

Nuts and Bolts of the SAT and ACT: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tests

Why Take the SAT and/or ACT?

- College Admissions
- Identify Strengths and Weaknesses
- Access to college level courses
- Scholarships
 - Bright Futures
- FCAT concordant scores
- Post-test tools
 - My College Quick Start
 - World of Work

How Do I Know Which Test to Take?

We recommend that you take BOTH tests if at all possible. Below are some factors to consider about each test.

Scoring

SAT

- Scores adjusted for guessing
- One point for each correct answer
- $\frac{1}{4}$ point is deducted for incorrect answer
- No points added or deducted for unanswered q's

ACT

- Scores based on number of right answers
- No penalty for guessing

Content

SAT

- Measures skills in three academic areas
- Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing Skills
- Scores range from 200 – 800 in each area
- SAT Subject Test scores not used to determine Postsecondary Readiness
- Designed to measure critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills

ACT

- Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science
- Curriculum based
- Scores range from 1 – 36 for each area
- Scores based on number of right answers
- No penalty for guessing
- 215 multiple choice questions

Timing and Structure

SAT

- ❖ Time - 3 hours and 45 minutes
- ❖ Structure:
English grammar, Math and Reading - 140 questions divided into 10 short sections

Writing - 1 (25 minute section)

ACT

- ❖ Time - 2 hours 55 minutes
3 hours 20 minutes
(ACT with writing 30 minute section - check with college to see if required)

English: 75 questions - 45 minutes

Mathematics: 60 questions - 60 minutes

Reading: 40 questions - 35 minutes

Science: 40 questions - 35 minutes

2011 – 2012 ACT TEST DATES/SAT TEST DATES

www.act.org / www.collegeboard.com

ACT COST: \$34.00* (Reading & Math); \$49.50 with Writing Option/ SAT COST \$49.00*

| ACT Test Date | Registration Deadline | (Late Fee Required) |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| October 22, 2011 | September 16, 2011 | September 17 – 30, 2011 |
| December 10, 2011 | November 4, 2011 | November 5 – 18, 2011 |
| February 11, 2012 | January 13, 2012 | January 14 – 20, 2012 |
| April 14, 2012 | March 9, 2012 | March 10 – 23, 2012 |
| June 9, 2012 | May 4, 2012 | May 5 – 18, 2012 |

| SAT Test Dates | Regular Registration Deadline (postmark by) | Late Registration (a fee applies) |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| October 1, 2011 | September 9, 2011 | September 21, 2011 |
| November 5, 2011 | October 7, 2011 | October 21, 2011 |
| December 3, 2011 | November 8, 2011 | November 20, 2011 |
| January 28, 2012 | December 30, 2011 | January 13, 2012 |
| March 10, 2012 | February 10, 2012 | February 24, 2012 |
| May 5, 2012 | April 6, 2012 | April 20, 2012 |
| June 2, 2012 | May 8, 2012 | May 22, 2012 |

*Fee waivers are available for eligible students – See your school counselor for details.