

SAT vs. ACT

SAT

vs.

ACT

Reasoning test

Type of Test

Content-based test

Critical reading, math, writing

Test Format

English, math, reading, science writing

Reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, math

Content Covered

Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, writing

Tricky, questions can be phrased in ways that make them difficult to decipher

Test Style

Straight-forward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher

Math, critical reading and writing scores will each range between a 200-800; perfect composite score is 2400

Scoring

English, math, reading and science scores will each range between 1-36; perfect composite score is 36

Yes- you lose $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point for incorrect answers (except on the grid in math section)

Penalty for wrong answers?

No- you do not lose points for incorrect answers

Yes- you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges

Score Choice?

Yes- you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to Submit to colleges

Questions increase in difficulty as you move through a section

Difficulty levels

Difficulty level of questions is random

Arithmetic, data analysis, Algebra I & II, functions, Geometry; formulas provided in test booklet

Math levels

Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, functions, geometry, Trigonometry; no formulas provided

With private schools and schools on east and west coasts; accepted by every four-year college in US

Tends to be more popular?

With public schools and schools in Midwest and South; accepted by every four year-college in US

www.collegeboard.com

More information

www.act.org