

SAT or ACT?

The SAT and ACT are college admission tests required by most colleges. Colleges will accept scores from either test so it is advisable to determine which test is compatible to your testing style and skills.

It is a matter of personal preference. The EXPLORE and PLAN tests are preliminary ACT tests. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT test. These preliminary tests will help you determine which test is more desirable for you.

Free test preparation on Naviance or a full-length practice test offered by a private test preparation company listed on the school website: www.pvhs.com under CCC>test preparation may also help you determine if you have a preference for one test over the other.

Listed here is a comparison chart of the ACT and the SAT:



SAT	ACT	Key ACT Differences
Writing	English Writing (optional)	Similar to the multiple-choice portion of the SAT Writing except that the ACT has additional emphasis on punctuation. The "optional" ACT Writing essay is required by many schools. The ACT essay is always the last section; the SAT essay is always the first section of the exam. The SAT essay is on a broad theme and can be approached formulaically or creatively. The ACT essay typically involves a narrow topic "relevant" to high school students and demands a more structured response.
Math	Math	Covers math through trigonometry, whereas the SAT does not. The ACT forbids calculators with computer algebra systems like the TI-89 (TI-83s and -84s are OK)
Critical Reading	Critical Reading	Test similar reading skills. No vocabulary-oriented Sentence Completions
N/A	Science	No analogue on the SAT. Measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem solving skills. Uses scientific language and reasoning, but RARELY requires any specific knowledge from your academic science classes.
Deduction for incorrect multiple-choice problems	No deduction for incorrect answers	Raw Score
200-800 scale	1-36 scale	Scaled Score
600-2400 sum	1-36 scale	Combined or Composite Score

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For a list of schools that are "test optional" or do not require the SAT or ACT scores for admission consideration, go to: www.fairtest.org