

# THE SAT **vs** THE ENHANCED ACT

## KEY Differences



Digital, adaptive



More time per question



Short, single-question reading passages



Fewer math concepts, complex problems



Paper or online, fixed format



Faster paced



Longer reading passages



More math concepts, straightforward problems



Overall Time

## TIMING & SCORING



Overall Time

Reading & Writing  
(baseline module)

32m

Reading & Writing  
(adaptive module -  
easier or harder)

32m

Math  
(baseline module)

35m

Math  
(adaptive module -  
easier or harder)

35m

200-800  
points

200-800  
points

1-36

1-36

1-36

1-36

35m

English

50m

Math

40m

Reading

40m

Science  
(optional)

TOTAL POINTS | 400-1600

TOTAL POINTS | 1-36



Reading & Writing



Math

Time per Question



English



Math



Reading



Science  
(optional)

# MATH

## Number of Questions

**SAT**  
**44**

**ACT**  
**45**

## Question Difficulty

Module 1

Module 2

### SAT

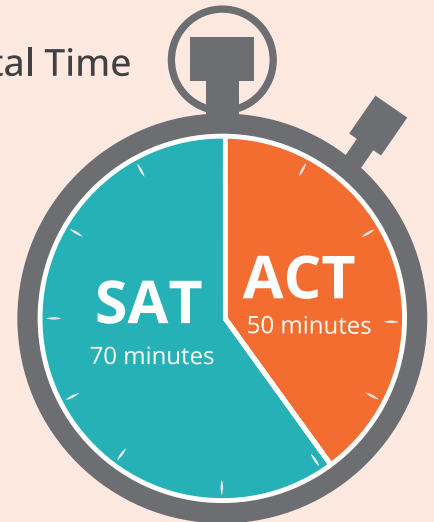
Module 2 will be more difficult if you perform well on Module 1.



**ACT**

Math section goes from easy to hard.

## Total Time



## Time per Question



## Formulas

The **SAT provides** a reference sheet of common formulas in the testing application.

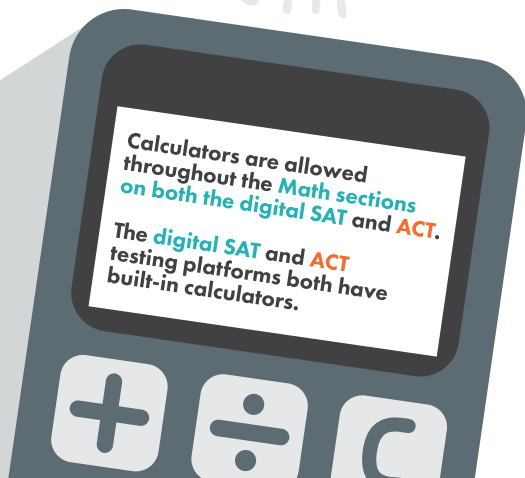
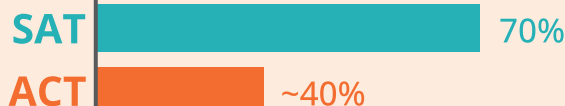
The **ACT does not provide** formulas for reference.



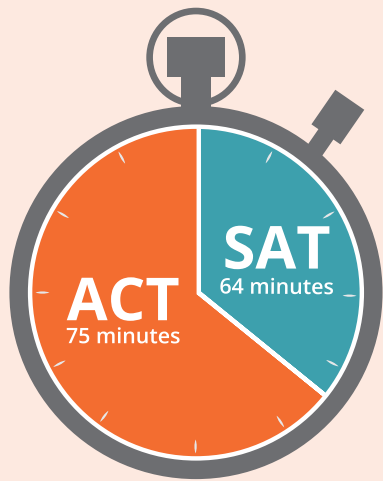
The digital SAT Math modules include 44 questions total. About 25% of these are student-produced response questions (i.e., grid-in), and the rest are multiple-choice.

### Algebra Focus

The SAT has a much greater emphasis on Algebra, as well as Data Analysis questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations. In contrast, the ACT has a more evenly spread focus among Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry.



# READING/Writing/ENGLISH



## Time per Question

ACT  
SAT

READING	67s
ENGLISH	42s
READING & WRITING	71s

## Number of Questions

SAT  
**54**  
Reading & Writing

ACT  
**86**  
Reading & English

## Vocabulary

What percentage of questions test vocabulary?

ACT	READING	8%
	ENGLISH	4%
SAT	READING & WRITING	19%

## Do the Reading/Writing/English sections have Graphs and Charts?

SAT



Yes, 3 to 5 Command of Evidence questions use graphs.

ACT



No, only on the optional Science section.

## Passage Length

Avg words per passage

SAT

50-150

30-100

Reading

Writing/English

ACT

600-800

150-400\*

\*The ACT English section consists of 2 shorter passages and 4 longer passages.

## Number of Reading Passages

SAT 25-29



1 question per passage

ACT 4



comparison

9 questions per passage

## Topics Covered

- Literature • Social Science • Poetry
- Nat. Science • History • Humanities

Distribution of topics varies. Easier adaptive modules tend to focus on literature; harder adaptive modules tend to focus on humanities and sciences.

- Prose Fiction • Humanities
- Social Science • Natural Science

ACT Reading passage topics are consistent and appear in the same order on each test.

# SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY

## SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
May 3, 2025	Apr 18, 2025
Jun 7, 2025	May 22, 2025
Aug 23, 2025	Aug 8, 2025
Sep 13, 2025	Aug 29, 2025
Oct 4, 2025	Sep 19, 2025
Nov 8, 2025	Oct 24, 2025
Dec 6, 2025	Nov 21, 2025
Mar 14, 2026	Feb 27, 2026
May 2, 2026	Apr 17, 2026
Jun 6, 2026	May 22, 2026

Register at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org)

## ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Jun 14, 2025	May 9, 2025
Jul 12, 2025*	Jun 6, 2025
Sep 6, 2025	Aug 1, 2025
Oct 18, 2025	Sep 12, 2025
Dec 13, 2025	Nov 7, 2025
Feb 14, 2026	Jan 9, 2026
Apr 11, 2026	Mar 6, 2026
Jun 13, 2026	May 8, 2026
Jul 11, 2026*	Jun 5, 2026

\*No test centers are scheduled in New York.

Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)



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