



SAT or ACT? Finding the Right Fit

The ACT rewards quick recall and breadth of knowledge, while the SAT rewards critical thinking and depth of knowledge. Also, students who excel in math and sciences may find the ACT better suited to their skillset.

SAT

ACT



OVERVIEW

- ✓ For deep thinkers
- ✓ Gives more time
 - Reading: 75 seconds
 - Writing: 48 seconds
 - Math: 83 seconds
- ✓ Tests data interpretation

- ✓ For fast readers
- ✓ Gives less time
 - Reading: 53 seconds
 - Writing: 36 seconds
 - Math: 60 seconds
- ✓ Tests basic sciences



SCORES

- ✓ All scores **added** for a total combined score out of 1600.



1600 total combined score

- ✓ All scores **averaged** for a composite score out of 36.



36 total composite score



MATH

- ✓ Depth of knowledge
- ✓ Two math sections: calculator & no calculator
- ✓ Multiple choice & grid-in questions
- ✓ Algebra & data analysis questions, with emphasis on word problems

- ✓ Range of knowledge
- ✓ One math section: with calculator
- ✓ Only multiple choice questions
- ✓ Core math topics through pre-calc



READING & WRITING

- ✓ Rewards holistic comprehension and advanced vocabulary
 - 13.5 average grade level in reading
 - Longer sentences
 - More vocabulary questions
 - Documents & literature from the 18th-21st century

- ✓ Rewards speed and skimming for main points
 - 11.5 average grade level in reading
 - Shorter sentences
 - Fewer vocabulary questions
 - Only contemporary passages