SAT VS ACT

The introduction of the digital SAT in Spring 2024 represents a major shift from the traditional paper-and-pencil format that has been the standard for decades. As we embrace this new era of digital testing, it's important to compare the digital SAT with the ACT, its longstanding competitor in college admissions assessments. Join us as we explore the key features of the digital SAT and its comparison to the ACT, providing students with valuable insights to make informed choices for their college application journey. Since the concepts and skills of the SAT and ACT greatly overlap, Hamilton Education suggests taking both tests to increase your chances of achieving a high score!

SAT TEST DATES	ACT TEST DATES
March 8, 2025	February 8, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 5, 2025
June 7, 2025	June 14, 2025

SUBJECT	DIGITAL SAT	ACT
Administration	• Digitally taken on a desktop or laptop • School or center administered only • Adaptive Learning • Results in 2-3 days	• Paper based with bubble sheet and pencil • School or center administered only • Results in 2-3 weeks
Length of Exam	2 hours 14 minutes	2 hours 55 minutes
Total Number of Questions/Tasks	98 questions	215 questions, 216 with optional essay
Sections	• Reading and Writing Module 1 • Reading and Writing Module 2 • Math Module 1 • Math Module 2	• English • Math • Reading • Science • Writing (optional essay)
Questions Per Sections	Reading and Writing: 54 (27/module) Math: 44 (22/module)	• English: 75 • Math: 60 • Reading: 40 • Science: 40 • Writing: 1
Time Per Section (in minutes)	Reading and Writing: 32/module Math Module: 35/module	• English: 45 • Math: 60 • Reading: 35 • Science: 35 • Writing: 40
Time Per Question	Approximately 65 seconds	Approximately 45 seconds
Guessing Penalty	None	None
Score Range	400-1600	1-36
What You Can Use On the Exam	Built into digital testing application: graphing calculator, countdown, clock, question flagger, annotator, math reference sheet Provided by test taker: Scratch paper and pencil, snacks	Provided by test taker: graphing calculator, scratch paper and pencil, watch, snacks