

# SAT

# vs.

# ACT

Aptitude - your reasoning/abilities	What the Test Measures	Achievement - what you've learned in school
Grammar & Usage Math Reading Vocabulary Writing	<b>Content Covered</b>	Grammar & Usage Math Reading Science reasoning Writing (optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Reading...(2) 25-min sect, (1) 20-min</li> <li>• Math.....(2) 25-min sect, (1) 20-min</li> <li>• Writing.....(1) 25-min essay, (1) 25-min sect, (1) 10-min sect</li> <li>• Non-Scored.....(1) experimental sect</li> </ul>	<b>Test Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English.....(1) 45-min section</li> <li>• Math.....(1) 60-min section</li> <li>• Reading.....(1) 35-min section</li> <li>• Science.....(1) 35-min section</li> <li>• Writing.....(1) 30-min essay (optional)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Range of 600-2400</li> <li>• You will receive a score (200-800) for each of the three sections (Math, Read, Writ), which will be added together to get the overall score</li> </ul>	<b>Scoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Range of 1-36</li> <li>• You will receive a score (1-36) for each of the four required sections, a composite score which is the average of the four scores, and a writing score if you choose to take the writing section</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 140 questions + required essay</li> <li>• 3 hours, 45 min + breaks</li> <li>• Allows more time per question</li> </ul>	<b>Test Length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 215 questions + optional essay</li> <li>• 3 hours, 25 min + breaks</li> <li>• Allows less time per question</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES – you lose ¼ point for incorrect answers (except on the grid-in math questions). Thus, random guessing hurts your score. If you can eliminate at least one answer, however, you should guess.</li> </ul>	<b>Penalty for Wrong Answers?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NO – you do not lose points for incorrect answers. It benefits you to answer every question.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions of the same type get harder as you progress through each section</li> <li>• Questions tend to be less straightforward and you may spend time figuring out what you're being asked before you can start solving the problem</li> </ul>	<b>Difficulty Level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions have a random level of difficulty</li> <li>• Questions tend to be more straightforward and easier to understand on a first read</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required</li> <li>• First section of the SAT</li> <li>• Tend to present a broad issue that you need to explore using examples from history, literature or your personal experiences</li> </ul>	<b>Essay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional, although many colleges require it</li> <li>• Last section of the ACT</li> <li>• Tend to asks you to take a stand on a potentially controversial issue and address the counter-argument as part of your essay</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple choice + written responses</li> <li>• Content includes arithmetic, Algebra I &amp; II, Geometry, probability &amp; statistics, data analysis</li> <li>• Formulas provided in the test booklet</li> </ul>	<b>Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All questions are multiple choice</li> <li>• Content includes arithmetic, Algebra I &amp; II, Geometry, Basic Trigonometry (sine/cosine)</li> <li>• No formulas are provided</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No science content</li> </ul>	<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science. However, emphasis is on <i>reasoning</i>, so it really assesses your ability to read and interpret graphs, scientific hypotheses, and research summaries, rather than content</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>• You will improve your score by memorizing vocabulary</li> </ul>	<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>• You won't significantly improve your score by memorizing vocabulary</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All colleges and universities accept it</li> <li>• Historically more popular with private schools and schools on the East and West coasts</li> </ul>	<b>Accepted by which Schools?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All colleges and universities accept it</li> <li>• Historically more popular with public schools and schools in the Midwest and South</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered 7 times per year</li> <li>• Reg. typically 4 weeks before the test date</li> </ul>	<b>Dates &amp; Regist.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered 6 times per year</li> <li>• Reg. typically 5-6 weeks before the test date</li> </ul>