

# Compare SAT vs ACT

Features	SAT	ACT
Widely accepted	All U.S. colleges	Almost all U.S. colleges
Major redesign	2016 SAT is based on the latest research on the skills colleges value most.	No recent significant revisions.
Tests the vocabulary you'll use	Yes	Yes
Everyday math formulas provided	Yes	No
Essay is optional	Yes	Yes
Penalty for guessing	No	No
Free daily practice questions	Yes, the free mobile app, Daily Practice for the New SAT.	Yes
Free comprehensive test practice	Yes, through Khan Academy®, with over 4,000 questions and video lessons.	No
Free, downloadable practice tests	Yes	No
Mobile app that instantly scores paper tests	Yes, Daily Practice for the New SAT.	No
Test days	7 times a year	6 times a year
Regular registration deadline	About 4 weeks before test day. You pay a late fee for registering later.	About 5 weeks before test day. You pay a late fee for registering later.
Late registration closes	About 11 days before test day	20+ days before test day
Test fees waived for eligible students	Yes	Yes
Waivers cover late fees	Yes	No
Four college application fee waivers sent directly to eligible students	Yes	No
Testing time	3 hours + 50-minute essay (optional)	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional)
Structure	3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional writing test
Number of questions	154	215
Time per question	1 minute, 10 seconds	49 seconds
Score range	Composite 400–1600 (SAT Essay: reported in 3 dimensions, each 2–8)	Composite 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12)
Test length and timing	<b>Reading Test</b>	<b>Reading Test</b>
	65 minutes	35 minutes
	52 questions	40 questions
	<b>Writing and Language Test</b>	<b>English Test</b>
	35 minutes	45 minutes
	44 questions	75 questions
	<b>Math Test</b>	<b>Math Test</b>
80 minutes	60 minutes	