



US UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

SAT & ACT

Everything you need to know

**A complete guide to the standardized tests evaluated
by top US universities**

The SAT & the ACT

The SAT and ACT are standardized exams designed to test your readiness for college and act as a common data point that college admissions officers use to compare applicants. Universities will consider the SAT & ACT to measure the academic level of the candidates equally, regardless of their educational curriculum or country of residence.

While universities may place slightly different weightings on SAT or ACT scores as evaluations of a student's chances of admission as a whole, there is no doubt these tests play a major role in moving applicants through the competitive admissions process.

The best way to prepare for each is to take multiple practice tests and work with a tutor to both target your areas of weakness and emphasize your areas of strength.



	SAT*	ACT
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 3 hours and 15 minutes, with 15 minutes on breaks (*) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 3 hours and 5 minutes (with a 10 minute break) - without the optional essay + 3 hours and 50 minutes, with an extra 5-minute break and an extra 40 minutes for the optional essay
Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Evidence-Based Reading + Writing & Language + Math: No-Calculator + Math: Calculator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + English + Math + Reading + Science + Writing (optional)
Score	400-1600	1-36
Format	On paper (*)	Computer

**Starting in March 2023, the new digital version of the SAT will be effective for international students (and in 2024 in US territory). The test will undergo some structural changes, such as the question template and time per section. Continue reading this guide for specific information about these changes.*

On both the SAT and the ACT, there is a pre-determined time limit for answering the questions in each section.

The time required to complete each section of the SAT and ACT, the number of questions in each test, and the equivalence of results between the two tests can be found here:

SAT		
Section/Break	# of questions	Time per section
Reading	52	65 minutes
First Break	-	10 minutes
Writing & Language	44	35 minutes
Math (No Calculator)	20	25 minutes
Second Break	-	5 minutes
Math (Calculator)	38	55 minutes

ACT		
Section/Break	# of questions	Time per section
English	75	45 minutes
Math (Calculator)	60	60 minutes
Break	-	10 minutes
Reading	40	35 minutes
Science	40	35 minutes
Break (students not taking the ACT with Writing will leave the testing room)	-	5 minutes
Essay (optional)	-	40 minutes

Score in ACT	Score in SAT
36	1570-1600
35	1530-1560
34	1490-1520
33	1450-1480
32	1420-1440
31	1390-1410
30	1360-1380
29	1330-1350
28	1300-1320
27	1260-1290
26	1230-1250
25	1200-1220
24	1160-1190
23	1130-1150
22	1100-1120
21	1060-1090
20	1030-1050
19	990-1020
18	960-980
17	920-950
16	880-910
15	830-870
14	780-820
13	730-770
12	690-720
11	650-680
10	620-640
9	590-610

Planning your strategy:

SAT vs. ACT



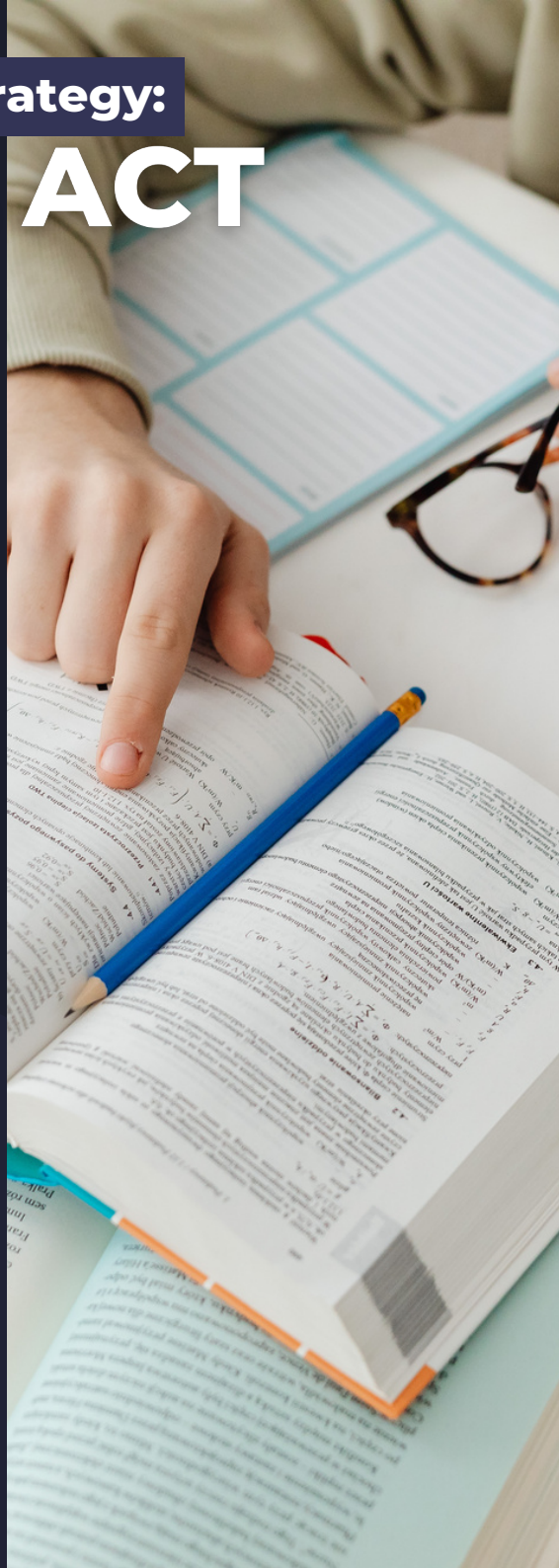
Time management is crucial on both exams, but you have significantly less time per question on the ACT, so working quickly is even more important.



