



The
Princeton
Review®

PSAT 10: NOW WHAT? SAT OR ACT

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PSAT[®]...Now What?

1

**What is the
PSAT?**

2

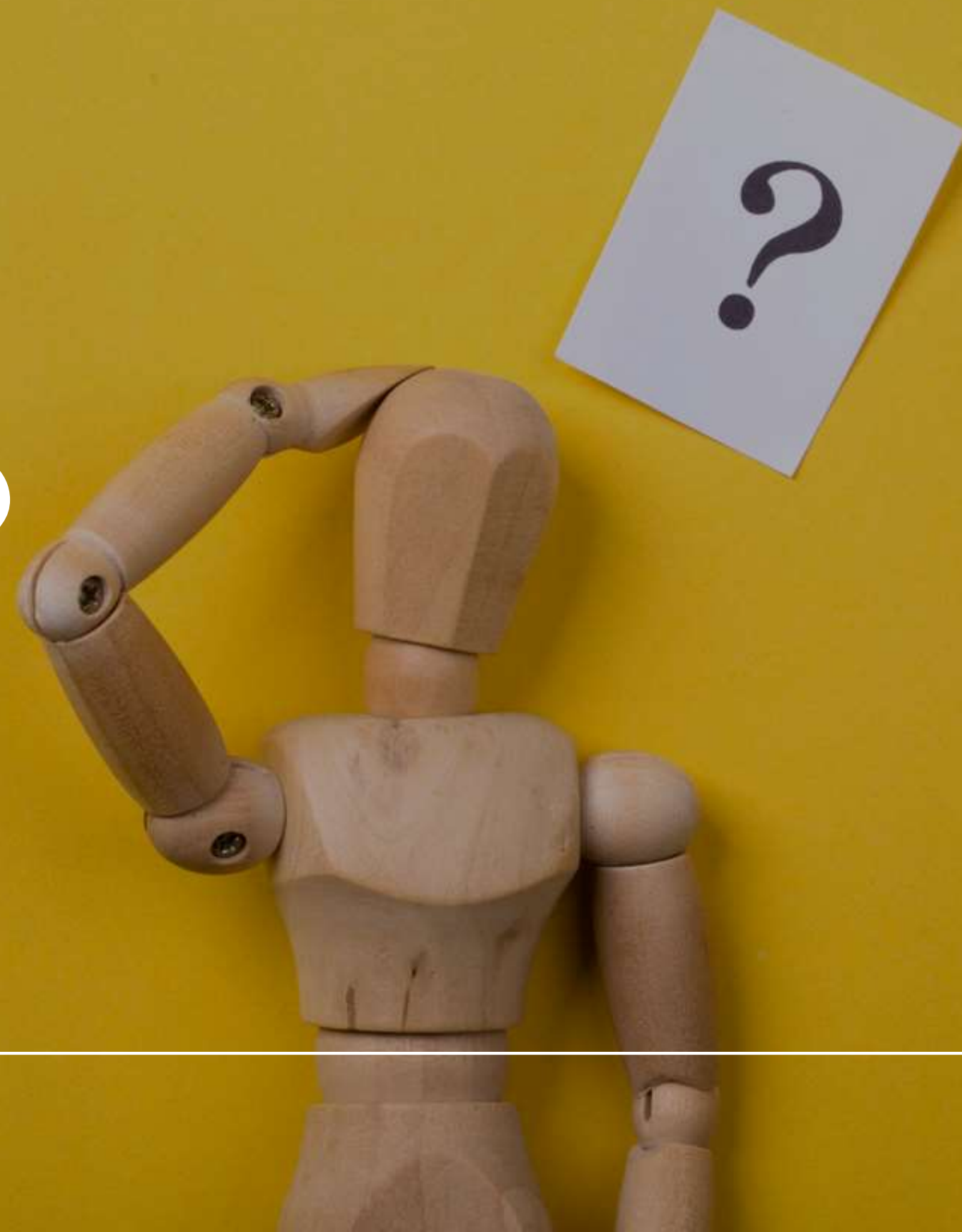
**The
Digital SAT
and the ACT**

3

**Your Next
Steps**



WHAT IS THE PSAT?



PSAT 10 vs. PSAT/NMSQT

Facts & Features	PSAT 10	PSAT/NMSQT
Who takes the test?	10 th graders	10 th and 11 th graders
Where do students take it?	At school	At school
When do they take it?	Spring	Fall
Does the National Merit [®] Scholarship Program use scores to find eligible students?	No	Yes

BENEFITS OF TAKING THE PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT are the same test, offered at different times.

Here are the benefits College Board lists:

- They are great practice for the SAT because they test the same skills and knowledge as the SAT—in a way that makes sense for your grade level.
- They provide score reports you can use to personalize your practice.
- You'll get personalized AP course recommendations based on your skills and knowledge.

Additional benefits:

- Exposure = Test Confidence
- Opportunity to practice endurance (in marathon format, instead of a sprint)
- Determine your preferred test (SAT or ACT)
- PSAT/NMSQT could lead to recognition/scholarship

THE PSAT IS A PRACTICE SAT

PSAT/NMSQT

READING & WRITING

- 54 Questions
- 64 Minutes
- 2 Modules
- Multiple-Choice
- 1 Passage per Question

MATH

- 44 Questions
 - 70 Minutes
 - 2 Modules
 - Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response Questions
- *No Trigonometry*

SLIGHTLY EASIER
SCORE RANGE 320-1560

SAT

READING & WRITING

- 54 Questions
- 64 Minutes
- 2 Modules
- Multiple-Choice
- 1 Passage per Question

MATH

- 44 Questions
- 70 Minutes
- 2 Modules
- Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response Questions

SCORE RANGE: 400-1600

**The PSAT is the
National Merit Scholarship
Qualifying Test***

***When taken in junior year**

***But only the top 1% of scorers in
each state earn scholarships***

1.6 Million
Junior PSAT Takers

50,000
Recognized Scholars

16,000 National
Merit Semifinalists

15,000
Finalists

**ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR PSAT SCORE,
YOU HAVE....**

**TAKEN A
COMPUTER-
ADAPTIVE
TEST**

**SEEN SAT-
STYLE
QUESTIONS**

**RECEIVED A
PRACTICE
SCORE**

STANDARDIZED TESTS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TESTS

HIGH SCHOOL TESTS
Limited Subject Matter
Content Knowledge
Plenty of Time
Partial Credit or Extra Credit
Human Graded
One Element of Overall Grade

STANDARDIZED TESTS
Years of Material
Testing Strategy
Rigorously Timed
Right or Wrong Answers
Machine Graded
Only Your Final Score Matters

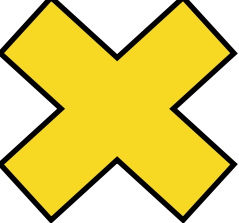
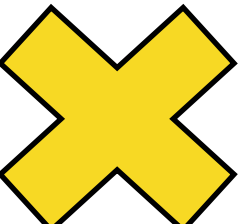
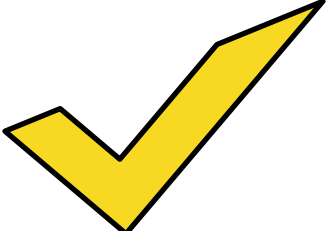
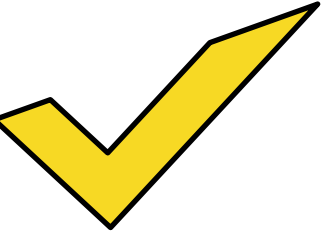
Top Factors for College Freshmen

1. Grades

2. High School Curriculum

3. Test Scores

WHAT DO STANDARDIZED TESTS MEASURE?

Do College Admissions Tests Like the SAT & ACT...	True	False
Measure your intelligence?		
Reflect your high school GPA?		
Test what you've learned in high school?		



DO SAT & ACT SCORES STILL MATTER?

In *The Best 389 Colleges*:

**93% OF SCHOOLS
WILL STILL WANT TO SEE
HIGH TEST SCORES
IF STUDENTS SUBMIT THEM**

WHAT ABOUT TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS?

Test-optional admissions processes do not require SAT or ACT scores for admissions consideration.

Test-optional schools receive more applications and have lower admission rates.

