

Differences Between the SAT and ACT

New SAT	ACT
Scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SAT is scored on a scale of 400-1600.	Scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36.
Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">SAT questions require more time to understand and answer	Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ACT questions tend to be more straightforward.
Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SAT has 5 reading passages	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The ACT has 4 reading passages
Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SAT does not have a science section.	Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The ACT has a science section that tests your critical thinking skills.
Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Both ACT and SAT tests have the SAME advanced math concepts: Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Geometry, and Trigonometry	Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Both ACT and SAT tests have the SAME advanced math concepts: Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Geometry, and Trigonometry
Essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none">OptionalThe SAT is more comprehension focused and asks you to evaluate an argument that someone else has already written for you	Essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none">OptionalThe ACT wants to see how well you can evaluate and analyze complex issues and asks you to come up with your own argument and support it.
Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">You do NOT get a calculator on all of the math questions on the SAT.	Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">You get a calculator for ALL math questions on the ACT.
Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SAT takes about 4 hours to take and is far less “time intensive” and gives more time per problem.	Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The ACT take about 4 hours to complete.

*The redesigned SAT was launched in March 2016