The ACT also has a science section, but no specific area of course study is necessary. Rather, the exam tests skills in data and graphical analysis used in the sciences across the board.



Critical reading is also more important on the SAT, where evidence-based reading questions (using clues in the passage to answer a multiple-choice question) are common.





The style of question on the ACT is often more straightforward, while SAT questions tend to be more complex and on occasion ambiguous, leaving many students pondering the correct multiple-choice option.



In the math sections, the SAT focuses largely on Algebra, while the ACT includes more concepts from trigonometry and geometry. Also, the SAT uses math to account for half of your total score, while the ACT uses it to account for only a quarter of your total score.



Generally, the SAT test dates are in Mar., May, Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. The ACT test dates are in Feb., Apr., Jun., Jul., Sept., Oct., Dec. If you have no academic preferences, then pick the test that works best with your schedule!

Test-optional and test-blind: The impact of COVID-19 on the SAT & ACT

By now you probably know that a large number of US universities have opted to extend the test-optional policies they implemented last year in light of the global pandemic. With countless tests cancelled and many students unable to get to open testing centers in 2020, and with the potential for another year of uncertainty ahead, many colleges have made test scores optional for at least one more year to preemptively ease the burden on students with little or no access to testing opportunities.

While some schools have gone a step further and declared that test scores will be optional beyond 2022 (whether that be for an additional 2-3 years or permanently), **many of the most prestigious schools in the nation have decidedly stated that they do not plan to adopt permanent test-optional policies.**

Understandably, as schools are at liberty to approach COVID-19 in the best way they see fit, many students are left unsure of the testing requirements for the schools they plan to apply to. There are top universities, such as **MIT and Georgetown**, that step back and are **requiring submission of SAT and/or ACT scores** as part of their holistic application review process.

Even though the SAT is optional, Crimson Education and top US college admissions experts (like former Ivy League admissions officer Ben Schwartz) **still recommend that you take it.** It provides a definite yardstick that a university can use to compare you against other applicants and shows you are serious enough about academics to take the extra step.

The SAT is Going Digital

The College Board just announced the SAT, PSAT, and all of the college-entrance exams in their SAT Suite are going digital.

"The digital SAT will be easier to take, easier to give, and more relevant," said Priscilla Rodriguez, vice president of College Readiness Assessments at the College Board.

International students can start taking the SAT online in 2023. US students can take the online PSAT in 2023 and the SAT in 2024. The College Board pilot-tested the digital SAT in the US and internationally in November 2021, and students raved about the changes, saying it was less demanding and easier to understand. When polled, nearly 80% of high school students said the online SAT was less stressful and preferred it over the traditional method. Additionally, the College Board reported that all of the educators who were part of the pilot had a positive experience.





What will change

- + A shorter test - two hours instead of the traditional three hours
- + Additional time given between questions
- + Shorter reading passages with only one question linked to each passage
- + Reading comprehension passages with a wider range of topics
- + Use of calculators for the entire math section
- + The choice between using their own devices or the schools' devices
- + Test results in a few days, instead of a few weeks



What will not change

- + Tests will continue to measure knowledge and skills students learned during high school.
- + The tests will continue to be applied in schools/application centers. It will not be possible to do them from home.
- + The SAT will still be scored on a 1600 scale.
- + Students will continue to have access to free resources, such as practice tests, on the Khan Academy platform.

Should I Take The SAT or ACT?

If both tests are equally challenging, which one should you take? First, evaluate where your natural abilities lie. In general, students who enjoy writing, literature, and verbal communication tend to prefer the ACT. Those more mathematically-minded prefer the SAT.

Strong Math Skills

The SAT math section is split into one calculator and one non-calculator section, with a math formula guide to assist with the problems. These sections contribute to about 50% of your final SAT score.

The ACT only has a calculator section that accounts for about 25% of the overall score. If math is not your strong point, sitting the ACT may be the better option.

Practice Both Tests

If you're still unsure which test you should take, try taking a practice test for the SAT and ACT. Compare your scores, how you felt about the questions, and which one felt easier for you.

Take Both Tests

There's nothing wrong with taking both tests. While this means you have to study for both tests, it also means you can submit your best score. While you can take the tests more than once, universities discourage taking the test more than three times.

