

THE ACT **VS** THE SAT

KEY DIFFERENCES

- Generally more straightforward; presents content in a more familiar format
- Longer sections and tighter intervals
- With proper guidance, students can develop smart testing strategies that will lead to increase in score
- Students that struggle with abstract or tricky language might benefit from the ACT's direct format of questioning
- Science section
- Writing optional but strongly recommended

- Greater emphasis on abstract reasoning and vocabulary
- SAT has its own language and can feel "tricky" in comparison to traditional high school exams
- With proper guidance, students can develop "tricks" and testing strategies that can raise score
- Students that struggle with self-pacing may benefit from the time-pacing of the SAT sections
- NO science section
- Writing optional but recommended

TIMING & SCORING

2h 55m
Overall Time

| | | |
|------|-----|---------|
| 1-36 | 35m | Reading |
| 1-36 | 45m | English |
| 1-36 | 60m | Math |
| 1-36 | 35m | Science |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Reading | 65m | 200 - 800 points |
| Writing | 35m | |
| Math (No Calculator) | 25m | 200 - 800 points |
| Math (Calculator) | 55m | |

3h
Overall Time

1 - 36 | **TOTAL POINTS**

TOTAL POINTS | 400 - 1600

TIME PER QUESTION

53s
Reading

36s
English

60s
Math

TIME PER QUESTION

75s
Reading

48s
Writing

83s
Math



818-519-2565



www.knowledgeworx4college.com

MATH

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

ACT
60

SAT
58

TOTAL TIME



NUMBER OF SECTIONS

ACT

1

SAT

2

TIME PER QUESTION

ACT

60s

SAT

83s

FORMULAS

On the **ACT**, there are no formulas for students to reference

The **SAT** provides common formulas for students in a reference table

The **ACT** allows calculators for all Math sections.

The **SAT** has one **NO CALCULATOR** section and one calculator section.



On the **SAT** Math section, students have **45** multiple choice questions and **13** student-produced response questions (i.e., grid-in questions).



GEOMETRY

The ACT emphasizes Geometry more than the SAT, which is focused on Algebra, word problems, and questions which require the student to synthesize information from tables and charts into their calculations.

ACT **23%**

SAT **6%**

READING

TOTAL TIME



NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

ACT
40

SAT
52

TIME PER QUESTION

ACT

53s

SAT

75s

VOCABULARY

What percent of questions test vocabulary?

ACT

8%

SAT

17%

Do the Reading sections have GRAPHS AND CHARTS?

ACT



No, only on the
Science section

SAT



Yes, relating to
two passages

PASSAGE COMPLEXITY

ACT

22

Avg. words
per sentence

26

Peak words
per sentence

11.5

Avg. Grade
Level*

9-14

Grade Level
Fluctuation

SAT

25

39

13.5

11-16

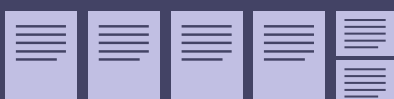
NUMBER OF PASSAGES

ACT
4



COMPARISON

SAT
5



COMPARISON

TOPICS COVERED

- Prose / Fiction
- Social Science
- Humanities
- Natural Science

- Literature
- History / Soc. Studies (2)
- Science (2)



818-519-2565



www.knowledgeworx4college.com

WRITING / ENGLISH

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

ACT
75

SAT
45

TIME PER QUESTION

ACT

36s

SAT

48s

VOCABULARY

What percent of questions test vocabulary?

ACT
3%

SAT
7%

TOTAL TIME



Do the Reading sections have **GRAPHS AND CHARTS?**

ACT



No, except for the Science section

SAT



Yes, concerning two passages

GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS

ACT

51%

49%*

SAT

45%

55%*

*The difference between 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT does not seem big, but, in practice, it is a significant difference since the questions on the SAT require a more comprehensive understanding of the passage.

PASSAGE COMPLEXITY

ACT
18



SAT
22

Average words per sentence

AVERAGE GRADE LEVEL*

ACT

10

13

SAT

*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment



818-519-2565



www.knowledgeworx4college.com