## ACT/SAT Similarities & Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>SAT</th>
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| **How are they scored?** | English, Math, Reading, Science, each from 1-36  
Composite is a simple average  
No guessing penalty  
Ohio University ≈ 24  
Ohio State ≈ 29  
Ivy League ≈ 33 | Optional Essay  
Graded on a Curve (doesn’t matter when you take it!) | Math is half the test, Grammar/Reading the other half, each section scored between 200-800  
Composite is from 400-1600  
Ohio U. ≈ 500’s section scores  
Ohio State ≈ 600’s  
Ivy League ≈ 700’s |
| **What do they cover?** | No math formulas given  
Science | Similar Grammar  
Algebra, Geometry  
Reading Comprehension  
Essay Writing  
Critical Thinking | Math formulas provided  
Math more focused on algebra  
Evidence-based reading questions |
| **Who tends to be good at each test?** | Look at ASPIRE results  
If students has 504 plan or I.E.P. (test is easier with extended time than SAT)  
Student is speedier | High literacy and critical thinking skills coupled with low test anxiety. | Look at PSAT results  
Student has test anxiety  
Student likes to take more time |
| **How to prepare better for each one?** | Memorize Math Formulas  
Work on timing | Only perfect practice makes perfect: use excellent materials and constantly refine your thought process. Read more, do well in school, problem solve!  
Order the tests you take when you register: great diagnostic tool! | Focus deeply on algebra  
Work on analyzing how writers make an argument for the essay. |
| **College Importance?** | Usually do NOT superscore (i.e. take the best score from each section, come up with highest total average).  
Default is to send in best score  
Middle of the U.S.A. is more familiar | Universally accepted.  
A few schools don’t require either!  
SAT Writing/ACT essay, it depends!  
Tests are ¼ to ⅓ of total admission consideration  
Can take a few times, no problem!  
Can generally choose which scores to send (some top schools may require all scores).  
Some elite schools want SAT Subject tests as well (take at end of courses). | Usually DO superscore.  
Default is to send in all scores  
Coasts of the U.S.A. are more familiar |