

The ACT & The SAT 2011-2012

What are they?

The SAT & the ACT are both standardized exams used for college admissions purposes. The tests do not measure intelligence or your ability to succeed. They measure what's in the test and what your basic skills may be for college. Basic skills can be improved so practice is helpful. Nearly all colleges and scholarships will take both or either test scores.

Which one should I take?

It's a good idea to take both exams; they are structured differently so you could score higher on one compared to the other. If you qualify for a fee waiver, definitely take both exams. If you cannot afford to take both tests and do not qualify for a fee waiver then take a look at each test, do some sections and choose the one with which you feel most comfortable.

Why should I register?

Since the test is only offered at certain times, it's better to have a score ready and not need it, than to need a score and not have it. CUNY community colleges do not require test scores, but the senior CUNYs and SUNY do. A number of scholarship programs also ask for test scores. It's best to take the test to keep all of your options open.

ACT

VS.

SAT

What's the Difference?

\$34 plus optional \$15.50 for writing 1-36 per section Reports scores from test dates you choose	Test Fee:	\$49 includes writing section
No penalty for guessing; difficulty of questions have no order	Scoring:	200-800 per section Reports all scores from all test dates
75 items, 45 minute section and a 30 minute essay (optional) Tests Grammar, Sentence Structure, Punctuation, Organization, and Style	Guessing:	¼ point penalty for each wrong answer; questions usually ordered from easy to hard
60 items, 60 minutes Tests Pre-algebra up to trigonometry 25% of total score	English/ Writing:	One 25 minute & one 10 minute section and a 25 minute essay (not optional) Tests skills in Improving Sentences & Paragraphs, & Vocabulary
40 items, 30 minutes Tests Reading Comprehension	Math:	Two 25 minute & one 20 minute Tests Pre-algebra up to geometry 50% of total score Non-multiple choice questions included
40 items, 35 minutes Tests Interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning of data, and problem solving skills	Reading/ Critical Reading:	Two 25 minute & one 20 minute Tests Reading Comprehension, Interpretation, & Vocabulary
	Science:	No Science Section

HOW DO I REGISTER?

www.collegeboard.com (SAT) or www.act.org (ACT)

The tests are only offered at specific times during the school year. Register online at the websites above by the registration deadlines. You will need to create an online account. **Do not forget your username or password for this account!** You will be able to log into your account 2-3 weeks after the test to retrieve your scores. Be sure to ask Mrs. Mastropietro/Mrs. Iocco in the college office if you are eligible for a fee waiver. **Fee waivers** help students in low-income circumstances pay for the costs of applying to college including SAT & ACT tests. In order to get a fee waiver you must show proof of your family's annual income to Mrs. Mastropietro/ Mrs. Iocco.

How can I prepare for these tests?

Your college advisor or high school counselor has free test preparation booklets and resources. Complete at least one full practice test or do a question a day until test day. Both the College Board and ACT websites have free preparation materials you can download or use on their website. You can also visit websites like www.number2.com or www.testprepreview.com for free help.