

ACT and Redesigned SAT Test Comparison

	ACT	Redesigned SAT
Purpose	Assessment Test: measures what you know (like a cumulative final)	Aptitude Test: measures your ability to use what you know to solve problems
Content	<p>English: grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, style</p> <p>Math: algebra; coordinate and plane geometry; trigonometry (only 4 out of 60 questions)</p> <p>Reading Comprehension: arts, literature, social studies</p> <p>Science: reasoning questions based on reading passages</p> <p>Writing (optional): 30 minute student-written essay (required for UCs and some private colleges)</p>	<p>Critical Reading: Reading comprehension, sentence completions, and paragraph-length critical reading</p> <p>Math: Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, and data analysis</p> <p>Writing: Multiple choice questions (grammar and usage) and student-written essay</p>
Length of exam	2 hours 55 minutes (add 40 minutes for the essay)	3 hours (add 50 minutes for the essay)
How questions appear	No order of difficulty	In order of difficulty
Scoring method	Scores based on number of right answers only. <i>No penalty</i> for wrong answers	<i>No penalty</i> for wrong answers on the Redesigned SAT.
Scoring	1 – 36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score	Section scores are individual scores for the two main sections of the SAT (reading/writing and math). Maximum score on the SAT is 800+800=1600
Based on school curriculum	More	Less
Practice Test	PLAN: taken typically in fall of sophomore year	PSAT: taken typically in fall of junior year
Best time to take the real test	BEST: Spring of Junior year 2nd Best: Early fall of Senior year	BEST: Spring of Junior year 2nd Best: Early fall of Senior year
When you should register	At least 4 weeks before the test date	At least 6 weeks before the test date
Should you prepare for the test?	ABSOLUTELY (although the best preparation is to do your best in high school courses)	ABSOLUTELY
How to prepare	Free sample test from high school Counseling Center; on-line help from website below; test prep books for purchase	Free sample test from high school Counseling Center; on-line help from website below; test prep books for purchase
Cost (fee waivers available)	\$46.00 for ACT (no writing) \$62.50 for ACT plus writing <u>Late</u> Registration: add \$29.50	Regular Registration, SAT: \$46.00 SAT with Essay: \$60.00 <u>Late</u> Registration: add \$29.00
For more information	ACT www.actstudent.org (319) 337-1270	CollegeBoard www.collegeboard.com (866) 630-9305