SAT vs. ACT

Colleges typically accept both the SAT and ACT scores equally. Help students evaluate the characteristics of each exam to determine which best fits their needs.

	SAT	ACT
≡ A+ Scores	The SAT is scored on a scale of 400 - 1600	The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 - 36
Structure	3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional essay
Time	3 hours + 50-minute optional essay	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute optional essay
? Questions	154	215
Test Prep	Free online test prep for all students through Khan Academy	Free online test prep for fee waiver students through Kaplan
Reading	The SAT has 5 reading passages	The ACT has 4 reading passages
Science	No science section	Science section that tests critical thinking skills
+ - × = Math	Both the SAT and ACT have the same math concepts	
10.0 Calculator	Calculator allowed for some math questions	Calculator allowed for all math questions
Essay	The SAT essay focuses more on comprehension of the source text	The ACT essay focuses more on evaluation and analysis of complex issues