<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Assessment Test: measures what you know (like a cumulative final)</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Test: measures your ability based on the latest research on the skills colleges value most.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English: grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, style</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Reading: measures skill in reading and comprehending texts across a wide range of genres, purposes, subjects and complexities (multiple choice)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math: algebra; coordinate and plane geometry; trigonometry (only 4 out of 60 questions)</td>
<td>Math: measures algebra, problem solving and data analysis and advanced math (calculator portion and no-calculator portion. Multiple choice and student produced responses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Comprehension: arts, literature, social studies</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Writing: measures knowledge and skills in revising and editing tests widely varied in purpose, subject, and complexity (multiple choice and passages)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science: reasoning questions based on reading passages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (optional): 30 minute student-written essay (required for UCs and some private colleges)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of exam</td>
<td>3 hours + 40-minute essay (optional)</td>
<td>3 hours + 50-minute essay (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How questions appear</td>
<td>No order of difficulty</td>
<td>In order of difficulty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoring method</td>
<td>Scores based on number of right answers only. No penalty for wrong answers</td>
<td>Scores based on number of right answers only. No penalty for wrong answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoring</td>
<td>1 – 36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score</td>
<td>400-1600 each for Critical Reading, Math and Writing (Essay is reported in 3 dimensions, each 2-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Test</td>
<td>PLAN: taken typically in fall of sophomore year</td>
<td>PSAT: taken typically in fall of junior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best time to take the real test</td>
<td>BEST: Spring of Junior year</td>
<td>BEST: Spring of Junior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Best: Early fall of Senior year</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Best: Early fall of Senior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When you should register</td>
<td>At least 4 weeks before the test date</td>
<td>At least 6 weeks before the test date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should you prepare for the test?</td>
<td>ABSOLUTELY</td>
<td>ABSOLUTELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to prepare</td>
<td>Free sample test from high school Counseling Center; on-line help from website below; test prep books for purchase</td>
<td>Free sample test from high school Counseling Center; on-line help from website below; free mobile app, free Khan Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost (fee waivers available)</td>
<td>$50.50 for ACT (no writing)</td>
<td>$49.50 for SAT (no essay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$67.00 for ACT (with writing)</td>
<td>$64.50 for ACT (with essay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Registration: add $30.00</td>
<td>Late Registration: add $30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For more information</td>
<td>ACT <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> (319) 337-1270</td>
<td>CollegeBoard <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a> (866) 630-9305</td>
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</tbody>
</table>