



# Triangle Education Assessments, LLC

Achievement, Cognitive, Career, and Practice Tests  
5512 Merion Station Dr \* Apex, NC 27539

Ph: 919-387-7004 \* 877-843-8837 \* Email: orders@triangleed.com \* www.TriangleEd.com



## Comparing the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and ACT

Section	SAT	ACT
<b>Critical Reading (SAT)/ Reading (ACT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 minutes</li> <li>Subjects: Passage Reading, Sentence Completion</li> <li>67 questions, 7 passages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 minutes</li> <li>Subjects: Passage Reading (Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science passages)</li> <li>40 questions, 4 passages</li> </ul>
<b>Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 minutes</li> <li>Subjects: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Data Analysis/Statistics, Probability</li> <li>54 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 minutes</li> <li>Subjects: Pre-Algebra (Numbers and Operations, Probability), Algebra I &amp; II, Geometry, Trigonometry</li> <li>60 questions</li> </ul>
<b>Writing (SAT)/ English and Writing (ACT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 minutes total</li> <li>25-minute essay</li> <li>49 multiple choice questions (identifying sentence errors, improving sentences and paragraphs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English: 45 minutes, 75 questions on grammar, punctuation, and style/organization</li> <li>Optional: Writing Essay section (preferred by many schools)</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not tested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 minutes</li> <li>Subjects include tables, graphs, and charts</li> <li>40 questions</li> </ul>

- Which test scores are super-scored?
  - Many schools super-score the test scores for the SAT but not the ACT. Super-scoring means that if the student has taken the test multiple times, the final score will include the student's best results from each section. For example, if the student has tested twice and scored highest in math the first time and highest in reading the second time, then the super-score will combine these best results for the final score.
- If my student works slowly, which test is better?
  - The SAT is best for students who tend to work slowly. On the contrary, the ACT is better for students who work quickly.
- Differences in student strengths:
  - If your student excels in reading, vocabulary, writing, and "thinking outside of the box", then the SAT would be a good fit.
  - If your student excels in math and science and prefers questions like those seen in schools on achievement tests, then the ACT would be a better fit.
- Other points to consider:
  - See which test the schools your student is applying to may prefer. Some schools prefer a certain test.
  - Learn how to take the test. Scores can improve with either test just by learning things like what types of questions are asked, what topics are included, or what graders are looking for in the essays.
  - Take practice tests. Have your student take practice tests of both the SAT and ACT and see if they develop a preference between the two. Also, which practice test did they score higher on? This may help in deciding which test to take. Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for practice tests and more information.