



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"> • English • Math • Reading • Science *Plus an Optional Writing Test	4 sections* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing and Language • Math without a Calculator • Math with a Calculator *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 & 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	Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Command of Evidence Words in Context Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science
Math	<p>Preparing for Higher Math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and Quantity • Algebra • Functions • Geometry • Statistics and Probability <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>