

Difference between SAT and ACT

	SAT	ACT
Preferred by:	Private schools; schools on the east and west coasts	Public schools; schools in the middle of the country; more colleges prefer the SAT
How Questions Appear	Order of difficulty	No order of difficulty
Highest Math Level	Algebra/Basic Geometry; test booklet supplies all formulas	Trigonometry (only 4 questions); test booklet rarely provides formulas
Skills Heavily Tested	Vocabulary and Reading; Math	Grammar and Reading; Math
Penalty For Wrong Answers:	Yes	No
Based on School Curriculum:	Less	More
Style of Test	Tricky, with many distracters	More straightforward, with fewer distracters
Structure of Test	<p>Critical Reading: two 30-min. sections: sentence completion and passage-reading</p> <p>Math: two-30 min. sections, one 15-min. section</p> <p>Writing: one 25 minute section on improving sentences, identify sentence errors, improving paragraphs</p> <p>Essay: one 25-min. five paragraph essay responding to the prompt; graded by 2 independent readers scoring up to 6 points each for a possible total of 12</p>	<p>English: one 45-min. section</p> <p>Math: one 60-min. section</p> <p>Reading: one 35-min. section</p> <p>Science Reasoning: one 35-min. section</p> <p>Writing: optional and not required</p>
When offered	Seven times per year	Six times per year
Scoring	200-800 for Math, Critical Reading and Writing, added together for a composite score; median about 1000; maximum score 2400	1-36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score; median about 21; maximum score 36

ASU/UofA/NAU require 1040 SAT and 22 ACT

SAT/ACT Score Comparisons

SAT to ACT		ACT to SAT	
SAT Score Verbal + Math	ACT Composite Score	ACT Composite Score	SAT Score Verbal + Math
1600	36	36	1600
1560-1590	35	35	1580
1510-1550	34	34	1520
1460-1500	33	33	1470
1410-1450	32	32	1420
1360-1400	31	31	1380
1320-1350	30	30	1340
1280-1310	29	29	1300
1240-1270	28	28	1260
1210-1230	27	27	1220
1170-1200	26	26	1180
1130-1160	25	25	1140
1090-1120	24	24	1110
1060-1080	23	23	1070
1020-1050	22	22	1030
980-1010	21	21	990
940-970	20	20	950
900-930	19	19	910
860-890	18	18	870
810-850	17	17	830
760-800	16	16	780
710-750	15	15	740
660-700	14	14	680
590-650	13	13	620
520-580	12	12	560
500-510	11	11	500