

ACT vs. SAT, At-A-Glance

Test Structure

ACT

English; Math; Reading; Science; Optional Essay

SAT

Reading, Writing, and Language; No-calculator Math; Calculator Math; Optional Essay

Duration

ACT

3 hours

SAT

2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay); 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

Reading section

ACT

5 passages: 40 questions, 35 minutes

SAT

3 long passages, 2 short passages: 52 questions, 65 minutes

Writing section

ACT

5 passages: 75 questions, 45 minutes

SAT

4 passages: 44 questions, 35 minutes

Math section

ACT

60 questions, 60 minutes; calculator is allowed

SAT

2 sections (only one allows the use of a calculator): 58 questions, 80 minutes

Essay section

ACT

Optional: 1 essay, 40 minutes

SAT

Optional: 1 essay, 50 minutes (During the 2021-22 school year, the SAT essay will no longer be offered, except when given as part of a state's accountability assessment program.)

Science section

ACT

None

SAT

40 questions, 35 minutes

Scoring

ACT

Scale of 1-36

SAT

Scale of 400-1600

Cost

ACT

Domestic students: \$63 (without essay), \$88 (with essay) International students: \$171.50 (without essay), \$196.50 (with essay)

SAT

\$55 excluding 'non-US regional fee'