

SAT vs. ACT Comparison

SAT	ACT
2400 point scale	36 point scale
3 hours & 45 minutes	3 hours & 25 minutes (with optional essay)
About 62 seconds per question	About 49 seconds per question
Minus ¼ point for wrong answers: no random guessing!	No penalty for wrong answers: answer every question!
Essay required – first section; 25 min.	Essay optional* – last section; 30 min.
Abstract essay topics (e.g. beliefs, values)	More practical essay topics (e.g. dress codes)
No science section	Science section
No trigonometry	Some trig and other higher-level math
Tricky math questions	More straightforward math questions
Vocabulary sentence completions	No vocabulary sentence completions
Dry reading passages	Even drier reading passages

Not sure which test to take or when to take them? MTAT offers free SAT and ACT practice tests with immediate scoring and feedback. Call our office for a free consultation from one of our test experts. We'll be happy to answer your questions and help you create a plan.

Nervous about the upcoming changes to the tests? MTAT offers free and unlimited return privileges for our courses allowing students to keep preparing at no additional cost. Our courses and curriculum will quickly respond to any changes and help you prepare accordingly.

*Many universities require the essay for admission. Read your prospective colleges' requirements carefully.