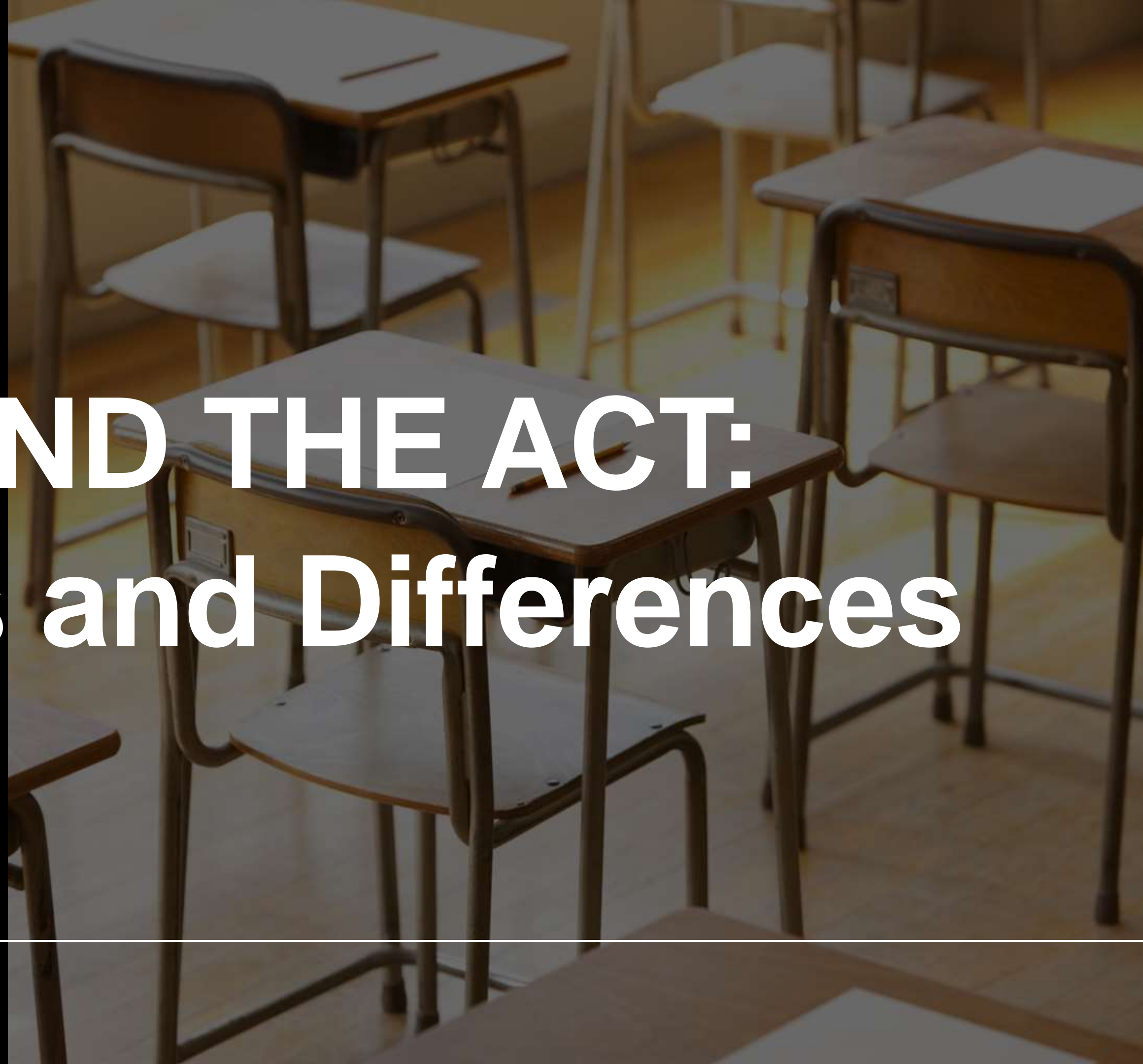
If any school or scholarship you apply to requires SAT or ACT scores, your process is not test-optional..

SCHOOLS THAT REVERSED TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES:

- Harvard
- Brown
- Yale
- Dartmouth
- M.I.T.
- Georgetown
- Purdue
- The University of Texas at Austin




THE SAT AND THE ACT: Similarities and Differences



**The SAT and the ACT serve
the exact same purpose:**

***They are college
admissions exams***



BOTH THE SAT & ACT ARE IN- PERSON TESTS

- ❖ Taken at a Testing Site
- ❖ Proctored Live



BOTH THE SAT AND ACT REQUIRE STUDENTS TO:

- ❖ Analyze reading passages
- ❖ Edit and revise writing
- ❖ Solve high school math
- ❖ Analyze scientific data

DIGITAL SAT

VS.

