



Most colleges accept scores from either test, so you can take the test that’s right for you. Your college application journey is likely starting with the question, “Which test should I take?” Use this handy guide to help you decide:

Test Structure & Format	ACT	SAT
Length	3 hours, 35 minutes (including the optional Writing Test, not including breaks)	3 hours, 50 minutes (including the optional Essay, not including breaks)
Structure	4 sections* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul> *Plus an Optional Writing Test	4 sections* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Writing and Language</li> <li>• Math without a Calculator</li> <li>• Math with a Calculator</li> </ul> *Plus an Optional Essay
Scoring	ACT	SAT
Score	<p>You will receive a composite score on a 1–36 scale. This score is an average of your scores on the 4 multiple-choice test sections (each section is scored on 1–36 scale).</p> <p>The optional Writing Test is not included in the composite score. You will receive 5 scores for the Writing Test: one overall score on a 2–12 scale and 4 domain scores, also 2–12, that are based on an analytic scoring rubric.</p>	<p>You will receive an overall score out of 1600. This score is calculated by adding your score on the Math section with your score on the Evidence-Based Reading &amp; Writing section (each section is scored on a 200–800 scale).</p> <p>The optional Essay is not included in the overall score. You will receive 3 scores for the essay: Reading, Analysis, and Writing, which are all on 2–8 scale.</p>
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers.	No penalty for wrong answers.
Sending Score History to Colleges	You can decide which score is sent to colleges. <i>Note: all scores from your selected test date are sent.</i>	You can decide which score is sent to colleges. <i>Note: all scores from your selected test date are sent.</i>

Topics Covered	ACT	SAT
Reading	<p>Key Ideas and Details            Craft and Structure            Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</p>	<p>Command of Evidence            Words in Context            Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science</p>
Math	<p>Preparing for Higher Math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and Quantity</li> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Functions</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Statistics and Probability</li> </ul> <p>Integrating Essential Skills            Modeling</p>	<p>Heart of Algebra            Problem Solving and Data Analysis            Passport to Advanced Math            Additional Topics in Math</p>
Science	<p>Interpretation of Data            Scientific Investigation            Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results</p>	<p>Science content is not tested on the SAT, but the test does measure your ability to interpret charts, infographics, and data on scientific topics in other sections.</p> <p>A Science Insight Score, based on these abilities, is provided.</p>
English/Writing and Language	<p>Production of Writing            Knowledge of Language            Conventions of English</p> <p>Optional Writing Test (essay)</p>	<p>Command of Evidence            Words in Context            Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science            Expression of Ideas</p> <p>Optional Essay</p>
Essay	<p>Optional final section, 40 minute testing time</p> <p>Separate score, not included in composite score</p> <p>Topic presents conversations around contemporary issues</p> <p>Tests ability to argue a point of view in a clear way, using concrete examples</p>	<p>Optional final section            50 minute testing time            Separate score, not included in overall score</p> <p>Topic comes from a 750-word passage to be read on test day</p> <p>Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills</p>