

# What is the ACT?

Many colleges require scores from the ACT or SAT tests as a part of the admissions process. Your ACT score is a key component of your college applications.

## ACT Basics

### ACT Length

2 hrs, 55 minutes (plus 40 minutes if taking ACT with writing)

### ACT Sections

- English
- Math
- Reading
- Science
- Writing (optional)

US without Writing: \$50.50 USD

US with Writing: \$67.00 USD

Non-US without Writing: \$150.00 USD

Non-US with Writing: \$166.50 USD

Max. Score  
Avg. Score

36  
21

## About the ACT

The ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. It is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test administered by ACT, Inc.

The purpose of the ACT test is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admissions officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes you took in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important ACT scores are in the college application process varies from school to school.

Overall, the higher you score on the ACT and/or SAT, the more options for attending and paying for college will be available to you.

## When should I take the ACT?

Most high school students take the ACT, SAT, or both during the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year. It's important to leave time to re-take the test if you need to raise your score before you apply to college. The ACT exam is offered nationally every year in September, October, December, February\*, April, June, and July\*. View all upcoming ACT test dates.

\*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February or July test dates. No test centers are scheduled in California for the July test date.

## What is on the ACT?

There are four ACT sections:

- English
- Reading
- Math
- Science

The ACT also includes an optional 40-minute Writing Test. Some colleges may require that you complete the ACT Writing Test. You can confirm each college's admissions policies on the school website or on our school profiles.

### How long is the ACT?

The ACT is 2 hours and 55 minutes long. If you choose to take the ACT with Essay, the test will be 3 hours and 35 minutes long.

### How is the ACT scored?

Each section of the ACT is scored on a 1 to 36 point scale. Your composite ACT score is the average of your four section scores, also on a scale from 1 to 36. If you take the ACT with Writing Test, you will receive a separate score on the Writing Test.

### Should I take the ACT or the SAT?

Most colleges and universities will accept scores from either the SAT or ACT, and do not favor one test over the other. That said, college-bound students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT. Changes made to the SAT in 2016 have made it easier than ever to prep for both tests concurrently—and earn competitive scores on both! The best way to decide if taking the SAT, ACT, or both tests is right for you is to take a timed full-length practice test of each type. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit. Try our QUIZ: SAT, ACT, or Both? to learn more

### How do I register for the ACT?

Registration deadlines fall approximately five weeks before each ACT test date. You can get registration materials from your school counselor, or you can register online on the ACT website.

### How can I prep for the ACT?

We can help. We have ACT prep solutions for every student and every budget.

# SAT vs ACT: Which Test is Right for You?

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT tests. The SAT and ACT generally cover the same topics. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Most colleges do not prefer one test over the other.

## Compare the ACT and SAT tests

- ACT includes a Science section
- SAT includes one SAT Math Section on which you may not use a calculator

	SAT	ACT
<b>Why Take It</b>	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
<b>Test Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading</li><li>• Writing &amp; Language</li><li>• Math</li><li>• Essay (Optional)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li><li>• Math</li><li>• Reading</li><li>• Science Reasoning</li></ul> <p>Essay (Optional)</p>
<b>Length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 hours (without essay)</li><li>• 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)</li><li>• 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)</li></ul>
<b>Reading</b>	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
<b>Science</b>	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (your specific science knowledge)
<b>Math</b>	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arithmetic</li><li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li><li>• Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis</li></ul>	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arithmetic</li><li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li><li>• Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability &amp; Statistics</li></ul>
<b>Calculator Policy</b>	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
<b>Essays</b>	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
<b>How It's Scored</b>	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

## Should I Take the ACT or SAT?

Students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT. Changes made to the SAT in 2016 have made it easier than ever to prep for both tests concurrently — and earn competitive scores on both!

The best way to decide if taking the SAT, ACT, or both tests is right for you is to take a timed full-length practice test of each type. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit. Try our [QUIZ: SAT, ACT, or Both?](#) to learn more.

Test Date	Test	Registration	Late Registration	Multiple Choice Scores Available
July 14, 2018	ACT (Not Offered in CA and NY)	June 15, 2018	June 22, 2018	July 23 - August 6, 2018
August 25, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests	July 27, 2018	August 15, 2018	September 18, 2018
September 8, 2018	ACT	Aug 10, 2018	August 26, 2018	September 18 - October 2, 2018
October 6, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests	September 7, 2018	September 26, 2018	October 19 - 25, 2018
October 27, 2018	ACT	September 28, 2018	October 14, 2018	November 13 - 27, 2018
November 3, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests	October 5, 2018	October 24, 2018	November 16 - 22, 2018
December 1, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018	December 14 - 20, 2018
December 8, 2018	ACT	November 2, 2018	November 19, 2018	December 18, 2018 - January 1, 2019
February 9, 2019	ACT	January 11, 2019	January 18, 2019	February 19 - March 5, 2019

Test Date	Test	Registration	Late Registration	Multiple Choice Scores Available
March 9, 2019	SAT	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019	March 22 - 28, 2019
April 13, 2019	ACT	March 8, 2019	March 25, 2019	April 23 - May 7, 2019
May 4, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests	April 5, 2019	April 24, 2019	May 17 - 23, 2019
June 1, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests	May 3, 2019	May 22, 2019	July 10, 2019
June 8, 2019	ACT	May 3, 2019	May 20, 2019	June 18 - July 2, 2019
July 13, 2019	ACT (Not Offered in CA and NY)	June 14, 2019	June 24, 2019	July 23 - August 6, 2019

