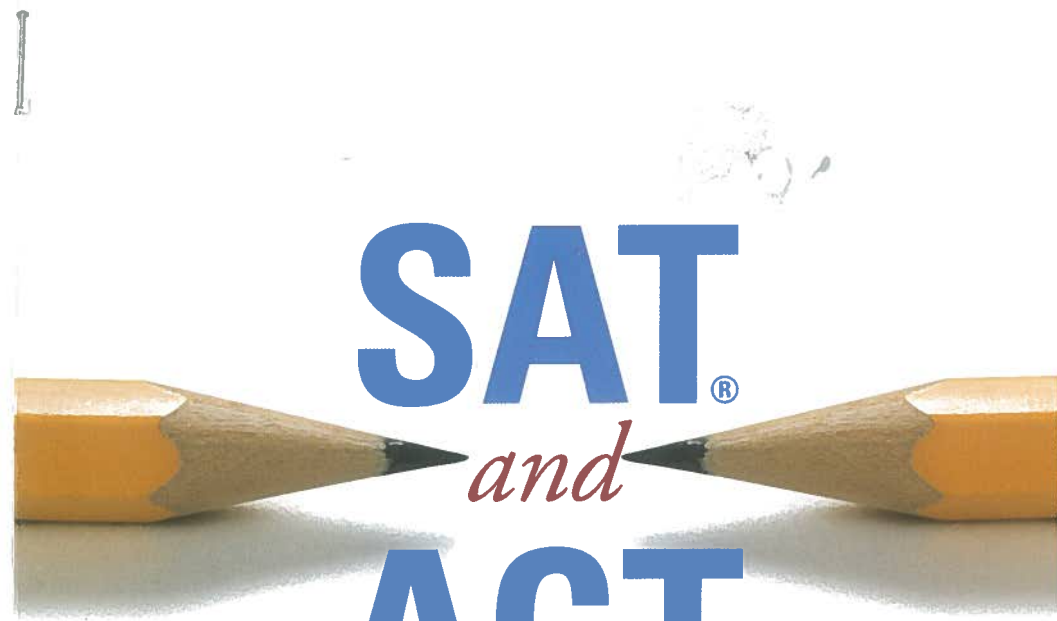


Score Comparison

SAT Composite	Percentile	ACT Composite
2200-2400	99	32-36
2140-2190	98	31
2100-2130	97	30
2040-2060	95	29
1960-1980	92	28
1910-1920	89	27
1850	85	26
1800	81	25
1730	75	24
1670	69	23
1610	63	22
1550	56	21
1490	48	20
1420-1430	40	19
1370	33	18
1310	26	17
1240	19	16
1170	13	15

Here's an estimate of how the scores on the SAT and the ACT compare.

Sources: collegeboard.com, ACT.org



SAT[®]
and
ACT[®]

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?