

Which Test Should I take : Comparing ACT and SAT

You may perform better on one test than the other. Compare them to see which one will be best for you.

About the tests

1. **SAT:** The SAT is a 3 hour 50 minute exam (including an optional essay which takes 50 minutes), consisting of five sections: Reading, Writing, Math (with calculator), Math (no calculator), and Essay (optional).
 - a. The Mathematics assessment consists of a combination of multiple choice and "grid-in" questions on various math principles. These include numbers and operations, algebra and functions, geometry and measurement, and finally data analysis, statistics, and probability. The math section of the SAT is designed to be standard with that of a tenth grade student. Total of 80 minutes of testing.
 - b. The Evidence Based Reading and Writing section is 100 minutes of testing for command of relevant words in context, evidence in reading and writing, expression of ideas
 - c. Essay(Optional) 50 minutes evidence based essay.
2. **SAT scoring:** Each section of the SAT is scored on scale of 200-800, for a potential total of 1600.
 - a. You get one point for each correct answer.
 - b. Under the revised scheme points are NOT deducted for an incorrect answer
 - c. Scores are then "equated." "Equating makes it possible to make comparisons among test takers who take different editions of the test across different administrations." (collegeboard.org)
3. **ACT:** The ACT is divided into four multiple choice tests, with an optional fifth essay section.
 - a. English, 75 questions. Two subsections: Usage/Mechanics, Rhetorical Skills
 - b. Mathematics, 60 questions, each with 5 possible answer choices. Three subsections: Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and Coordinate Geometry, and Plan Geometry/Trigonometry.
 - c. Reading, 40 questions. Two subsections: Social Studies/Natural Sciences reading skills, and Arts/Literature reading skills.
 - d. Science reasoning, 40 questions. Evaluation and problem solving combining skills in interpreting written material, numerical data, and graphical presentation of data. Optional essay, which is very similar to the SAT in terms of length and writing ability.
4. **ACT scoring:** Each of the four sub tests, and then the composite score, is graded on a scale of 1 to 36.
 - a. No points are detracted for wrong answers.
 - b. The raw scores on each section are converted to "scale scores" which serves the same purpose as "equating" does for the SAT (see above).
 - c. The tests also provide sub scores for three of the four tests that do not relate to the final score, but provide some extra analysis of a students' strength or weakness.
5. **SAT Subject Tests:** One hour subject tests are offered in English Literature, World History, US History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math 1, Math 2, and some foreign languages (not Urdu).
 - a. Subject tests are more a direct test of your subject knowledge, and less "tricky."

6. **SAT Subject Test Scoring:** Each subject test is scored out of 800.
- A score of 750, for example, could be a relatively stronger score in one subject and weaker in another. Percentile comparisons for subject tests are available on the College Board website.

For more detailed comparisons of SAT 1 and ACT, and opinions:

www.princetonreview.com/sat-act.aspx

www.petersons.com/college-search/test-prep-act-sat.aspx

www.studypoint.com/ed/act-vs-sat chart

www.kaptest.com/college/act/about-the-act/act-vs-sat.html chart

www.kaptest.com/satactpractice Free SAT/ACT Combo Sample Test to help you assess each one, and free online full length SAT and ACT practice tests. Examine both, try out some sample tests and see which one you think will allow you to shine.

New SAT to ACT Concordance Table	
New SAT Total (400-1600)	ACT Composite Score
1600	36
1560-1590	35
1520-1550	34
1490-1510	33
1450-1480	32
1420-1440	31
1390-1410	30
1350-1380	29
1310-1340	28
1280-1300	27
1240-1270	26
1200-1230	25
1160-1190	24
1130-1150	23
1100-1120	22
1060-1090	21
1020-1050	20