

## SAT vs. ACT

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
When did it change?	March 2005	February 2005
What are the changes?	Paragraph length critical reading passages, an essay, and more challenging math. No more analogies or quantitative comparisons.	Addition of an “optional” essay.
When is it administered?	<b>Seven</b> times per year.	<b>Six</b> times per year.
Test structure	Ten Section exam: <b>Three Critical Reading, Three Math, Three writing and one Experimental.</b> The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	<b>Four</b> Section exam: <b>English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning.</b> An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only and is clearly experimental.
Test Content	<b>Math:</b> Up to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade Geometry and Algebra II <b>No Science section.</b> <b>Reading:</b> Sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension. <b>Stresses Vocabulary.</b> More questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice. <b>A Test of strategy and testmanship.</b>	<b>Math:</b> Up to Trigonometry <b>Science Section included</b> <b>Reading:</b> four passages, one each Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities and Natural Science <b>English:</b> Stresses <b>Grammar.</b> <b>A test of time management and studiousness.</b>
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
How the test is scored/highest possible score	<b>200-800 per section</b> , added together for a combined score. Sub-scores: Essay (2-12), Writing Multiple Choice (20-80). <b>A 2400</b> is the highest possible combined score	<b>1-36</b> for each subject, averaged for a composite score. <b>A 36</b> is the highest possible composite score.
Are all scores sent to schools?	<b>Yes.</b> If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report will <b>include the scores the student received on every SAT test taken.</b>	<b>No.</b> There is a <b>score choice option.</b> Students can choose which schools will receive their score <b>AND</b> which scores the schools will see.
Other uses for the exams	<b>Scholarship purposes.</b>	<b>Scholarship purposes.</b> Certain <b>statewide testing programs</b>
When to register	At least <b>five weeks</b> before the test date.	At least <b>five weeks</b> before the test date.
For more information	<b>The College Board</b> <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<b>ACT Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>