

# Let's Compare SAT vs ACT

	SAT	ACT								
<b>Fee</b>	General test cost: \$47.50 (\$64.50 with essay) Subject Test Cost: \$26 + \$22 per test for *fee waiver may be available	General test cost: \$50.50 (\$67 with essay) *fee waiver may be available								
<b>Test Purpose</b>	Focuses on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success	Designed to measure curriculum knowledge and achievement in: English, mathematics, reading and science. Contains analytic and problem solving exercises.								
<b>Test Content and Scoring</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Includes 1 Reading section and 1 Writing &amp; Language section.  Evidence-based reading and writing: edit and improve passages.</td> <td>Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Includes 1 Reading section and 1 Writing & Language section.  Evidence-based reading and writing: edit and improve passages.	Scored from 200 – 800. 50% of total score	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">English</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Includes Punctuation, Grammar Usage, Sentence Structure.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	English		Includes Punctuation, Grammar Usage, Sentence Structure.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.
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	<p><b>More about SAT test scoring:</b> SAT composite: the sum of your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics scores, out of 1600. The optional essay is not factored into your composite score.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Science</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Interpretation, Analysis, Evaluation, Reasoning, and Problem-solving Skills required in the Natural Sciences.</td> <td>Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Science		Interpretation, Analysis, Evaluation, Reasoning, and Problem-solving Skills required in the Natural Sciences.	Scored from 1-36. 25% of total score.				
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		<p><b>More about ACT test scoring:</b> ACT composite: the average of the 4 sections from 1-36. The optional essay is not factored into your composite score.</p>								
<b>Test Style Differences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly multiple choice</li> <li>• More difficult as test progresses</li> <li>• Emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>• No calculator for 1 math section</li> <li>• SAT does not have a Science Section, while ACT does</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All multiple choice</li> <li>• Difficulty remains even throughout test</li> <li>• Emphasis on punctuation and grammar</li> <li>• All math sections have calculator use</li> <li>• ACT has Science Section, SAT does not</li> </ul>								
<b>Method of Scoring</b>	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing.	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing								
<b>Average Scores</b>	500 for each section is considered average.	17 – 23 is considered average for each section.								
<b>Subject Test (optional)</b>	Separate set of 1 hour tests in: Literature, US History, World History, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Language (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Japanese, Korean). Please note that only some colleges require SAT Subject Tests.	There are no ACT Subject Tests. Some colleges will use ACT scores to fulfill the subject test requirement.								

Last Revised 5.13.2019