



Differences between the SAT & ACT

SAT

Writing & Language: 44 ques. in 35 min.

Reading: 52 ques. in 65 min.

Math: 58 ques. in 80 min.

Practice exam: PSAT

Scoring: 200 – 800 / 400 - 1600

154 questions

Average score: 1000

Math: 20 questions without calculator, 25 min.
38 questions with calculator, 55 min.

Math $\frac{1}{2}$ of score

Arithmetic, Algebra & Geometry

ACT

English: 75 ques. in 45 min.

Reading: 40 ques. in 35 min.

Math: 60 ques. in 60 min.

Science: 40 ques. in 35 min.

Practice exam: PLAN

Scoring: 1-36

215 questions

Average score: 20

No calculator used

Math: $\frac{1}{4}$ of score

Also tests trigonometry,
imaginary numbers, advanced
geometric shapes, logarithms
More slightly advanced math
questions, testing greater
depth of questions and how to
apply mathematical knowledge

No science section

General Science section: No specific knowledge of a specific science area is needed. This section tests knowledge of how to interpret & apply data from charts, graphs, and experiments to answer the questions.

More time per problem. (1 min. 10 sec.)

Faster-paced and time-intensive. (49 sec. per problem)

Questions can be confusing although objectively easier

Questions are more straightforward although objectively harder

Essay: Optional. Evaluate an argument Review a fully written essay to decipher the evidence, reasoning elements & structure. 50 min

Essay: Optional. Develop an argument on a topic and support it. 40 min.

Colleges typically "Superscore" results

Some colleges will "Superscore" results and compute a new average

Similarities:

Identical grammatical and writing skills for the English/Writing/Language sections and the essays.

3-4 hours for testing.

Both test knowledge of math, English grammar & reading.

The tests are graded on a curve and your performance is scaled. Final score is based on how you score compared to everyone else.

Concepts, content and facts are similar for both exams. No penalty for guessing.