

COMPARING THE SAT AND THE ACT

Most colleges and universities throughout the US will accept either the SAT or the ACT for admissions purposes. It is important that students understand the very different natures of the two tests and determine which is best for his or her test-taking style.

	SAT	ACT
	SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST	AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST
TEST CONTENT	1/3 Writing 1/3 Critical Reading 1/3 Math	25% English 25% Reading 25% Science Reasoning 25% Mathematics (Optional writing test also available)
MATH TOPICS	Arithmetic Numbers & Operations, Algebra I & II Functions, Probability, Plane/Coordinate Geometry, Statistics & Data Analysis	40% Pre-alg/Algebra 38% Plane/Coord Geom 15% Intermediate Alg 7% Trigonometry
TEST FOCUS	Measures academic achievement in writing, math and critical reading	Measures academic achievement in English, reading, science reasoning and mathematics
SCORING METHOD	Penalty for wrong answers	Score based on points for right answers only. No penalty for wrong answers
SCORING SCALE	Critical Reading 200 - 800 Math 200 - 800 Writing <u>200 - 800</u> SAT Total 600 -2400 (Sum of CR, M & W)	English 1 - 36 Reading 1 - 36 Science Reasoning 1 - 36 Math <u>1 - 36</u> ACT Composite 1 - 36 (Avg of 4 scores) *Writing 2 - 12 *English/Writing 1 - 36 (*not included in composite score)