

SAT vs. ACT

Test Structure

ACT

English; Math; Reading; Science; Optional Essay

SAT

Reading, Writing, and Language; No-calculator Math; Calculator Math; Optional Essay

Duration

ACT

2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay); 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

SAT

3 hours

Reading section

ACT

5 passages: 40 questions, 35 minutes

SAT

3 long passages, 2 short passages: 52 questions, 65 minutes

Writing section

ACT

5 passages: 75 questions, 45 minutes

SAT

4 passages: 44 questions, 35 minutes

Math section

ACT

60 questions, 60 minutes; calculator is allowed

SAT

2 sections (only one allows the use of a calculator): 58 questions, 80 minutes

Essay section

ACT

Optional: 1 essay, 40 minutes

SAT

Optional: 1 essay, 50 minutes (During the 2021-22 school year, the SAT essay will no longer be offered, except when given as part of a state's accountability assessment program.)

Science section

ACT

40 questions, 35 minutes

SAT

None

Scoring

ACT

Scale of 1-36

SAT

Scale of 400-1600

Cost

ACT: Domestic students: \$63 (without essay), \$88 (with essay) International students: \$171.50 (without essay), \$196.50 (with essay)

SAT: \$60 excluding "non-US regional fee"

ACT Information

This standardized test includes science. Many colleges are NOT requiring any standardized test for acceptance.

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

SAT Information

SAT focuses on ELA and Math. Many colleges are NOT requiring SAT scores for entrance.

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration>