

# What you need to know about the SAT

## Notes

- ✓ No electronic devices allowed in test room (includes fitness band; smartwatch; music player).
- ✓ One break of 10 minutes after Reading section; one break of 5 minutes after Math—No Calculator section.
- ✓ Valid School ID and recent photo required.
- ✓ Fee Waivers available based on economic need. Students apply directly to College Board. Fee waiver also gives four free college application fee waivers, which could save a lot of money.

## Scoring

Students only receive points for correct answers, so there is no “guessing penalty”. Each section receives a score between 10-40. Evidence-Based Reading & Writing section scores are added and multiplied by 10; Math section score is multiplied by 20; both sections added for total score between 400-1600.

- ✓ Scores are available 4-5 weeks after the test date.
- ✓ 4 free score reports (8 if fee waiver). Other score reports are \$12 each.

## QAS

**Costs \$18**

Question and Answer Service (QAS) available for October, March and May test dates. This will give you the chance to see your actual test with correct answers and is a vital tool to effectively prepare for your next test.

## Superscore

“Superscore” refers to when admissions offices will take the best scores on different sections across multiple test dates to give the student their highest possible score.

Most colleges and universities will superscore your SAT so it is to your benefit to improve from test to test.

## Reading

 65 minutes  52 multiple choice questions

Passages from a work of literature, social science, science, and a U.S. founding document or “the great global conversation”.

Understanding words in context and analysis of ideas are tested in this section.

## Writing & Language

 25 minutes  44 multiple choice questions

Standard English conventions and expression of ideas are tested in this section.

Think of yourself as an editor tasked with improving someone else’s writing.

## Math

 80 minutes  20 questions with no calculator

 38 questions with a calculator

Two Math sections: Math—No Calculator and Math—Calculator.

Linear equations and systems, quantitative literacy and manipulation of complex equations are tested in this section.

## Essay *optional*

**Costs \$14.00**

 50 minutes

The essay asks you to read a lengthy passage and use evidence from the passage to explain how the author built an argument to persuade an audience. You do not need to make your own persuasive argument.

Essay section scores range between 6-24.

# What you need to know about the ACT

## Notes

- ✓ No electronic devices allowed in test room (includes fitness band; smartwatch; music player).
- ✓ One break of 10 minutes after Math section.
- ✓ Photo ID that matches photo on admission ticket required.
- ✓ No test centers in New York state for the February and July dates. No test centers in California for the July date.
- ✓ Fee Waivers available based on economic need—must apply through high school counselor.

## Scoring

Students only receive points for correct answers, so there is no “guessing penalty”. Each section receives a score between 1-36. The four scores are averaged to produce a composite score which is rounded up if necessary.

- ✓ Scores are available 2-8 weeks after the test date.
- ✓ 4 free score reports. Other score reports are \$12 each.

## TIR

**Costs \$20**

Test Information Release (TIR) is available for December, April and June test dates. This will give you the chance to see your actual test with correct answers and is a vital tool to effectively prepare for your next test.

## Superscore

“Superscore” refers to when admissions offices will take the best scores on different sections across multiple test dates to give the student their highest possible score. This rarely happens with the ACT, but colleges and universities will notice if you improve from test to test.

## English

 45 minutes  75 multiple choice questions

Passages are all text—no graphs or charts. Sentence structure, punctuation, usage, organization and general rhetorical skills are tested in this section.

## Math

 60 minutes  60 multiple choice questions

Knowledge of basic formulae is assumed. Number systems, algebra, functions, geometry, statistics & probability and modeling skills are all tested in this section.

## Reading

 35 minutes  40 multiple choice questions

Passages come from prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science. Ability to find supporting evidence within the text is the focus of this section.

## Science

 35 minutes  40 multiple choice questions

Questions are arranged in ascending order of difficulty. Passages will refer to specific experiments in chemistry, biology, physics and Earth science.

## Writing *optional*

**Costs \$16.50**

 40 minutes

The essay asks you to develop a perspective on an issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and one or more alternatives. Essay section scores range between 0-12.