

	ACT	SAT
Type of Test	An achievement test based largely on what students learn in their classes.	A reasoning test assessing general ability.
Sections	English Math Reading Science Reasoning (Writing Essay – OPTIONAL)	Critical Reading Math Essay
What Content is on the Test?	<p>Math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, and trigonometry</p> <p>Reading: Social studies and Natural Science Reading Passage, Arts/literature Reading Skills, Prose Fiction and Humanities Passage</p> <p>English: Usage and Mechanics, Grammar, Identifying errors, rhetorical skills, sentence improvement, paragraph improvement</p> <p>Science: This is a glorified reading passage section. This does NOT test any science knowledge. Data representation, research summaries, science reading passages on conflicting viewpoints.</p> <p>Writing (OPTIONAL): Written essay measuring ability to communicate a viewpoint, define and support a position.</p>	<p>Math: Numbers, Operations, Algebra I, Algebra II, Functions, geometry, probability, statistics, data analysis</p> <p>Critical Reading: Sentence completion, short and long reading passages from natural science, humanities, social science, and literary fiction. (measuring extended reasoning, literal comprehension, and vocabulary in context.)</p> <p>Writing: Identifying errors, improving sentences and paragraphs, student written essay measuring ability to communicate a viewpoint, define and support a position.</p>
Length	2 hours & 55 minutes. (3 hrs. & 25 min. with optional writing test.)	3 hours & 45 minutes.
Penalty for Wrong Answers	No. Score is based on the number of right answers; no penalty for guessing.	Yes. $\frac{1}{4}$ point deducted for each wrong answer on multiple choice questions, 0 points deducted on wrong math grid-ins.
Scoring Method	1-36 for each subject, which is averaged for the highest possible score of 36.	200-800 per section with 2400 the highest possible score.
Cost	The basic cost is \$32, which includes sending scores to four colleges. The basic registration fee for the ACT with the optional writing section is \$47.	The SAT Reasoning test costs \$45, which includes sending scores to four colleges.
Web Site	http://www.act.org	www.collegeboard.com

Almost all 4-year colleges and universities in the nation accept *either* ACT or SAT Reasoning scores equally. Because research indicates that many students perform quite differently on the two tests, it may benefit you to take both tests. The option is yours! Take one or both, since colleges typically use the higher of the two scores for admission.

Every effort has been made to present the ACT and SAT Reasoning Test accurately and concisely. All information has been drawn from official publications offering the test.