



ACT® and SAT® Side by Side

ACT® and SAT® Assessments by Grade Level

	ACT	College Board (SAT)
Grade 3	ACT Aspire™	
Grade 4	ACT Aspire	
Grade 5	ACT Aspire	
Grade 6	ACT Aspire	
Grade 7	ACT Aspire	
Grade 8	ACT Aspire (PreACT™ is appropriate)	PSAT™ 8/9
Grade 9	ACT Aspire Early High School (PreACT is appropriate)	PSAT 8/9
Grade 10	ACT Aspire Early High School PreACT	PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 10
Grade 11	ACT	PSAT/NMSQT or SAT
Grade 12	ACT	SAT

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	ACT	Redesigned SAT
Background	<p>Capstone of the College and Career Readiness System</p> <p>Last assessment of vertically aligned system that tests students from grades 3–12</p>	<p>Anchor of the SAT Suite of Assessments, which focuses on the skills and knowledge that research shows are essential for college and career readiness</p> <p>Tightly aligned with PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT</p> <p>Redesigned SAT first available in Spring 2016 (see Comparison of SAT Specifications for more information)</p> <p>The following information pertains to the Spring 2016 redesigned SAT</p>
What is it?	College readiness assessment used, along with many other measures, by all colleges/universities to determine student admittance	College admission and readiness test Provides a measure of the skills students need to succeed in college
Which grades can take this?	<p>Grades 11–12</p> <p>Offered on certain days throughout the school year</p>	<p>Grades 11–12</p> <p>Offered on certain days throughout the school year</p>
Content and Format	<p>ACT has 5 tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Math 3. Reading 4. Science 5. Writing (optional) <p>Most students take the paper/pencil version of the ACT</p> <p>Spring 2015: Select states and districts will have their students take the ACT online</p> <p>Items of the first four tests are all multiple choice</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u></p> <p>With Writing Test: 3 hr. and 25 min. Without Writing Test: 2 hr. and 55 min.</p>	<p>Sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reading Test b. Writing and Language Test 2. Math 3. Essay (optional) <p>Currently administered via paper/pencil only</p> <p>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing items are all multiple choice</p> <p>Math has multiple-choice and student-produced response (grid-in) items</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u></p> <p>With Essay: 3 hr. and 50 min. Without Essay: 3 hr.</p>



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Costs	<p>ACT plus Writing: \$58.50 ACT: \$42.50</p> <p>No additional cost to report scores to up to four colleges. Score reports for additional colleges: \$12 each</p> <p>Fee waivers are available for the exam. Exam fees include reporting scores to up to four colleges.</p>	<p>SAT with Essay: \$57 SAT: \$45</p> <p>Fee waivers are available for the exam. Exam fees include reporting scores to up to four colleges. Each student who receives a fee waiver also receives an additional four flexible score reports to use at any time during high school.</p>
Overview of Scoring	<p><u>Test Scores:</u> Scores of each subject besides writing; scale ranges from 1–36</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Writing test scores calculated based on the overall impression of two readers who score the essay using a 1–6 score range; Writing scores do not affect the other subject areas or composite scores</p> <p><u>Subscores:</u> Scores of subcategories within each test; range from 1–18; subscores do not add up to test scores</p> <p><u>Composite Score:</u> Average of English, Math, Reading, and Science test scores; ranges from 1–36</p> <p>No penalty for wrong answers</p>	<p><u>Total Score:</u> Scale ranges from 400–1600; sum of two section scores</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Essay scores not included in the total or section scores</p> <p><u>Section Scores:</u> Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math score scales range from 200–800</p> <p><u>Essay Scores:</u> Scale ranges from 2–8 on each of three dimensions: Reading, Analysis, and Writing</p> <p><u>Test Scores:</u> Scale ranges from 10–40; Reading, Writing and Language, and Math test scores</p> <p><u>Cross-Test Scores:</u> Scale ranges from 10–40; Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science cross-test scores</p> <p><u>Subscores:</u> Scale ranges from 1–15; scores drawn from questions within each section (Reading, Writing and Language, and Math); questions can contribute to one or more subscores</p> <p>No penalty for guessing. Students receive 1 point for items answered correctly and 0 points for incorrect answers or items left unanswered</p> <p>See Scores of Redesigned SAT for more information</p>

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How are the scores used?	<p>If students take the Writing test, they will receive a <u>combined English/Writing score</u> along with their Writing subscore; the English test score is weighted as two-thirds and the Writing test score is weighted as one-third of the total combined score</p> <p><u>National Ranks</u>: Show percent of recent high school graduates who took the ACT and scored at or below the students' scores</p> <p>“Planning Your Education and Career” section helps students explore college majors and occupations specific to them</p> <p>See Your ACT Test Scores – Viewing, Sending, and Understanding Scores for more information</p>	<p>The redesigned SAT reports more scores than before. New to the SAT, the two cross-test scores and seven new subscores indicate how students tested in specific skill and knowledge areas</p> <p>All other exams in the suite (e.g., PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT) share the same score scale so the students' progress can be monitored across grades by the students themselves or educators through high school</p> <p>Students' scores will be reported with content-based interpretations of student performance</p>
Extra Resources	<p>ACT</p> <p>Understanding Your ACT Scores and What to Do Next Recorded Event (middle of webpage)</p> <p>Your ACT Test Scores – Viewing, Sending, and Understanding Scores</p>	<p>Meet the New SAT</p> <p>Comparison of SAT Specifications</p> <p>Scores of Redesigned SAT</p> <p>Official SAT® Practice</p>