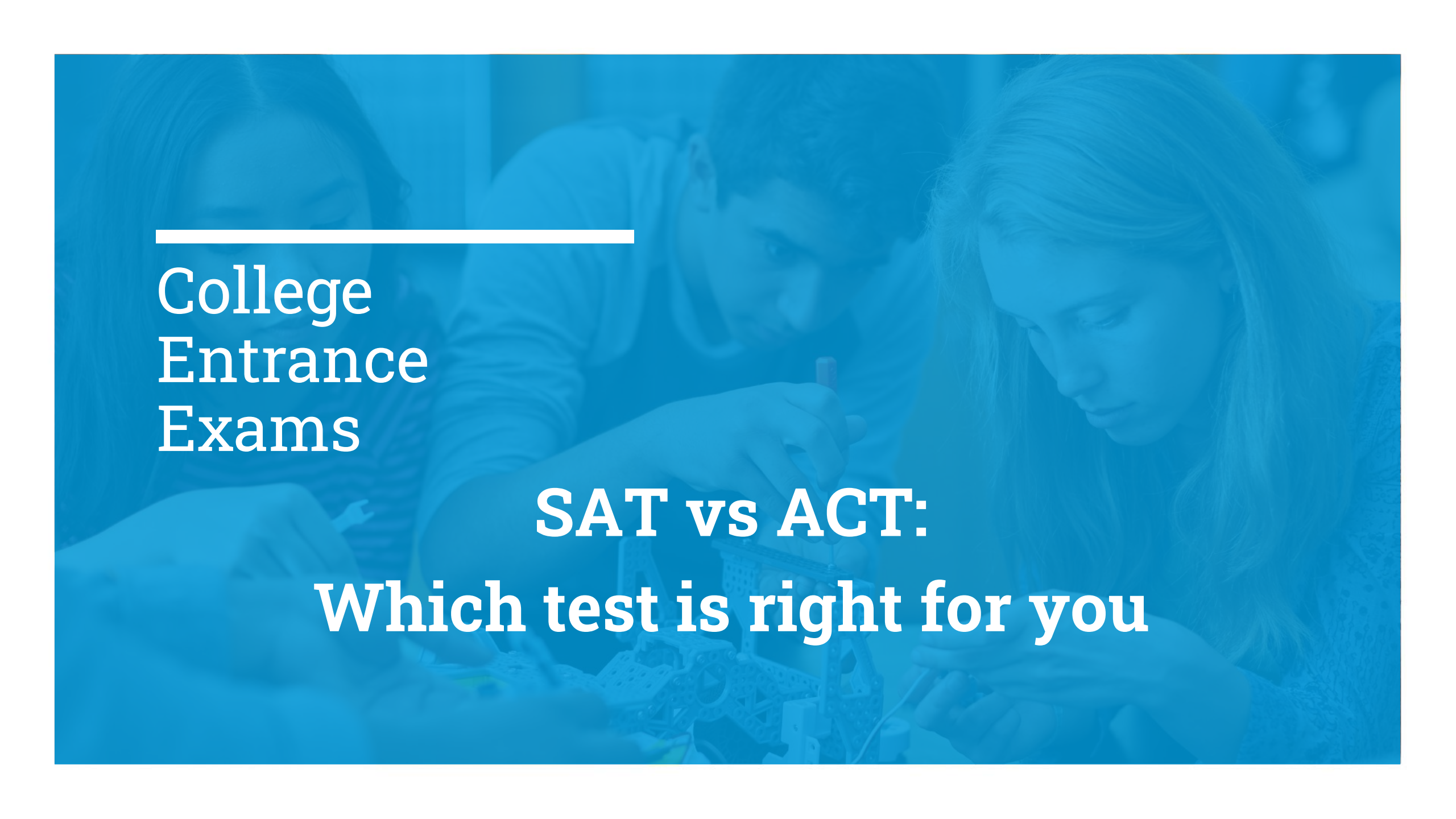


A blue-tinted background image showing three students (two women and one man) focused on a project. They are working with a complex structure made of white plastic building blocks, possibly a LEGO Technic model. The student on the left is a woman with long dark hair, the one in the middle is a man with short dark hair, and the one on the right is a woman with long blonde hair. They are all looking down at their work with concentration.

College Entrance Exams

**SAT vs ACT:
Which test is right for you**

TEST FORMAT

SAT

- **Reading:** two “modules”
32 min. each = 64 min.
27 questions per module
4 stand alone/1 pair passages
Over 1(one) min. for each Q
- 10 min. **break**
- **Math:** two “modules”
35 min. each = 70 min.
Calculator for both modules
22 questions per module
1.5 min. for each Q
- **ADAPTIVE!!!**

ACT

- **Reading:** One 35 min. section
40 questions per section
3 long/2 short passages
52 secs. per Q
- **Math:** One 60 min. section
Calculator allowed
60 questions
1 min. for section
- 15 min. **break**
- **Science:** One 35 min. section
40 questions, < 1 min. per Q
- **English*:** One 45 min. section
75 questions, 36 secs. per Q

CONTENT

SAT

- Reading Comprehension
- Grammar and Usage
50% of Q in Reading
- Words in Context
- Math
Algebra: 13-14 Q
Advanced: 13-15 Q
Problem Solving/Data
Analysis: 5-7 Q
Geo/Trig: 5-7 Q

