

THE ABC'S OF THE ACTS'S AND THE SAT'S

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The college entrance exam process can be a confusing one. Listed below are the two types of exams required by colleges. All colleges and universities will accept either test. There are some slight differences between the tests that may make it more advantageous to take one over the other. Typically in the Midwest most students take the ACT exam, so it is often easier to find test prep options for this test. In a public school the ACT is a part of the Prairie State Exams taken during the school day, but private school students need to take the tests on the nationally scheduled test dates which fall on Saturdays. Registration is done directly through each test company. Contact information is listed at the bottom of the chart.

ACT

SAT

SCORE COMPARISON CHART

	ACT	SAT	SCORE COMPARISON CHART	
			ACT	SAT
Test Length	3 hours, 25 minutes <i>(including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)</i>	3 hours, 45 minutes	36	2400
Test Structure	4 Test Sections (5 with the optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (Optional), Experimental Test (sometimes added and clearly labeled)	3 Sections: Critical Reading, Math, Writing (including the Essay)	35	2340
» Reading	Reading Comprehension—4 passages with 10 questions per passage	Reading Comprehension—short and long passages with questions Sentence Completion	34	2260
» Math	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, algebra II, and trigonometry	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and algebra II	33	2190
» Science	Analysis, interpretation, evaluation, basic content, and problem solving	Science not included	32	2130
» Essay	Last thing you do (optional): 30 minutes Not included in composite score	First thing you do: 25 minutes Factored into overall score	31	2040
Scoring	Composite score of 1–36, based on average of scores from 4 tests - 4 scores of 1–36 for each test - Plus optional Writing Test Score of 0–12	Total score out of 600–2400, based on adding scores from 3 subjects 3 scores of 200–800 for each subject Score of 0–12 for the Essay	30	1980
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers.	¼ point subtracted for each wrong answer. <i>(except for Math Grid-In questions)</i>	29	1920
Test Contact Information OUR CEEB CODE: 140-176	ACT, Inc. 1-319-337-1000 actstudent.org	The College Board 1-866-756-7346 collegeboard.com	28	1860
			27	1820
			26	1760
			25	1700
			24	1650
			23	1590
			22	1530
			21	1500
			20	1410
			19	1350
			18	1290
			17	1210
			16	1140
			15	1060
			14	1000
			13	900
			National Average ACT 20.9 SAT 1511	

When to take it ?

Spring of Junior Year allows time to retake before applications are due

Where to take it ?

The ACT will be given at ACS during the April and June test dates, otherwise local public high schools

How to Prepare?

Practice! Private tutoring companies such as Kaplan and Huntington, Online practice exams, Paper and pencil practice tests, various practice test books