

COMPARING THE TESTS: CURRENT SAT • DIGITAL SAT • ACT

	Current SAT	Digital SAT <i>Beginning March 2024</i>	Current ACT
Format & Length	4 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Reading • 1 Writing & Language • 2 Math 4 answer choices for multiple-choice Total time: 3 hrs ≈70 seconds/question	2 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Reading & Writing • 1 Math • Each section = 2 equal-length, separately timed “adaptive” modules • Short pause between modules 4 answer choices for multiple-choice Total time: 2 hrs 14 min ≈82 seconds/question	5 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 English • 1 Math • 1 Reading • 1 Science • 1 Essay (optional) 5 answer choices for math 4 answer choices for other sections Total time: 2 hrs 55 min (w/o essay) ≈49 seconds/question
Scoring	Combined score: 400-1600 (sum of first 2 scores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Writing: 200-800 • Math: 200-800 	Combined score: 400-1600 (sum of first 2 scores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Writing: 200-800 • Math: 200-800 “Adaptive”: Difficulty of module 2 – and, thus, the highest potential score – is determined by student performance on module 1	Composite score: 1-36 (average of first 4 scores): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English: 1-36 • Math: 1-36 • Reading: 1-36 • Science: 1-36 • Essay: 2-12
Reading	5 reading passages (700-750 words) 65 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 regular passages • 1 paired passage • 52 questions Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US & world literature • History & social studies • Science Includes informational graphics ≈75 seconds/question	Reading & Writing in one section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 modules @ 32 minutes • 27 questions/module, including 2 “experimental,” non-scored questions/module • Each reading or writing passage (25-150 words) is followed by one question Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature • Humanities • History & social studies • Science 	4 reading passages (700-900 words) 35 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 regular passages • 1 paired passage • 40 questions Content (always in this sequence): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prose fiction • Social science • Humanities • Natural Science ≈52½ seconds/question
Writing/ English	Revise & correct errors in 4 passages 35 minutes — 44 questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar & usage • Punctuation • Structure • Rhetoric Includes informational graphics ≈48 seconds/question	Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar & usage • Punctuation • Structure • Rhetoric Includes informational graphics ≈71 seconds/question	Revise & correct errors in 5 passages 45 minutes — 75 questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar and usage • Punctuation • Structure • Rhetoric ≈36 seconds/question

COMPARING THE TESTS: CURRENT SAT • DIGITAL SAT • ACT

	Current SAT	Digital SAT <i>Beginning March 2024</i>	Current ACT
Math	<p>Content (Algebra is King!):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry (< 10%) Trigonometry Problem-Solving & Data Analysis Statistics, Probability Emphasis on word problems & questions in real-world context <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes 45 multiple-choice questions 13 grid-in questions Math formulas provided 1st section: no calculator 2nd section: calculator OK <p>≈83 seconds/question</p>	<p>Content (Algebra is King!):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry & Trig (≈15%) Problem-Solving & Data Analysis Statistics, Probability Emphasis on word problems (shorter than paper-SAT word problems) & questions in real-world context <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 modules @35 minutes 22 questions/module, including 5-6 grid-in questions/module & 2 “experimental,” non-scored questions/module Math formulas provided Calculator allowed for both modules Built-in Desmos graphing calculator <p>≈95½ seconds/question</p>	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry (~25%) Statistics, Probability Trigonometry <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes 60 multiple-choice questions No math formulas provided Calculator allowed on all questions <p>• Questions more straight-forward than SAT and dSAT</p> <p>≈60 seconds/question</p>
The Digital SAT gives you approximately 60% more time/question than the ACT!			
Essay	<p>Optional essay discontinued in Spring of 2021</p>	<p>No essay (yet!)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Truly</i> optional (no one really requires it!) 40 minutes Read a background paragraph on a complex issue, analyze and evaluate 3 perspectives, create your own perspective
Science Reasoning	<p>No separate science section</p> <p>Science infused throughout test</p>	<p>No separate science section</p> <p>Science infused throughout test</p>	<p>Tests reasoning more than knowledge, and the ability to interpret tables, graphs, and charts in the context of topics from these fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Physics Chemistry Earth/Space Science <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 passages 40 questions 35 minutes