### SAT VS. ACT: WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME</strong></td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>2 hours 55 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AVERAGE TIME PER NON-ESSAY QUESTION</strong></td>
<td>About 1 minute 10 seconds</td>
<td>About 44 seconds</td>
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| **SAT WRITING AND LANGUAGE / ACT ENGLISH** | • 35 minutes  
• 44 questions  
• Covers grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure | • 45 minutes  
• 75 questions  
• Covers grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure |
| **READING**         | • 65 minutes  
• 52 questions  
• 5 passages  
• Tests analysis skills | • 35 minutes  
• 40 questions  
• 4 passages  
• Tests detail-extraction skills |
| **MATH**            | • 80 minutes  
• 58 questions  
• Covers arithmetic, algebra I, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry and data analysis  
• Formulas are provided  
• Mostly multiple choice with some write-in answers  
• Two sections:  
  ○ Calculator section  
    - 55 minutes  
    - 38 questions  
  ○ No-calculator section  
    - 25 minutes  
    - 20 questions | • 60 minutes  
• 60 questions  
• Covers arithmetic, algebra I, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, probability and statistics  
• Formulas are not provided  
• All multiple choice  
• Calculator allowed throughout |
| **SCIENCE**         | No science section        | • 35 minutes  
• 40 questions  
• Tests critical thinking and data-analysis skills more than knowledge of science |
| **ESSAY** (Optional) | • 50 minutes  
• One question  
• Tests reading comprehension and analysis skills  
• Test-takers read one passage and then explain it in an essay  
• Scored from 2-12 | • 40 minutes  
• One question  
• Tests reading comprehension and analysis skills  
• Test-takers read about an issue and then choose one of three perspectives on the issue to support in their written response  
• Scored from 2-8 in three sections: reading, analysis and writing |
| **SCORING** (Not Including Essay) | 400 – 1600 | 1 – 36 |
| **COST**            | • $49.50  
• $64.50 with essay section | • $55.00  
• $70.00 with essay section |

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