

# COLLEGE TESTING ACT vs. SAT

## SAT

## ACT

How often administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
How is the test structured?	Ten section exam: three critical reading, three math, three writing and one experimental section is masked to look like a regular section	Five section exam: English, math reading, science, and writing (optional) the experimental section is added to tests on certain test dates only and is clearly experimental
Colleges	Usually required by selective schools	More popular in the Midwest
Writing Test	Mandatory	Optional
What is the test content?	<p><b>Math:</b> up to geometry and Alg. II.</p> <p><b>Critical Reading:</b> sentence completion, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> an essay and questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice</p>	<p><b>Math:</b> up to trigonometry</p> <p><b>Science:</b> charts, experiments</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> four passages, one each of prose fiction, social science, humanities, and natural science</p> <p><b>English:</b> stresses grammar</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> an essay</p>
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	YES	NO
How is the test scored?	200-800 per section, added together for a combined score – a <b>2400</b> is the highest possible combined score	1-36 for each section, averaged together for a composite score - a <b>36</b> is the highest possible composite score
Are all the scores sent to schools?	No. Beginning March 2009, students may elect to use Score Choice. Students may select which scores they send to colleges by test date for the SAT and by individual test for the SAT Subject Tests.	No. There is a “score choice” option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.
Are there other uses for the exam?	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs
Best time to register?	At least SIX weeks before the test date	at least FOUR weeks before the test date
Need more information?	College Board: <a href="http://collegeboard.com">collegeboard.com</a>	ACT: (319) 337-1000 <a href="http://ACTStudent.org">ACTStudent.org</a>
Calculator Allowed?	YES, see SAT calculator policy	YES, see ACT calculator policy