

What's the difference?

	ACT	SAT
Test Length	3 hours, 25 minutes <i>(including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)</i>	3 hours, 50 minutes <i>(including the 50-minute optional Writing Test)</i>
Test Structure	4 Test Sections (5 with the optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (Optional),	2 Subject Areas Evidence-based Reading and writing, Math, (Optional Writing)
Test Philosophy	Informational	Reading across the curriculum
Reading	Reading Comprehension—4 passages with 10 questions per passage	Reading Comprehension—short and long passages from history or science Focus on complex structure and vocabulary
Math	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, algebra II, and trigonometry	Application based, extended thinking, core competencies, theories, trigonometry
Science	Analysis, interpretation, evaluation, basic content, and problem solving	Science not included
Essay	Optional: 30 minutes ➤ Topic of importance to high school students	Optional: 50 minutes ➤ Substantial passage, plus analyze how author builds the argument.
Scoring	Composite score of 1–36, based on <u>average</u> of scores from the 4 tests ➤ 4 scores of 1–36 for each test ➤ Optional Writing Test Score of 0–12	Total score out of 400–1600, based on <u>adding</u> scores from 2 subjects ➤ 2 scores of 200–800 for each subject
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers.	No penalty for wrong answers.
Acceptability	Accepted by all schools, preferred by Cal Poly. Writing is required for UCs. Not necessary for Community College.	Accepted by most schools, except for a few small East coast schools. Not necessary for Community College.
Closest Testing Location	Folsom Lake College	Oak Ridge High School Amador High School
Cost	\$42.50 for test without writing \$58.50 with essay \$12 for additional score reports	\$45 for test without writing \$57 with essay \$12 for additional score reports
Contact Information	ACT, Inc. 1-319-337-1000 www.actstudent.org	The College Board 1-866-756-7346 www.collegeboard.org

Test prep?

- Prep books in the Career Center to check out for free.
- Free on-line test prep from Kaplan – log onto www.kaplanatschool.com/unionmine .
- Free on-line test prep from www.khanacademy.org