

# SAY YES TO THE RIGHT TEST

ACT or SAT—which test is right for you? Here's what you need to know.



## What's on the test?

**ACT:** English, Math, Reading, Science and an optional Writing Test  
**SAT:** Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math, and an optional Essay



## Do wrong answers cost points?

**ACT:** No  
**SAT:** No



## How is it scored?

**ACT:** Composite score of 1–36 (1–36 in each test)  
**SAT:** Total score of 400–1600 (200–800 in each section)



## Which test is better?

Neither test is harder than the other, so the best test is the one you're most comfortable with. Try a **Free Practice Test** for each—your results will help you figure out what's right for you.



## How long is it?

**ACT:** 2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test)  
3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)  
**SAT:** 3 hours (without Essay)  
3 hours, 50 minutes (with Essay)



## Want all the details?

Check out our complete comparison chart on the reverse side.

## Free Consultation with Our Test Experts

Still not sure which test to take? Give us a call at **800-2Review (800-273-8439)**. We'll help determine your core strengths and test-taking approach.

For more info about the ACT and the SAT, visit [PrincetonReview.com](https://PrincetonReview.com).



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\*The Writing Test or Essay is optional on both tests, but may be required by many schools. Check with the schools you're applying to before opting out. Test names are the trademarks of their respective owners. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University. PRHSFL1612\_15

The  
**Princeton**  
Review®

# SAT® vs ACT®: By the Numbers

ACT	SECTIONS	SAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Optional Writing Test</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-Based Reading and Writing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading</li> <li>- Writing and Language</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Optional Essay</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composite score: 1-36</li> <li>• Section scores for English, Math, Reading and Science: 1-36 each</li> <li>• Writing Test: 2-12</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total score: 400-1600</li> <li>• Section scores for Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800</li> <li>• Essay: 2-8 for each of three categories</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test)</li> <li>• 3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)</li> </ul>		<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>• None</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two sections (English, Reading)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Passage-based grammar—including punctuation</li> <li>- Four reading passages in 35 minutes that are drawn from Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two sections (Reading Test, Writing and Language Test)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words</li> <li>- Five reading passages in 65 minutes that are drawn from significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts</li> <li>- Passage-based grammar—including punctuation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 60-minute section</li> <li>• Calculator allowed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arithmetic</li> <li>- Algebra I &amp; II</li> <li>- Geometry</li> <li>- Trigonometry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two sections totaling 80 minutes</li> <li>• Calculators are only allowed on one of the two sections               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arithmetic</li> <li>- Algebra I &amp; II</li> <li>- Data Analysis</li> <li>- Geometry/Trigonometry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Writing Test is optional (40 minutes, timed)</li> <li>• Students will need to write about perspectives on an issue relevant to high school students and evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on that issue; they will be scored on ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Essay is optional (50 minutes, timed)</li> <li>• Students will be provided with a substantial passage (600-700 words) and asked to analyze how the author built his or her argument; they will be scored on reading, writing and analysis</li> </ul>