ACT

- Reading Comprehension
- Grammar and Usage
- Words in Context
- Math
Pre-Algebra: 12-15 Q
Elem. Algebra: 9-12 Q
Interm. Algebra: 9-12 Q
Coordinate Geo.: 9-12 Q
Plane Geo.: 2-4 Q: 12-15 Q
Trigonometry: 3-6 Q
- Science Reasoning
6-7 passages, data
data interpretation
research summary
conflicting viewpoints

SCORING

SAT

- Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800.
- Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranged from 400-1600.
- Adaptive! Difficulty of 2nd module determined by performance on 1st module

ACT

- English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36.
- Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36

Section Retesting ACT



OPTION 1
Full ACT® Test

..... or
or



OPTION 2
**ACT Section
Retesting**

- Full ACT Taken within Last 5 Years
- No Limit to the Amount of Times You Can Retest
- Same Time as Sections on the Full Test (i.e. English 75 Q, 45m)
- Up to 3 Sections per Retest

SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

- 75% likelihood of earning at least a C in a first-semester, credit-bearing college course in a related subject.
- Overall college and career readiness is defined as achieving both of the section-level benchmarks on a given assessment.
- Grade-level benchmarks are based on expected student growth toward the SAT Benchmarks:

	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	SAT	
Section Level	390	410	430	460	480	ERW
	430	450	480	510	530	MATH ₅

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

- The minimum ACT test scores required for students to have a high probability of success in corresponding first-year, credit-bearing college courses
- 50% chance of earning a B or better
- 75% chance or better of earning a C or better

The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

College Course	ACT Subject-Area Test	ACT Benchmark
English Composition	English	18
College Algebra	Mathematics	22
Social Sciences	Reading	22
Biology	Science	23

TEST AVERAGES

2023

SAT

	EBRW	MATH	TOTAL
Total Test Takers	520	508	1028
SJCP	553	539	1092
Asian	593	626	1219
Black/African American	466	441	908
Hispanic/Latino	482	461	943
White	550	532	1082

ACT

	Composite
Total Test Takers	19.5 (990-1020)
SJCP	24* (1160-1190)
Asian	24.2
Black/African American	16
Hispanic/Latino	17.4
White	21

TAKE THE SAT IF YOU...

- **Panic When Faced With Time Limits**

If you struggle to move through material quickly or tend to panic, you'll likely do better with the SAT. You have more amount of time per question on the SAT.

- **Need To Answer Every Single Question**

On the SAT, you have enough time to get to most of the questions, as long as you use it wisely.

- **Have a Hard Time Spotting Details When You Read**

- **Struggle With Geometry**

ACT has three times as many geometry questions than the SAT and it does not give formulas. The SAT gives formulas at the beginning of the section

- **Want to Encounter as Little Science as Possible**

SAT does include science questions in each of its three sections, so there's no way to escape science entirely. Nonetheless, struggling with science will have less of an effect on your score on the SAT than it will on the ACT.

Take the ACT If You...

- **Struggle With Vocabulary**

The SAT has harder passages on the reading section and more vocab questions overall.

- **Can't Always Explain How You Know an Answer Is Correct**

The SAT has 2-part questions that require the first question to be correct

- **You are less confident in your math abilities**

Although the ACT has higher level math questions, it is only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the composite score

- **Prefer That Different Topics Be Tested in Different Sections**

There are quantitative questions in the reading and writing sections of the SAT as the test integrates important skills across all three sections.

- **Have a Solid Grasp of Experimental Design**

If you have a good understanding of how experiments are built and know the difference between independent and dependent variables, take the ACT. The SAT science questions are solely focused on reading charts and graphs

Is College Admissions Really Test Optional?

- Acceptance rates are higher among students who submit scores
- Some colleges still require scores for merit-based scholarships
- “Gated” major (i.e. engineering, nurses, business, architecture) often of require test scores
- 5-6 year programs (i.e. OT, PT, PA) often require test scores
- Colleges are announcing the return of required test scores
- Test Optional – choose to submit scores or not, but once submitted, they count!
- Test Blind – if submitted, student can still choose not to have scores considered in their application review
- Test Flexible – other requirements may be necessarily in place of test scores
- <https://fairtest.org/>

Should I submit my scores????

please note that some colleges require SAT/ACT scores for scholarship consideration and may require scores be sent after acceptance

- "My test scores are above average, but I didn't do as well on the SAT/ACT as I personally would have liked." This student should submit his/her test scores.
- "Standardized testing has been a weakness of mine throughout my high school career. My grades and curriculum are rigorous and competitive, but my SAT/ACT scores are below the college's mid-range." This student should not submit his/her test scores.
- "I don't want to pay or can't afford to send my test scores." Scores can be sent to colleges using a wide variety of free options. This student should submit his/her test scores.
- "Sending my test scores is an obstacle and will take way too long." This student should submit his/her test scores.
- "My best test scores are significantly below the college's published average and mid-range scores. This student should not submit his/her test scores.

Resources

A blue-tinted background image showing a group of people walking past a brick wall. The image is partially obscured by a white horizontal line and the word 'Resources'.

Resources

For general information about the PSAT/NMSQT, please visit:

collegeboard.org/psat

To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit:

www.nationalmerit.org

Take the practice test in the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide, available through your counselor or at:

www.collegeboard.org/psatpractice

For personalized resources aligned to the SAT Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT), please visit:

www.satpractice.org

For personalize additional SAT prep:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

For general information and test prep for the ACT:

www.act.org