

THE SAT **vs** THE ACT



Digital, adaptive



More time per question



Short, single-question reading passages



Fewer math concepts, complex problems

KEY Differences



Paper or online, fixed format



Faster paced



Longer reading passages



More math concepts, straightforward problems



Overall Time

TIMING & SCORING

Reading & Writing
(baseline module)

32m

Reading & Writing
(adaptive module - easier or harder)

32m

200-800 points

Math
(baseline module)

35m

Math
(adaptive module - easier or harder)

35m

200-800 points

TOTAL POINTS | 400-1600



Reading & Writing



Math

Time per Question



Overall Time

1-36

35m

English

1-36

50m

Math

1-36

40m

Reading

1-36

40m

Science (optional)

TOTAL POINTS | 1-36



English



Math



Reading



Science (optional)

MATH

Number of Questions

SAT
44

ACT
45

Question Difficulty

Module 1

Module 2

SAT

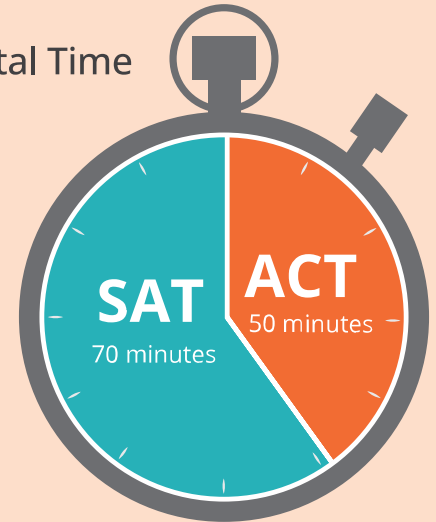
Module 2 will be more difficult if you perform well on Module 1.



ACT

Math section goes from easy to hard.

Total Time



Time per Question



Formulas

The **SAT provides** a reference sheet of common formulas in the testing application.

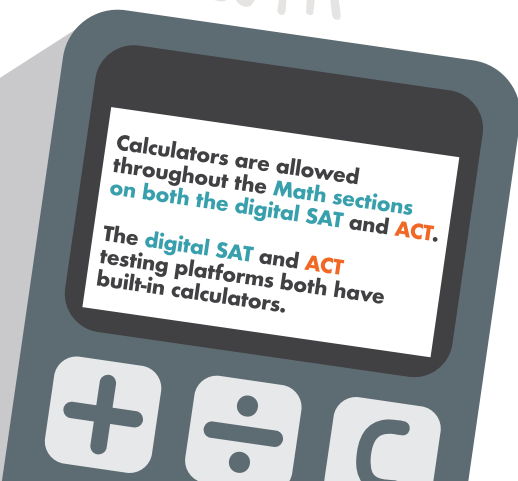
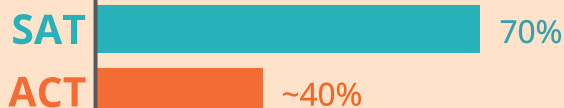
The **ACT does not provide** formulas for reference.



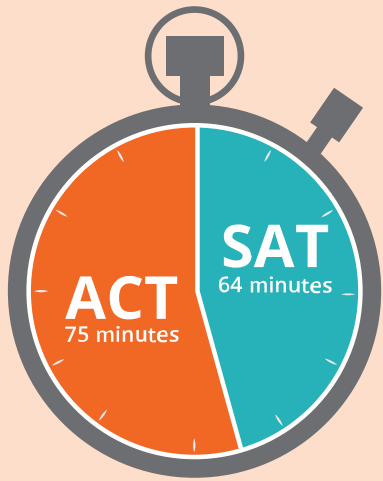
The digital SAT Math modules include 44 questions total. About 25% of these are student-produced response questions (i.e., grid-in), and the rest are multiple-choice.

Algebra Focus

The SAT has a much greater emphasis on Algebra, as well as Data Analysis questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations. In contrast, the ACT has a more evenly spread focus among Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry.



READING/Writing/ENGLISH



Time per Question

ACT
SAT

READING	67s
ENGLISH	42s
READING & WRITING	71s

Number of Questions

SAT
54
Reading & Writing

ACT
86
Reading & English

Vocabulary

What percentage of questions test vocabulary?

ACT	READING	8%
	ENGLISH	4%
SAT	READING & WRITING	19%

Do the Reading/Writing/English sections have Graphs and Charts?

SAT



Yes, 3 to 5 Command of Evidence questions use data visuals.

ACT



Yes, 1 or 2 passages may use data visuals.

SAT

50–150

30–100

ACT

Reading

600–800

Writing/English

150–400*

*The ACT English section consists of a mix of shorter passages and longer passages.

Number of Reading Passages

SAT 25–29



1 question per passage

ACT 4



comparison

9 questions per passage

Topics Covered

- Literature • Social Science • Poetry
- Nat. Science • History • Humanities

Distribution of topics varies. Easier adaptive modules tend to focus on literature; harder adaptive modules tend to focus on humanities and sciences.

- Literary Narrative • Natural Science
- Social Science • Humanities

SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY

SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
May 2, 2026	Apr 17, 2026
Jun 6, 2026	May 22, 2026
Aug 22, 2026	Aug 7, 2026
Sep 12, 2026	Aug 28, 2026
Oct 3, 2026	Sep 18, 2026
Nov 7, 2026	Oct 23, 2026
Dec 5, 2026	Nov 20, 2026
Mar 6, 2027	Feb 19, 2027
May 1, 2027	Apr 16, 2027
Jun 5, 2027	May 21, 2027

Register at www.sat.org

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Jun 13, 2026	May 8, 2026
Jul 11, 2026	Jun 5, 2026
Sep 19, 2026	Aug 14, 2026
Oct 17, 2026	Sep 11, 2026
Dec 12, 2026	Nov 6, 2026
Feb 27, 2027	Jan 22, 2027
Apr 10, 2027	Mar 5, 2027
Jun 12, 2027	May 7, 2027
Jul 10, 2027	Jun 4, 2027

Register at www.act.org



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