

# What's the difference?

	ACT	SAT
<b>Test Length</b>	3 hours, 25 minutes <i>(including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)</i>	3 hours, 45 minutes
<b>Test Structure</b>	<b>4 Test Sections</b> (5 with the optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (Optional),	<b>3 Subject Areas</b> Critical Reading, Math, Writing
<b>Test Philosophy</b>	Informational	Logic and reasoning
<b>Reading</b>	Reading Comprehension—4 passages with 10 questions per passage	Reading Comprehension—short and long passages with questions Sentence Completion
<b>Math</b>	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, algebra II, and trigonometry	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and algebra II
<b>Science</b>	Analysis, interpretation, evaluation, basic content, and problem solving	Science not included
<b>Essay</b>	Optional: 30 minutes ➤ Topic of importance to high school students	First thing you do: 25 minutes ➤ Factored into overall score ➤ 4More abstract topic (vs. ACT)
<b>Scoring</b>	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 600–2400, based on <u>adding</u> scores from 3 subjects ➤ 3 scores of 200–800 for each subject
<b>Wrong Answer Penalty</b>	No penalty for wrong answers.	1/4 point subtracted for each wrong answer. <i>(except for Math Grid-In questions)</i>
<b>Acceptability</b>	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.
<b>Closest Testing Location</b>	Folsom Lake College	Oak Ridge High School Amador High School
<b>Cost</b>	\$38.00 without writing \$54.50 with writing \$12 for additional score reports	\$52.50 for test  \$11.25 for additional score reports
<b>Contact Information</b>	ACT, Inc. 1-319-337-1000 <b>www.actstudent.org</b>	The College Board 1-866-756-7346 <b>www.collegeboard.org</b>

## 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](http://www.kaplanatschool.com/unionmine) .
- Free on-line test prep from [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)