

(r)SAT vs. ACT | One Sheet



Features	New SAT	ACT
Widely accepted	All U.S. colleges	Almost all U.S. colleges
Major redesign	2016 SAT is based on the latest research on	No recent significant revisions.
Tests the vocabulary you'll use	Yes	Yes
Everyday math formulas provided	Yes	No
Essay is optional	Yes	Yes
Penalty for guessing	No	No
Resources	New SAT	ACT
Free daily practice questions	Yes, the free mobile app, Daily Practice for	Yes
Free comprehensive test practice	Yes, through Khan Academy®, with over	No
Free, downloadable practice tests	Yes	No
Mobile app that instantly scores paper tests	Yes, Daily Practice for the New SAT.	No
Testing time	3 hours	2 hours 55 minutes
Structure	3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional writing test
Number of questions	154	215
Time per question	1 minute, 10 seconds	49 seconds
Score range	Composite 400–1600 (SAT Essay: reported	Composite 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–
Test length and timing	Reading Test	Reading Test
Test days	7 times a year	6 times a year
Regular registration deadline	About 4 weeks before test day. You pay a	About 5 weeks before test day. You pay a
Late registration closes	About 11 days before test day	20+ days before test day
Test fees waived for eligible students	Yes	Yes
Waivers cover late fees	Yes	No
Four college application fee waivers sent	Yes	No