

ACT[®] vs. REDESIGNED SAT[®]

HOW DO THEY COMPARE?

The SAT is undergoing its biggest change in 30 years. The redesigned SAT is expected to debut in March of 2016 and will be more similar to the current ACT. No matter which test you decide to take, our experts are ready to help you achieve your best score.

SIMILARITIES:

Exam length: Without the essay, both the ACT and redesigned SAT are about 3 hours long.

Test timing: Both have relatively long, individual tests, ranging from 35 to 65 minutes.

Essay: On each test, the essay is optional and scored separately.

Wrong answer penalty: Neither test has it.

Math content: You'll need to know advanced math concepts such as trigonometry for both exams.

Grammar: Both the ACT and redesigned SAT test punctuation.

Charts and graphs: On the ACT, you'll see them only in the Science Reasoning section. On the redesigned SAT, they appear throughout the test.

DIFFERENCES:

Math: The ACT presents more straightforward questions like what you would see in school while the redesigned SAT requires solving multi-step problems.

Calculators: On the redesigned SAT, calculators are allowed only in one of the two math sections.

Reading: The redesigned SAT has some paired questions in which one of the questions will ask you to cite a specific part of a passage to support your answer choice to the previous question.

Scoring: The ACT Composite score is the **average** of your score across 4 tests: English, Math, Reading and Science. The SAT Composite score is the **total** of 2 tests: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing & Language.



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SEE BACK FOR A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON
OF THE ACT AND REDESIGNED SAT



CHECK OUT HOW THE TWO TESTS MATCH UP

	ACT	Redesigned SAT
TESTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> English Math Reading Science Optional Writing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Math Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Writing and Language Optional Essay
SCORING	1 to 36 for each test, averaged together for a composite score of 1 to 36 Starting in 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM score based on Math and Science Reasoning English language score “Progress Toward Career Readiness” score “Text Complexity Progress Indicator” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composite score (400–1600) 2 test scores for Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (200-800 each) 3 sub-test scores (10–40) 7 sub-scores (1–15) 2 cross-test scores
LENGTH	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 30 minutes (with essay)	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)
WRONG ANSWER PENALTY	None	None
FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper and pencil ACT is testing a computer-based option for district-wide in-school testing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper and pencil College Board is developing a computer-based option.
READING CONTENT	The Reading Test measures reading comprehension. You'll read several passages and answer questions that show your understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is directly stated Statements with implied meanings 	Reading Test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more sentence completions Passages drawn from historical or scientific documents May include informational graphics
GRAMMAR CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Parts of speech Conventional usage of English 10-15 grammar rules tested on passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Parts of speech Conventional usage of English 10-15 grammar rules tested on passages Some questions will involve graphics
MATH CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arithmetic Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Trigonometry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application-based, multi-step questions Higher-level math, including trigonometry One “extended-thinking” grid-in question (worth 4 points) Core math competencies (translating math into English and English into math)
THE ESSAY	The essay is optional (30 minutes, timed) Write about perspectives on an issue relevant to high school students. Starting in 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on a complex issue. Scores in four areas: ideas and analysis, development and support, organization and language use. 	The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed) Analyze how an author of a substantial passage (600-700 words) builds an argument

The new test on the block.

To learn more about the redesigned SAT, visit PrincetonReview.com/SATChanges.

Still have questions? We've got answers.

Call us today to schedule your free consultation. We'll help you determine your core strengths and preferred test-taking approach to find out which test is a better fit for you.

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