**Comparing the ACT and SAT\* at a Glance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ACT** | **SAT** |
| **Accepted at all U.S. colleges and universities** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Access to English learner supports at every national test date** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **The ACT mathematics section is 25% of the test and 25% of score.** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Purchase your test answer key to help you prepare for future tests (Test Information Release TIR)** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Allows for paper/pencil testing as well as online** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **No penalty for guessing** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Free daily practice questions** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Free comprehensive practice test** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Test fees waived for eligible students**   | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Students registering with a fee waiver are eligible for college application fee waivers** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Free score reports** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **All tests 1 hour or less** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Measures what you learn in high school** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **ACT/SAT Superscore** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **You get a STEM score to provide to colleges** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Optional writing test to showcase critical writing and communication skills to colleges and universities** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Testing time** | 2 hours 55 minutes + Optional 40-minute essay   | 2 hours 14 minutes |
| **Structure** | 4 tests + optional writing test | 2 tests |
| **Longest test** | 1 hr | 1 hr 10 min |
| **Shortest test** | 35 minutes | 1 hour 4 minutes |
| **Score range** | **Total Score = 1-36** Each section uses a scale of **1-36**. Your total score is the **average** of your four section scores. The optional Writing section uses [a scale of 2-12](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/writing-test-scores.html) and does not count toward your final score. Students can also get an ACT Superscore.  | **Total Score = 400-1600**The Reading and Writing and Math sections each use a scale of **200-800** and are combined for a total score.  |

*\*As more information becomes available on changes to the ACT test, this chart will be updated to reflect the most up-to-date information. All SAT information has been recently sourced from College Board's website.*