ACT

- Computer Based Test at testing center
- 2 Hours
- Two Sections: Reading & Writing, Math
- No penalty for wrong answers
- No Essay
- Students can use built-in Desmos calculator & their own calculator on all math questions
- Average 2022 score: 1050

- Paper & pencil at testing center
- 3 Hours, 35 mins (with essay),
2 hours, 55mins (without essay)
- Four sections: English, Math, Reading,
Science
- No penalty for wrong answers
- Optional Essay
- Students can use their own calculator on
all math questions
- Average 2022 score: 20

SAT & ACT

SECTION-BY-SECTION

SAT SECTIONS

Reading and Writing (Module One)	27 Questions	32 Minutes
Reading and Writing (Module Two)	27 Questions	32 Minutes
Math (Module One)	22 Questions	35 Minutes
Math (Module Two)	22 Questions	35 Minutes

ACT SECTIONS

English	75 questions	45 minutes
Math	60 questions	60 minutes
Reading	40 questions	35 minutes
Science	40 questions	35 minutes

*Optional 40-minute essay on the ACT

A REDESIGNED SAT

READING & WRITING

1ST MODULE

- ❖ “25 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- ❖ 32 Minutes
- ❖ Multiple-Choice
- ❖ 1 Passage per Question

2ND MODULE

- ❖ “25 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- ❖ 32 Minutes
- ❖ Multiple-Choice
- ❖ 1 Passage per Question

MATH

1ST MODULE

- ❖ “20 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- ❖ 35 Minutes
- ❖ Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response

2ND MODULE

- ❖ “20 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- ❖ 35 Minutes
- ❖ Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response

A COMPUTER-ADAPTIVE SAT

FIRST MODULE

Same difficulty for all

SECOND MODULE

More Difficult

SECOND MODULE

Less Difficult

HIGH SCORE

800

LOW SCORE

Floor

HIGH SCORE

Capped

LOW SCORE

200

REMEMBER:

The College Board has determined which questions are “Easy,” “Medium,” and “Difficult”

- Questions weighted differently based on “difficulty”
- Not based on knowledge or intelligence

THE SAT WILL USE THE SAME SCORING SCALE

- 400-1600 scale
- Questions are weighted differently.
- 200-800 reading & writing score
- 200-800 math score
- Superscoring policies up to each college
- Scores used same as always

ACT SCORING

QUESTIONS WEIGHTED EQUALLY

- ❖ ENGLISH 1-36
- ❖ MATH 1-36
- ❖ READING 1-36
- ❖ SCIENCE 1-36

**COMPOSITE
SCORE**
1-36



**ESSAY
SCORE**
1-12

* Essay is optional and scored separate

WHAT IS A GOOD SCORE?

A GOOD SCORE
IS THE SCORE THAT
GETS YOU INTO YOUR
DREAM COLLEGE



YOUR NEXT STEPS



PLANNING YOUR PREP

SAT DATES 2023-2024

August 26, 2023

October 7, 2023

November 4, 2023

December 2, 2023

March 9, 2024 (Digital ONLY)

May 4, 2024 (Digital ONLY)

June 1, 2024 (Digital ONLY)

ACT DATES 2023-2024

September 9, 2023

October 28, 2023

December 9, 2023

February 10, 2024

April 13, 2024

June 8, 2024

July 13, 2024*

WHERE TO START?

TAKE A PRACTICE TEST

- **Full score report breakdown of strengths & weaknesses**
- **Digital SAT score report tells if you entered easy or difficult module in module 2**
- **Correct answers for each question**
- **Test lives in your portal for 4 months**
- **Take practice test with your accommodations**
- **ACT practice test also available**

The background of the slide features a stack of books. The top book is blue with 'AP Physics 2' visible on its spine. Below it, a white book with 'AP English Language' is partially visible. The bottom book is yellow with 'AP' and 'ST PO' visible. A yellow banner is overlaid on the left side of the image.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PREP

- ❖ Take a Practice Test
- ❖ Buy a Prep Book
- ❖ Self-Prep Online
- ❖ Take a Course
- ❖ Work with a Tutor

DIGITAL SAT[®]
PREP COURSES



ACT[®]
PREP COURSES



DIGITAL SAT[®]
PRACTICE TEST



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Questions?

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