



JOHNBAYLORPREP

Test Preparation

<i>Score Comparison</i>	
Total SAT Score	ACT Composite Score
1600	36
1540–1590	35
1490–1530	34
1440–1480	33
1400–1430	32
1360–1390	31
1330–1350	30
1290–1320	29
1250–1280	28
1210–1240	27
1170–1200	26
1130–1160	25
1090–1120	24
1050–1080	23
1020–1040	22
980–1010	21
940–970	20
900–930	19
860–890	18
820–850	17
770–810	16
720–760	15
670–710	14
620–660	13
560–610	12
510–550	11

Should you take the ACT or the SAT?

It depends. Historically, the SAT was preferred by colleges on the coasts and the ACT by midwestern colleges. Now every U.S. college and university accepts either test, so take your choice.

Here are the two main differences between the ACT and SAT tests:

- The SAT allows more time per question; the ACT is a bit of a race. Those who tend to become anxiety-ridden when really rushed might consider the SAT. Few students run out of time in any SAT section, while ACT test takers often face time constraints in math, reading, and science. However, JBP strategies cover time management, so students taking the ACT may be at an advantage over their fellow students in this area.
- The SAT has minimal science content; the Science Reasoning Section represents 25% of the ACT score. But great science aptitude is not critical for good scores on this ACT section, though it can help. The ACT Science section primarily tests your ability to assess charts, tables, and graphs.

Thus, the decision really depends on the student. If unsure, you might sample each in February or April, junior year and then focus on one.

John Baylor Prep can help you with both the ACT and SAT in-person in Nebraska and online anywhere.

How do the SAT and ACT compare?

	SAT	ACT
Times Offered:	Seven times per year. We recommend taking the SAT 1 three times (see below). Be sure to take at least 3 SAT IIs as well - typically June junior year is the ideal time, unless you're on a pure block schedule.	Six times per year. We recommend taking the ACT four times (see below).
Sections	Three Sections: 1 Reading, 1 Writing & Language, 1 two-part Math, plus the optional essay section.	Four Sections: 1 English, 1 Math, 1 Reading, and 1 Science, plus the optional essay section.
Test Length	3 hours (with optional essay: 3 hours 50 minutes) – 65 min Reading Section, 35 min Writing & Language Section, 80 min two-part Math Section.	2 hours 55 minutes (with optional essay: 3 hours 35 minutes) – 45 min English Section, 60 min Math Section, 35 min Reading Section, 35 min Science Section.
Test Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Comprehension, passage comparison, supporting evidence identification and vocabulary in context. • Writing: Grammar and content questions. • Math: Probability, statistics, data analysis, Algebra I, Algebra II, functions, geometry, basic trigonometry. The first Math section does not allow the use of a calculator, and both Math sections include “grid-in” questions in which the student provides his or her own answer (not multiple-choice). • Essay (optional): One explanatory essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English: Grammar and content questions. • Math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, functions, sequences, and trigonometry. • Reading: Comprehension, passage comparison, and vocabulary in context. • Science: Assessing charts, tables, and graphs and one reading passage with conflicting viewpoints. • Writing (optional): One persuasive essay.
Wrong Answer Penalty?	No	No
What do the scores mean?	Each section (1. Reading & Writing and 2. Math) is worth up to 800 points. Your composite score is the sum of your section scores (max 1600)	Each subject is scored 1-36. The composite score is the average of all section scores (max 36)
Website	www.collegeboard.com	www.actstudent.org
How many tests should I take?	Three – one junior year and two senior fall. Colleges frown on more than three attempts.	Four – college won't know how many ACTs you take. Be sure to take the December ACT of your senior year – should be your highest score!



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