

ACT vs SAT: Key differences between the ACT and SAT

ACT vs SAT: which test is a better fit for you? Students may take whichever test they prefer (assuming there are available testing locations for both tests). If you're not sure which test you would prefer, consider the key differences between the ACT and SAT. Some students find that the ACT caters to their strengths more so than the SAT, and vice versa.

| SAT | vs. | ACT |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| reasoning test | Type of Test | content-based test |
| Critical Reading: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Math: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Writing: 1, 25-min essay, 1, 25-min section, and 1, 10-min section | Test Format | English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 30-min essay (optional) |
| reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, and math | Content Covered | grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional) |
| tricky, questions can be phrased in ways that make them difficult to decipher | Test Style | straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher |
| Math, Critical Reading, and Writing scores will each range between a 200-800; total SAT score ranges between 600-2400 | Scoring | English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36 |
| yes – you lose ¼ of a point for incorrect answers (except on the grid-in math questions) | Penalty for Wrong Answers? | no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers |
| yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges | Score Choice? | yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges |
| questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage) | Difficulty Levels | difficulty level of the questions is random |
| arithmetic, data analysis, algebra I and II, functions, geometry; formulas are provided in the test booklet | Math Levels | arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided |
| with private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores | Tends to be more popular? | with public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores |
| seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December | Offered when? | six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates) |
| typically about four weeks before the test date | Registration deadline? | typically about five to six weeks before the test date |
| www.collegeboard.com | More Information | www.act.org |

Job Interview Tips

An interview gives you the opportunity to showcase your qualifications to an employer, so it pays to be well prepared. The following information provides some helpful tips.

Preparation:

- Learn about the organization
- Have a specific job(s) in mind
- Review your qualifications for the job
- Prepare answers to broad questions about yourself
- Review your resume'
- Practice an interview with a friend or relative
- Arrive before the scheduled time for your interview

Personal appearance:

- Be well groomed
- Dress appropriately
- Do not chew gum or smoke

The interview:

- Relax and answer each question concisely
- Use good manners
- Learn the name of your interviewer and greet him or her with a firm handshake
- Use proper English-avoid slang
- Be cooperative and enthusiastic
- Use body language to show interest
- Ask questions about the position and the organization, but avoid questions whose answers can easily be found on the company web site. Avoid asking about salary and benefits unless the job is offered. Thank the interviewer when you leave and follow-up in writing

Test (if the employer gives one):

- Listen closely to instructions
- Read each question carefully
- Write legibly and clearly
- Budget your time wisely and don't dwell on one question

Information to bring to an interview:

- Social Security card
- Government issued identification (driver's license)
- Resume. Although not all employers require applicants to bring a resume, you should be able to furnish the interviewer with information about your education, training and previous experience
- References. Employers typically require 3 references. Get permission before using anyone as a reference. Make sure they will give you a good reference. Try to avoid using relatives
- Transcripts. Employers may require an official copy of your transcript to verify grades, coursework, dates of attendance, and highest grade completed or degree awarded

Military Options

The largest employer in the U.S. today is the military. The military provides job training to enlisted men and women. While most job training is in a classroom setting, for some occupations, training is provided on the job.

Military personnel in all five branches are paid according to the same pay scale and receive the same basic benefits. Military pay and benefits are set by Congress, which normally grants a cost of living pay increase once a year. In addition to pay, the military provides many of life's necessities such as food, clothing, housing, or provides allotments for them. For many students, being a member of the military provides financial means to finance a college education.

The decision to be member of the military is one that should be made after carefully weighing the opportunities each branch offers and finding the best fit for you. Some branches have sign-up bonuses; some have generous financial college assistance programs, while some guarantee job placement, rather than field placement...do your homework!

ROTC

Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs are offered at many colleges and universities in conjunction with the Air Force, Army and Navy. Tuition, books, and fees are usually subsidized by the military and the student receives a stipend to cover personal expenses. Students accept the obligation to serve a specific number of years in the military after graduation.

B & W Machine Tool Quality Program

Babcock & Wilcox will offer a select number of internship positions for students who enroll in the CVCC Machine Tool Quality Program. Students will work 20 hours per week as paid interns at B & W NOG-Lynchburg's Mt. Athos facility. The expectation is that these students will be qualified and eligible to be considered for full time employment as Quality Control Inspectors after graduation.

Any student who has completed the first year in the CVCC Machine Tool Program and is entering into the Machine Tool Quality Program is eligible to be considered for an internship position. Resumes can be submitted to www.babcock.com.