

SAT vs ACT

VSAT

	SAT	vs.	ACT
When students typically take it	Spring of junior year and/or fall of senior year		Junior year and/or fall of senior year
Type of test	Designed to assess a student's ability to handle college-level material; important to know and practice test strategies and reasoning skills in order to score well		Designed to test knowledge and mastery of high school subject material; important to use knowledge and reasoning skills to score well
When it is administered	Seven times per year		Six times per year
Test structure	Ten sections: three critical reading, three math, three writing, and one experimental (masked to look like a regular section)		Four sections: English, math, reading, and science reasoning; experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only and is clearly experimental; optional fifth section on writing
Test content	Math: up to ninth grade geometry and Algebra II No science section Reading: sentence completions; short and long critical reading passages; reading comprehension with a stress on vocabulary; questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice		Math: up to trigonometry Science section Reading: four passages — one each on prose fiction, social science, natural science, and humanities; English section stresses grammar
Penalty for wrong answers	Yes		No
Scoring	200–800 per section, combined for a single total score Highest possible combined score: 2400		1–36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score Highest possible composite score: 36
Scores sent to schools	If a student requests that a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report will include scores received on every test taken.		A score-choice option allows students to choose which schools will receive their scores and which scores the schools will see.
Other uses	Scholarship purposes		Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs
When to register	At least five weeks before the test date		At least five weeks before the test date
Test dates and more information	The College Board www.collegeboard.com		ACT, Inc. www.act.org