

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 per problem
 - Reading: 75 seconds
 - Writing: 48 seconds
 - Math: 83 seconds
- ✓ Tests data interpretation

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



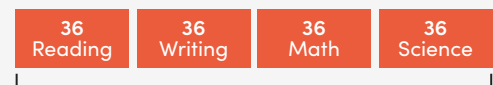
SCORES

- ✓ Scores added for a total score out of 1600



1600 total score

- ✓ Scores averaged for a composite score out of 36



36 composite score



MATH

- ✓ Conceptual depth
- ✓ Two math sections: with calculator & no calculator
- ✓ Multiple choice & grid-in questions
- ✓ Algebra & data analysis topics, with emphasis on word problems

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



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 scanning for relevant information
 - 11.5 average grade level in reading
 - Shorter sentences
 - Fewer vocabulary questions
 - Only contemporary passages