

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)

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.