SAT vs ACT

Compare the SAT to the ACT to learn the differences between the two tests.

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SAT

FORMAT

COMPUTER

SECTION ADAPTIVE

MODULE 1 → MODULE 2-EASY
MODULE 1 → MODULE 2-HARD

Difficulty of Module 2 depends on performance on Module 1.

QUESTION FORMAT

MULTIPLE CHOICE
4 answer choices

STUDENT-PRODUCED RESPONSE
Math section only

TIME PER QUESTION

READING & WRITING: 71s

MATH: 95s

SCORING

1600

Reading and Writing | **200-800**

Math | **200-800**

Total Score | **400-1600**

READING & WRITING PASSAGES

54 SHORT PASSAGES

1 question per passage

STRUCTURE

SAT

98 Questions | **2 hr 14 min**

64 min

- **Reading & Writing Module 1** — 32 min — 27 Questions
- **Reading & Writing Module 2** — 32 min — 27 Questions

10 min break

70 min

- **Math Module 1** — 35 min — 22 Questions
- **Math Module 2** — 35 min — 22 Questions

ACT

131 Questions | **2 hr 5 min**

2 hr 45 min with Science or Writing
3 hr 25 min with Science and Writing

- **English** — 50 Questions — **35 min**
- **Math** — 45 Questions — **50 min**

15 min break

- **Reading** — 36 Questions — **40 min**

ACT

FORMATS

PAPER

COMPUTER

OPTIONAL SCIENCE AND WRITING

SCIENCE
40 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS
40 minutes
Scoring: 1-36

WRITING
1 PROMPT WITH 3 PERSPECTIVES
40 minutes
Scoring: 2-12

QUESTION FORMAT

MULTIPLE CHOICE
4 answer choices

TIME PER QUESTION

ENGLISH: 42s

MATH: 67s

READING: 67s

SCORING

36

COMPOSITE SCORE | 1-36
(Average of English, Reading, and Math)

English | **1-36**

Reading | **1-36**

Math | **1-36**

ENGLISH AND READING PASSAGES

ENGLISH AND READING TESTS INCLUDE SOME SHORTER PASSAGES

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