

# THE SAT **VS** THE ACT



Digital, adaptive



More time per question



Short, single-question reading passages



Scores back within days



Overall Time

## TIMING & SCORING



Paper, fixed format\*



Faster Paced



Longer reading passages



Scores back in 2 to 3 weeks



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

Reading

45m

English

60m

Math

35m

Science

TOTAL POINTS | 400 - 1600

TOTAL POINTS | 1 - 36



Reading & Writing



Math

Time per Question



Reading



English



Math



Science

\*There will be an option to take the ACT on a computer at select test centers starting in late 2023 and early 2024, but the computer-based test will be identical to the paper test in length and format.

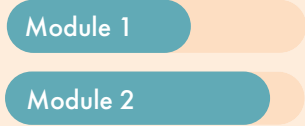
# MATH

## Number of Questions

SAT  
**44**

ACT  
**60**

## Question Difficulty



### SAT

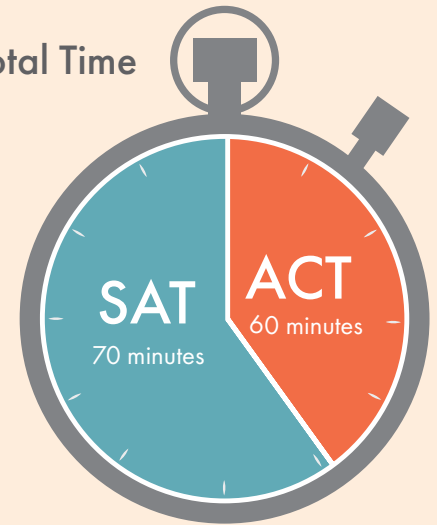
Module 2 will be more difficult if you perform well on Module 1.



### ACT

Math section goes from easy to hard.

## Total Time



## Time Per Question



## Formulas

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

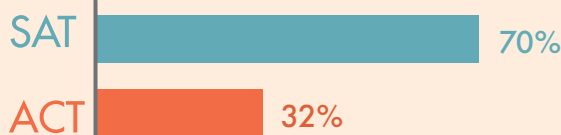
The **ACT** does not provide formulas for reference.



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

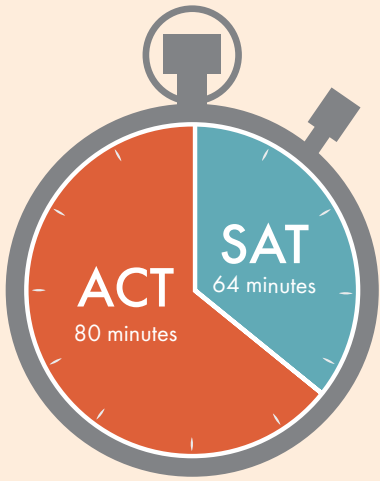
The SAT has a much greater emphasis on Algebra, as well as Data Analysis questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations. In contrast, the ACT focuses more on Geometry and Pre-Algebra.



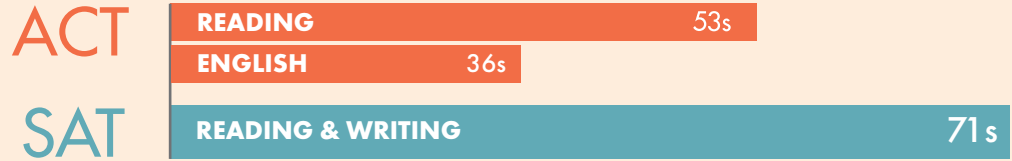
Calculators are allowed throughout the Math sections on both the digital SAT and ACT.

The Digital SAT testing platform has a built-in Desmos graphing calculator.

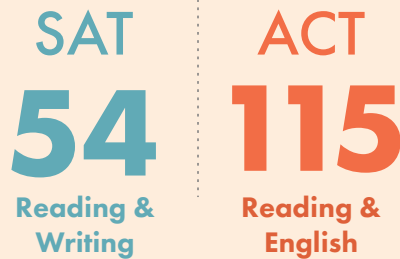
# READING/WRITING/ENGLISH



## Time Per Question

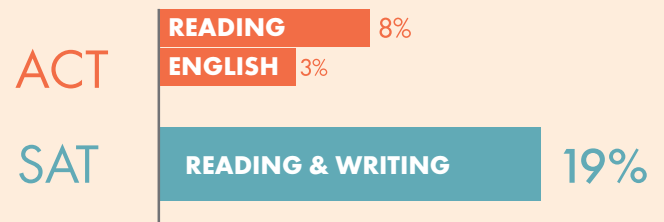


## Number of Questions



## Vocabulary

What percentage of questions test vocabulary?



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



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



No, only on the Science section

## Passage Complexity

Avg words per passage



## Number of Reading Passages

SAT 25-29



ACT 4



## Topics Covered

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

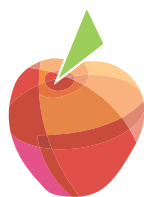
Distribution of topics varies. Easier adaptive modules tend to focus on literature; harder adaptive modules tend to focus on humanities.

- Prose Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Science
- Natural Science

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

# HOW WOULD YOU SCORE?

Take a practice test to find out and get question by question feedback.



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