## 6 FREE Resources for ACT / SAT Test Prep

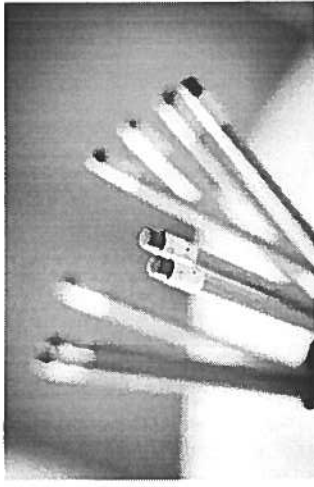
There's no doubt about it—the ACT and SAT are incredibly important tests. With so much riding on your score—college admittance, scholarships, potential jobs or internships, etc.—you'll want to be as ready as possible when test day comes.

And sure, there are lots of options for prep out there, like tutors, online courses, practice tests, prep books, and video lectures, but all of those can get expensive, and sometimes they aren't as convenient as you need them to be.

Never fear! This post will shine the spotlight on some valuable ACT/SAT test prep resources that are helpful, convenient, user-friendly, smart, and (best of all) completely *free*.

### ACT/SAT Test Prep Online Resources

#### 1. [Khanacademy.com](http://Khanacademy.com)



This fantastic site allows users to view tutorials, answer practice questions, create flashcards, and so much more in preparation for the ACT or SAT. The course is customized and adapts based on the user's skill level and keeps track of what they've studied and how well they're doing. There is even immediate feedback for every incorrect answer on a practice test, so the user can learn from their mistake and push forward towards a better score.

It has features from a vocabulary builder to a study plan email system. Every aspect of the site is designed to help students prepare to the best of their abilities. One user commented, "I couldn't believe this when my friend told me that I can study for SAT using the computer. But now after studying something I can say that it is really helpful. THANK YOU very much for making this cool website."

## **2. Kaplan Test Prep**



Source: Flickr user [Alberto G.](#)

Kaplan offers students a wealth of educational help in the form of tutoring and comprehensive courses, but they also offer this gem – a *free* online SAT or ACT practice test with a score review. By registering for one of the online test dates, students can gain a valuable look into what their chosen test will feel like.

Kaplan also has several informational sessions where students and parents alike can ask all of their questions about the ACT, SAT, PSAT, and even college applications.

## **3. PrepFactory**



World Bank Photo Collection via [Flickr](#)

This awesome site offers a revolutionary and unique take on test prep. By implementing experience points (XP) and a level-up system, PrepFactory engages with students and makes the studying process not only rewarding, but fun. Students can earn XP by watching videos, taking practice tests, and answering questions correctly.

PrepFactory focuses on two things: quality and convenience. They select the best instructors and are dedicated to ensuring the student has an easy and worthwhile experience using their site.

#### **4. Collegeboard.com**



It is one-stop-shopping (with a grand total of costing you \$0.00) for any and all questions you have about the ACT/SAT. With a comprehensive breakdown of the tests, how they're graded, guides to each section, and strategies, SparkNotes is a great tool to use.

In addition to all that info, the site also offers SAT subject quizzes, tips and tricks for both tests, sample questions, and a thorough guide to just about every aspect of the tests you can think of.

#### **5. ACT / SAT Websites**

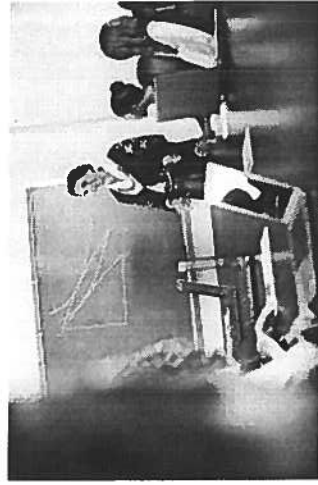




What better place to learn all you can about the entrance exams than their very own websites? ACT takers can learn about test tips, read descriptions of the subjects tested, view sample questions, and browse through a downloadable booklet that contains a practice test, scoring key, test info, and more. ACT also has links to other prep opportunities, some of which do cost, but the free resources are great help too.

For the SAT students, the official site offers study guides, study plans, practice tests, information on what you'll be tested on, and a breakdown of the SAT. Additionally, the SAT site provides a bunch of tips, tricks, strategies, and suggestions on how to study for, and take the entrance exam.

## **6. American Youth Academy SAT Prep Class with Sylvan**



AYA offers ACT/SAT review sessions for materials you maybe haven't covered in a while; it's always a good idea to take advantage of these sessions to dust off and polish those skills. The review sessions allow students to take notes, practice, study with peers, and ask the teachers clarifying questions.

Hopefully, one of the very cost-effective entries on this list has inspired you to take the bull by the horns and get ready for that entrance exam. Whether you're taking the ACT or SAT — study hard, prep well, and good luck!

Check out how your ACT/SAT scores affect your acceptance. Stop by Sr. Sara's office for any questions.