

# SAT vs. ACT

## The differences between the SAT and ACT

- The SAT is less time sensitive. It gives you far more time per problem. The ACT has you working at a quick pace, so if you need some more time to consider your answer, the SAT is going to be better for you.
- The SAT has a few fill-in-the-blank math problems and half of the math problems do not allow a calculator. The ACT lets you use a calculator on all math problems, and all the answers are multiple choice.
- The SAT does not have a science section (the science concepts are tested through the reading section). The ACT science portion is mostly based on your reading skills and ability to use information given to pick the correct answer.
- Both tests come with optional essays. The ACT essay asks you to come up with your own argument and support. The SAT asks you to evaluate an argument that someone else has already written.

Pick the test that is best for you, that gives you the biggest edge. Your score is not saying how good you are, it is judging how good you are compared to all the other applicants. If you are awesome at fast-paced answering and can stay focused for a length of time, the ACT is for you. If you are not as good at fast paced answering, but like detailed problem solving or logic, then the SAT is for you.

We have copies of both tests that you can schedule to take and have scored or you can purchase The College Board book and Real ACT books do also. Take one of each to see which is better for you.

The material that each test is testing you on, is the same. They each test your knowledge in math, English grammar and reading comprehension. They both take 3-4 hours to complete. They both accomplish the same goal, which is giving you admission to (and possible scholarships) to the school(s) you're interested in attending.

Colleges use something called a concordance table to compare the SAT and ACT scores. They don't prefer one over the other. A 1600 on the SAT is a 36 on the ACT. Both are the highest score you can get and will get you the exact same quality application.