

COMPARISON CHART - ACT/SAT

ACT	SAT	Advantage For You? Absolute & Comparative Terms
Length		Potential Question Examples
215 Minutes Total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar: 75 questions/45 min Reading Comprehension: 40/35 Math: 60/60 Science: 40/35 Essay: 1/40 	230 Minutes Total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Comp: 52/65 Grammar: 44/35 Math: 60/80 Essay: 1/50 	<i>In terms of stamina, the Science Section requires skills most like reading comprehension though it is a unique section. Consider the order; do you prefer reading first or later?</i>
Scoring		
Correct answer receives 1 point with no penalty for guessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composite First 4 sections averaged + essay graded separately. Colleges will care about 1 score + separate essay. 	Correct answer receives 1 point with no penalty for guessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sum of 2 sections: (1) Reading & Evidence Based Writing; (2) Mathematics + separate essay. Colleges see multiple scores + essay but focus on the major aforementioned two. (understanding an SAT score report) 	<i>Are you balanced across the tested fields or do you have major gap between your best and worst exam sections?</i> <i>In depth scoring information ACT here / SAT here</i>
Grammar		
Content between tests is nearly equivalent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~36 seconds per question 	SAT has some data chart questions in grammar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~47.5 seconds per question 	<i>Does more time on a grammar question matter for your accuracy?</i>
Math		
Content between two tests is nearly equivalent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT has few matrices & logarithms Can use a calculator 60 seconds per question with 5 answer choices 	Has two sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With calculator 20 questions/75 seconds per question Without 38 questions/86 seconds per question Multiple choice questions have 4 answer choices but some questions are grid-in (free response) 	<i>Are you dependent on a calculator &/or multiple choice?</i>

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ACT	SAT	Consider Both Absolute & Comparative Advantages
Reading		
<p>Content is nearly equivalent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 passages always in order of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, Natural Science • 52.5 seconds per question 	<p>5 passages in random order drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. & World Literature, History/Social Studies, & Science. • Unlike ACT, has line support questions and data chart analysis. • 75 seconds per question 	<p><i>Do you benefit significantly from more time per question? Do you mind more passages?</i></p>
Science		
<p>Contains a Science Section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific themed data analysis questions (both visual & reading comprehension) • 52.5 seconds per question 	<p>Does not include Science Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned above, the SAT tests visual data analysis during the grammar, reading & mathematical sections 	<p><i>How is your reading & visual comprehension and extrapolation? How is your ability to synthesize conclusions from multiple data sources?</i></p>
Essay		
<p>Contains a 40-minute essay question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a perspective among 3 choices for persuasive essay • Use knowledge of current events, pop culture, science, philosophy, history, literature and personal history to support argument 	<p>Contains a 50-minute essay question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a passage • Explain that author's argument • Support your explanation with evidence from the passage 	<p><i>Do you prefer a straightforward response in which you choose your own point & support or a response that requires the analysis of another author's written statement?</i></p>