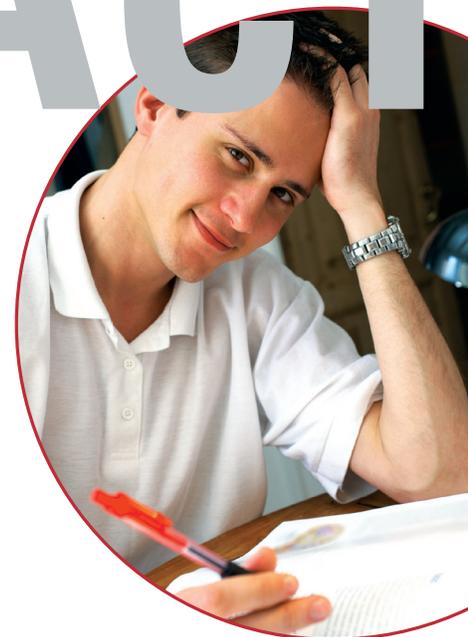


**What are the differences?**  
Check out this side-by-side comparison  
and see for yourself.

# SAT vs. ACT



## SAT

## ACT

How often is it administered?

**Seven** times per year

**Six** times per year

What is the test structure?

**Ten-section exam:**  
Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental  
The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.

**Five-section exam:**  
English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing (optional)  
An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.

What is the test content?

**Math:** up to geometry and algebra II  
**Reading:** sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension  
**Writing:** grammar, usage, word choice, and a mandatory essay

**Math:** up to trigonometry  
**Science:** charts, graphs, and data interpretation  
**Reading:** four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science  
**English:** stresses grammar  
**Writing:** optional essay

Is there a penalty for wrong answers?

**Yes**, 1/4 of a point for each wrong answer on multiple-choice questions

**No**

How is the test scored?

200–800 per section, added together for a score of 600–2400  
2–12 for the essay

1–36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score  
2–12 for the Writing Test

Are all scores sent to schools?

**Yes.** If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report includes the scores the student received on every SAT taken.

**No.** There is a “Score Choice” option. Students can choose which schools receive their scores AND which scores the schools see.

Are there other uses for the exams?

Scholarship purposes  
Certain statewide testing programs

Scholarship purposes  
Certain statewide testing programs

Need more information?

Educational Testing Service (ETS):  
**609-771-7600, ETS.org**  
The College Board: [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)

ACT, Inc.: 319-337-1270,  
[ACTstudent.org](http://ACTstudent.org)

800-2Review • [PrincetonReview.com](http://PrincetonReview.com)

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