

# 2025 SAT vs. ACT: What Parents Need to Know

Both tests are accepted by every college—the key is finding the best fit for your child. Here's a quick side-by-side guide now that the SAT is fully digital and the ACT is moving digital too:

## SAT

- 100% online\*
- Shorter reading passages
- Fully multiple choice
- Calculator allowed for all math
- Fully adaptive test
- ~2 hours and 14 minutes, not including breaks
  - Reading/Writing: 64 minutes
  - Math 60 minutes
- Reading and Writing
  - Reading has short passages with one Q each
  - Writing is multiple choice; not essay
- Math
  - Math is more depth, advanced math
- 400–1600 scale
- No essay
- \$68 base fee
- 4 score sends included with purchase of the test

### Format

### Timing

### Sections

### Scoring

### Cost

## ACT

- Online and paper
- Longer reading passages
- Multiple choice, except an optional written essay
- Calculator allowed for all math
- Not adaptive (yet!)
- ~2 hours and 5 minutes, not including breaks, for only core sections.
  - + 40 minutes for Science
  - + 40 minutes for Writing
- English, Math, Reading
  - Math covers more topics, less depth
  - Reading has longer passages with multiple Qs
- *Optional* Science and Writing sections
  - Science section tests data analysis
  - Writing section is an essay
- 1–36 scale
- Optional essay scored separately
- \$68 base fee + Writing (\$25) and Science (\$4)
- 4 score sends included with purchase of the test

*\*SAT paper option for some approved accommodations only*



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