

New SAT and ACT Comparison Chart

	New SAT	ACT
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power test and curriculum-focused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed test and focuses on achievement
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on citing evidence, even on math 4 answer choices throughout test More reading and more time per question – average of 1 minute and 10 seconds No point deduction for incorrect answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented in a more straightforward manner 4 answer choices, except on math section (5) Less reading and less time per question – average of 49 seconds No point deduction for incorrect answers
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 sections + essay = 3 hours & 50 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 sections + essay = 3 hours & 35 minutes
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Reading section – 65 minutes 1 Writing/Language section – 35 minutes 1 Math section (no calculator) – 25 minutes 1 Math section (calculator allowed) – 55 min 1 Essay section – 50 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 English section – 45 minutes 1 Math section – 60 minutes 1 Reading section – 35 minutes 1 Science section – 35 minutes 1 Essay section – 40 minutes
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 long passages (1 paired), 52 questions Increased presence of Tier 2 vocabulary At least 1 informational data graphic Elimination of sentence completions 1 Great Global Conversation passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 long passages (1 paired), 40 questions Little emphasis on vocabulary Questions are in random order 2 Arts/Literature passages – 2 Social Studies/Sciences passages
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 questions – no calculator section 38 questions – calculator allowed section Word Problems & Data Analysis, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Trigonometry 2 math sections - including 1 no calculator Formulas are given and grid-ins are included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 questions (1 section) – calculator allowed Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Trigonometry Formulas are not provided Less reading, questions are more direct Questions increase in level of difficulty
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science questions sprinkled throughout Math mixed with science-based questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated science section – 40 questions Research summary, data representation, and conflicting hypothesis questions
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 minutes - respond to another essay Prompt remains nearly the same on each test, but the passage changes Last section of the test Measures ability to explain and analyze how an author crafts an argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes – first person narrative Prompt changes with each test Last section of the test 3 different perspectives are included Students may agree or disagree with the various perspectives
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading & Writing/Language: 200-800 scale Math: 200-800 scale Combined overall score: 400-1600 scale (Math plus Reading & Writing/Language) Science/History cross-test scores: 10-40 scale Sub-scores: 7 areas, 1-15 scale: Standard English Conventions, Expression of Ideas, Words in Context, Command of Evidence, Heart of Algebra, Passport to Advanced Math, and Problem Solving & Data Analysis Essay is scored in 3 areas by two scorers, on a 1-4 scale: Reading, Analysis, and Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English, Math, Reading, and Science: each section scored on a 1-36 scale Composite score: 1-36 scale (average of English, Math, Reading, and Science) English/Language Arts sub-score: average of English, Reading, and Essay (Writing) scores STEM sub-score: average of the Math and Science scores Essay (Writing) is scored in 4 areas by two scorers, on a 1-6 scale: Ideas & Analysis, Development & Support, Organization, and Language Use