

# ACT and Redesigned SAT Test Comparison

	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Redesigned SAT</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	Assessment Test: measures what you know (like a cumulative final)	Aptitude Test: measures your ability to use what you know to solve problems
<b>Content</b>	<b>English:</b> grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, style <b>Math:</b> algebra; coordinate and plane geometry; trigonometry (only 4 out of 60 questions) <b>Reading Comprehension:</b> arts, literature, social studies <b>Science:</b> reasoning questions based on reading passages <b>Writing (optional):</b> 30 minute student-written essay (required for UCs and some private colleges)	<b>Critical Reading:</b> Reading comprehension, sentence completions, and paragraph-length critical reading <b>Math:</b> Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, and data analysis <b>Writing:</b> Multiple choice questions (grammar and usage) and student-written essay
<b>Length of exam</b>	2 hours 55 minutes (add 40 minutes for the essay)	3 hours (add 50 minutes for the essay)
<b>How questions appear</b>	No order of difficulty	In order of difficulty
<b>Scoring method</b>	Scores based on number of right answers only. <i>No penalty for wrong answers</i>	<i>No penalty</i> for wrong answers on the Redesigned SAT.
<b>Scoring</b>	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
<b>Based on school curriculum</b>	More	Less
<b>Practice Test</b>	<b>PLAN:</b> taken typically in fall of sophomore year	<b>PSAT:</b> taken typically in fall of junior year
<b>Best time to take the real test</b>	<b>BEST:</b> Spring of Junior year <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Best:</b> Early fall of Senior year	<b>BEST:</b> Spring of Junior year <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Best:</b> Early fall of Senior year
<b>When you should register</b>	At least 4 weeks before the test date	At least 6 weeks before the test date
<b>Should you prepare for the test?</b>	<b>ABSOLUTELY</b> (although the best preparation is to do your best in high school courses)	<b>ABSOLUTELY</b>
<b>How to prepare</b>	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
<b>Cost (fee waivers available)</b>	\$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
<b>For more information</b>	ACT <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> (319) 337-1270	CollegeBoard <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a> (866) 630-9305