THE SAT VS THE ACT

KEY Differences

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section

TIMING & SCORING

	SAT		ACT	
Overall Time	3h		2h 55m	
Reading	65m	200 - 800 points	35m	1-36
Writing	35m			
Math (No Calculator)	25m	200 - 800 points	60m	1-36
Math (Calculator)	55m			
English			45m	1-36
Science			35m	1-36
Total Points	**400 - 1600**		**1 - 36**	**Total Points**
Time per Question	75s Reading, 48s Writing, 83s Math		53s Reading, 36s English, 60s Math	

MATH

Number of Questions

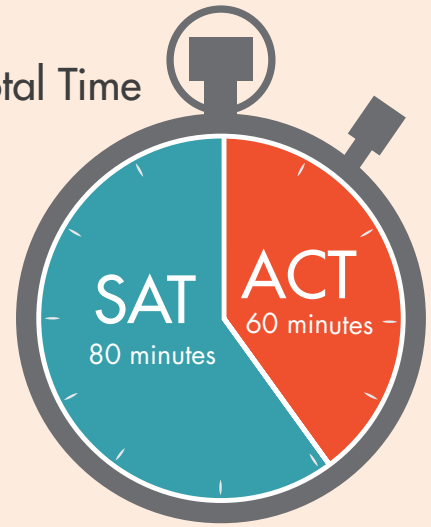
SAT **58** | ACT **60**

Number of Sections

SAT: 2

ACT: 1

Total Time

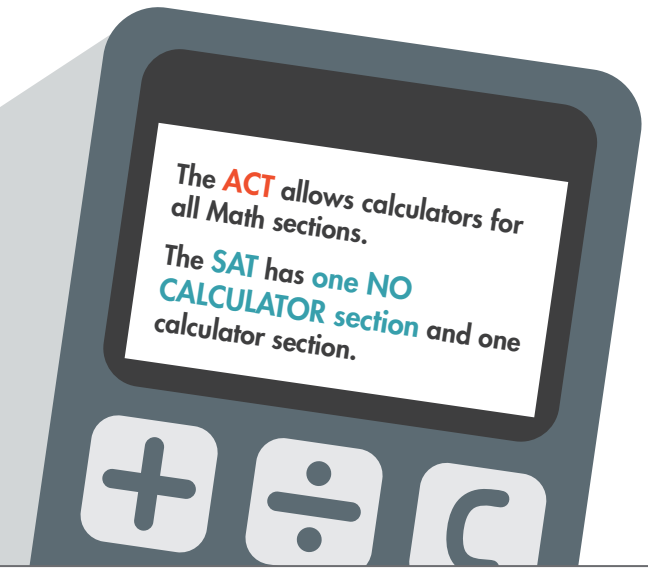


Time Per Question

Formulas

The SAT provides a reference table of common formulas.

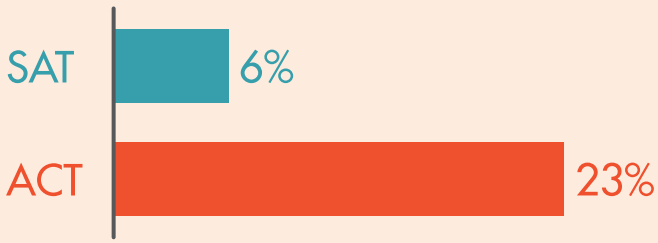
The ACT does not provide formulas for reference.



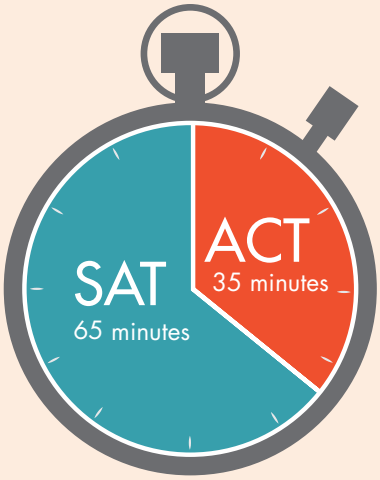
The SAT Math section includes **45** multiple choice questions and **13** **student-produced response questions** (i.e., fill-in questions).

Geometry Focus

The ACT has a much greater emphasis on Geometry. In contrast, the SAT focuses more on Algebra, word problems, and "Data Analysis" questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations.



READING



Total Time

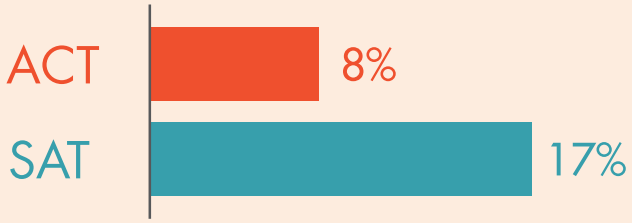
Time Per Question

Number of Questions

SAT	ACT
52	40

Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Do the Reading sections have Graphs and Charts?

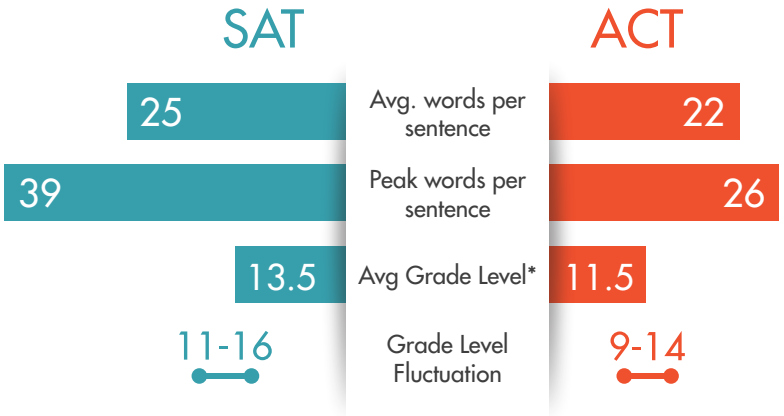
SAT

Yes, relating to two passages

ACT

No, only on the Science section

Passage Complexity



*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

Number of Passages

SAT 5 — comparison

ACT 4 — comparison

Topics Covered

- Literature
- Science (2)
- History/Soc. Studies (2)

- Prose/Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Science
- Natural Science

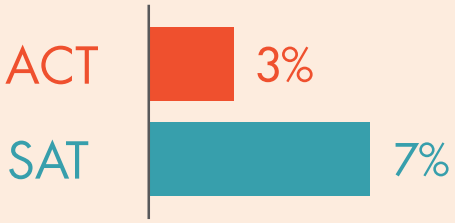
WRITING/ENGLISH

Number of Questions

SAT **44** | ACT **75**

Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Time Per Question

Total Time

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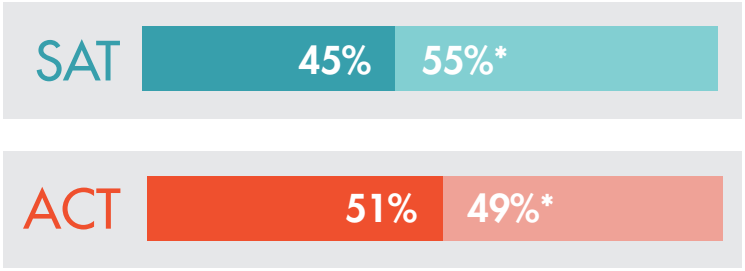
GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS



*The difference between the 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT feels even greater in practice, as the questions on the SAT require a fuller understanding of the passage.

Passage Complexity

Average words per sentence

Average grade level*

*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment