What you need to know now about the SAT and ACT.

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For a Copy of Today’s PPT

Hold your phone’s camera in front of the image
Which test does this statement represent?

- Content-based test

Both
Which test does this statement represent?

- Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section (optional)

SAT
Which test does this statement represent?

- Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)

ACT
Which test does this statement represent?

- Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving

SAT
Yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges. However, some colleges require or recommend that students submit all scores. Students should review the score-reporting policy of each college to which they plan to apply.

BOTH
Which test does this statement represent?

- Arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided

ACT
Which test does this statement represent?

- No – you do not lose points for incorrect answer

BOTH
The SAT Suite...

- **PSAT™ 8/9**: sets readiness baseline
- **PSAT/NMSQT® and PSAT™ 10**: allow check-in on student progress
- **SAT®**: connects students to college

Critical Reading 1: 25 minutes
Critical Reading 2: 20 minutes
Critical Reading 3: 20 minutes
Math 1: 25 minutes
Math 2: 25 minutes
Math 3: 20 minutes
Experimental Section: 25 minutes
Writing 1: 25 minutes
Writing 2: 10 minutes
Essay: 25 minutes

Total test time = 3:45
New SAT March, 2016-

Total test time = 3:00
(3:50 With Essay.)
Format of the SAT

SAT

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

Reading

Writing and Language

Math

(no-calculator and calculator portions)
New SAT Scoring

- Scaled score 200-800 per section.
- Overall score is the sum of reading/writing and math sections. A perfect score is 1600.
- One raw point for each correct answer.
- Scales to around 10 points on final score.
- Multiple choice questions have four answers.
- No penalty for incorrect answers.
- Essay is optional and is scored separately.
• Reading focuses on more contemporary speeches, passages, and texts, plus the addition of graphs and charts to interpret and analyze.
• Sentence Completion section is eliminated. Any vocabulary tested is in the context of a reading passage.
• Around 50-60 questions to answer in 65 minutes.
SAT Writing and Language:

- Students read a short passage containing around a dozen underlined words and phrases to review.
- If students believe an underlined word or phrase is correct, “A) NO CHANGE” is an answer. The other three answers reflect a change or improvement over the underlined word/phrase.
- About four passages to read in total with 40-50 questions to answer in 35 minutes.
- Tests students’ knowledge of grammar, punctuation, usage, and rhetorical skills.
SAT Writing - Essay

• Essay becomes optional and is offered at the end of the test.
• Students are given 50 minutes to read and review an historical document and then answer a prompt. (Similar to an AP exam.)
• Scores range from a 2 to a 12 and are reported from rest of SAT exam.
SAT Math

• Math
  – Two sections. A non-calculator section (35”) and a calculator section (55”)
  – Covers HS math through Algebra I & II, Geometry, and a little Pre-Calculus.
  – Problems range from simple calculations to multi-step word problems.
  – Multiple choice and grid-in questions.
During a sale, Peter bought a smart phone from a store at 30% off the displayed price, $P$.

The total amount Peter paid was $d$ dollars, which included 6% sales tax on the discounted price. Which of the following represents $d$ in terms of $P$?

A.) $0.76P$  B.) $0.742P$  C.) $0.74P$  D.) $0.24P$
# SAT Scores - Mean Scores in Recent Years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EBRW</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>1068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>1059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland -</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>1058</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** The College Board
# SAT Score Conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>980</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1080</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1270</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: The College Board
The ACT System

**ACT Academy™**
Use this blended learning solution to create lesson plans, assign homework, and give quizzes—driven by free resources personalized to student learning gaps at all points along the journey.

**ACT® Aspire**
Assess students' academic skills before, during, and after instruction with a longitudinal assessment system that predicts scores for PreACT and the ACT.

**PreACT® 8/9**
Set a baseline for students before high school, provide early ACT test practice, and get predicted PreACT and ACT scores with just one test.

**PreACT®**
Provide a powerful simulated testing experience for the ACT test with a predicted ACT score and data to prepare students for life after high school.

**The ACT®**
Assess students' college readiness with a college reportable score and data to inform teaching and learning in your classrooms.
The ACT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th># of Questions</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>45 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Reasoning</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay (optional)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Test Time: 2:55 – 3:25
ACT Scoring

• 1 raw point for each correct answer
• No penalty for incorrect answers
• No penalty for omitted questions
• Scaled scores range from 1-36
• Composite score is the average of individual scores of 4 subtests
• The optional essay is scored separately and ranges from 2-12
Breaking Down the ACT

• ACT English
• ACT Math
• ACT Reading
• ACT Science
• ACT Writing-optional
What is it Really Testing?

• Usage/Mechanics – 40 Questions
  – Punctuation – 10 questions
  – Grammar and Usage – 12 questions
  – Sentence Structure – 18 questions

• Rhetorical Skills – 35 Questions
  – Style – 12 questions
  – Organization – 11 questions
  – Strategy – 12 questions
Math

- Math skills from Basic Math through Trigonometry
- There is no order of difficulty within the Math section of the ACT
ACT Reading: What is it Really Testing?

- One passage from each area:
  - Prose fiction – short story or excerpt from longer fictional work
  - Humanities – art, music, literature, theatre
  - Social Studies – History, politics, sociology
  - Natural science – Biology, chemistry, astronomy

- Followed by 10 questions
Science

- 7 Science passages followed by 5-7 questions each
- Topics include biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy, meteorology, physics
- 3 types: Data Representation, Research Summary, Conflicting Hypotheses
ACT Writing: What is it really testing?

- There is no “right” or “wrong” answer
- Take a strong stand
- Developed essay to include: opening paragraph, body paragraphs, closing paragraph
- 3 “academic” examples
- Avoid hypothetical examples
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Science</th>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>20.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>21.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>22.2</td>
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**SOURCE:** The College Board
ACT vs. New SAT

• Scores based on total correct answers.
• Scaled between 1-36 per section.
• Overall score is average of 4 sections.
• “Score Choice”.
• Essay optional.

• Scores based on total correct answers.
• Scaled between 200-800 per section.
• Overall score is sum of sections.
• “Score choice”.
• Essay optional.
Which Test to Take

Factors to Consider

• Take a practice test for each
• Testing schedule
• Historically, the SAT has favored strong verbal students while the ACT seems to favor strong math and science students.
What is a Good Score?

• Depends on the following:
  – The school to which you are applying.
  – The scores of the other students applying to that school.
  – How cheaply you want to go to that school.

• A list of SAT and ACT scores for popular schools can be found at https://www.compassprep.com/collegeprofiles-new-sat/.
College Admissions Factors

- Grades in CP courses: 74%
- SAT/ACT: 59%
- Overall Grades: 54%
- Class Rank/Percentile: 31%
- Essay: 23%
- Interview: 9%
- Work/Activities: 8%
## Why Entrance Exams are Important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Colleges</th>
<th>For Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creates level playing field</td>
<td>Chance to make up for sub-par effort in high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusts for grade inflation</td>
<td>Chance to earn scholarships $$$$$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps predict student success</td>
<td>Chance to separate one student from another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>