

SAY YES TO THE RIGHT TEST

Comparing the ACT® | New SAT® | Current SAT

ACT	NEW SAT	CURRENT SAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Reading English Science Optional Essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Evidence-based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Writing and Language Optional Essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Critical Reading Grammar and Mandatory Essay
Composite score: 1–36 Section scores in English, Math, Reading and Science (1–36 each)	Total score: 400–1600 Section scores for Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200–800	Total score: 600–2400 Section scores: 200–800
2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 35 minutes (with essay)	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	3 hours, 45 minutes (with mandatory essay)
None	None	1/4 of a point (each)
2 sections (English, Reading) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passage-based grammar—including punctuation Reading passages drawn from Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences 	2 sections (Reading test, Writing and Language test) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words Reading passages will draw from significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts Passages will include complex structure and vocabulary Passage-based grammar—including punctuation 	2 sections (Critical Reading, Writing Skills) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary tested by sentence-completion questions; famous for “SAT words” that are often considered obscure Passage-based questions, with passages drawn from Social Sciences, Humanities and Literature
Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry Trigonometry	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry Trigonometry	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is optional (40 minutes, timed) Write about perspectives on an issue relevant to high school students Starting in Fall 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on a complex issue Scores in 4 areas: ideas and analysis, development and support, organization and language use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed) Students will be provided with a substantial passage (600–700 words) and asked to analyze how the author built his or her argument; students will need to understand the techniques the author used to write persuasively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required first section of the test (25 minutes, timed) Students respond to a short prompt by providing a personal opinion with supporting evidence.