

**There's no getting around it. Taking the SAT or ACT is a rite of passage for high school students who want to attend college. But like most of the challenges in school, you *can* do well on these tests if you prepare a little. Make sure to find out which test, if any, your potential college requires for admission.**

# ACT

# VS.

# SAT

An assessment test that measures what you learned in school

**What kind of test is this?**

An aptitude test that measures how you apply what you learned in school

215 multiple-choice questions and an optional essay

**What am I in for?**

128 multiple-choice questions, 10 fill-in questions and an essay

3 hours and 25 minutes, including the optional essay

**How much time am I given?**

3 hours and 45 minutes, including an un-scored variable section

Algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Calculators are allowed.

**What about math?**

Algebra, geometry, statistics, probability and data analysis. Calculators are allowed.

You get 30 minutes to write a short essay based on topic. The essay is optional.

**What about the essays?**

You get 25 minutes to write a short essay based on a topic. This is the first section on the test.

Tests your ability to interpret science experiments

**What about science?**

No science questions

1 to 36 for each of the four subjects, averaged for a composite score - 36 is the highest possible composite score.

**How's it scored?**

200 to 800 for each of the four sections, added together for a combined score - 2400 is the highest possible combined score

Only correct answers are counted, so there's no penalty if you guess and get the wrong answer. Answer all the questions.

**Are there penalties for guessing?**

If you guess and get it wrong, a fraction of a point is deducted. You should skip questions you absolutely don't know.

At least four weeks before the test date

**When to register?**

At least six weeks before the test date

\$29.00 (plus an additional \$14 for the optional essay)

**How much is basic registration?**

\$41.50

[www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org)

**Online registration, schedules and resources?**

[www.CollegeBoard.com](http://www.CollegeBoard.com)