Our SAT/ACT Tutoring

Developed by Ivy League grads, PhDs and top tutors from around the world, Crimson's SAT/ACT courses reduce your study time while maximising your results. Our one-on-one test preparation with expert tutors, many of whom scored a perfect 1600 (SAT) and/or 36 (ACT) on their own college admissions standardized tests.

SAT



ACT

Our differences



Personalised service

Our programs are individual and personalised for each student, designed to help you achieve excellent results in each section of the tests.



Expert tutors

Our tutors are from some of the top US universities, many of whom scored a perfect 1600 (SAT) and/or 36 (ACT) on their own college admissions standardized tests.



Platform integrations

Online testing platforms like Khan Academy, integrated with the Crimson App.



Practice tests

Complete practice tests with instant tutor feedback and extensive homework exercises tailored to the curriculum.



Study guide

A personalised guide designed to make the study more efficient and effective.



Progress tracking

A progress tracking system, which provides instant notes and detailed data on points to be developed.

The Crimson Advantage

70%

The percentage of Crimson students who take the SAT.

30%

The percentage of Crimson students who take the ACT.

280+

The average point increase for students that study for the SAT with Crimson.

4+

The average point increase for students that study for the ACT with Crimson.



“

We brought Crimson on board pretty early in the process and I started with my SAT tutor straight away. My tutor was amazing, she helped me pull my SAT score up a good 90 points from where I started.

-Allie B.

“

As a student from an education system where we hardly ever do tests using multiple choice, I found the SAT and ACT completely different to anything I had done in school. My Crimson tutor really helped me adjust to that unfamiliar form of testing so I was able to perform it at a competitive level.

-Dan A.





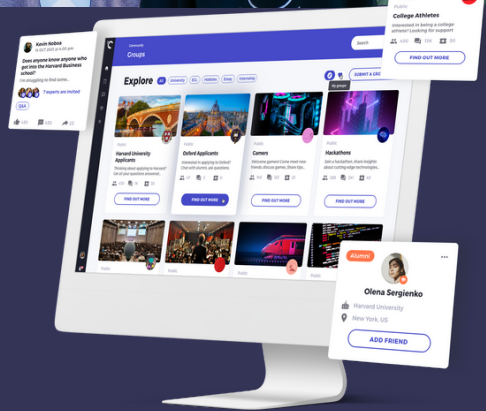
Make your dream possible with Crimson Education



Who We Are

Crimson Education is an education consulting company that helps students around the world get into their best-fit universities by creating personalized teams comprised of the top tutors, mentors, and admissions experts.

Our one-on-one sessions ensure that Crimson students get the support they need to stand out in today's highly competitive college admissions race.



Our Services

Crimson's bespoke services help you to achieve your educational aims.



Admissions Consulting



Career and Mentoring



Standardized Test Tutoring



Extracurricular and Leadership



Merit & Need Based Scholarships



Sports Recruitment

Our Results

514+

Offers to the Ivy league

176+

Offers to Oxford and Cambridge

3000+

Offers to US Top 50 universities

1500+

Offers to the UK Top 10 universities



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Crimsoneducation

Why Crimson?



Our Network

2400+

2,400 expert tutors, mentors, and strategists located around the world



The Crimson Team includes alumni from top 25 US & UK universities in over 20 offices around the world



Our elite board of advisors and sponsors include prestigious influencers at the top of their chosen industry

Our Methodology

One-On-One Mentoring

We provide our students with personalized one-on-one programs, with the best tutors and mentors from around the world. Our advice is tailored for each individual student!

Roadmaps

Each student will receive a fully-personalized program with a roadmap that outlines every detail of the college admission process.

Resources

We believe in giving students and parents around the world access to vital information. We have the largest YouTube channel of any educational company that depicts college life and answers all of your big questions!

Our Technology

Crimson App

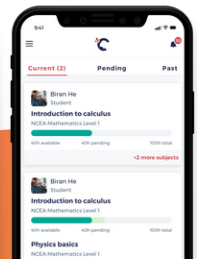
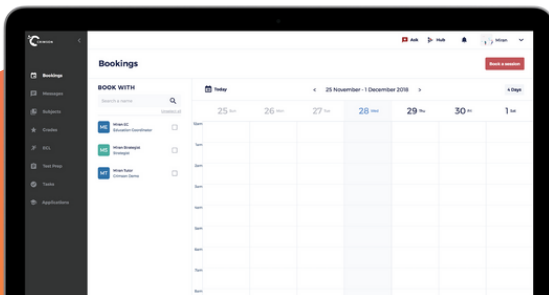
Each Crimson student is onboarded to our mobile & web app, where students can book sessions and view their tailored timetable of customized tasks.

Video Based

Crimson students are able to connect anywhere in the world with their team through our video-based mentoring.

Personality Test

We utilize psychometrics to pair each student with a team that is optimized to his/her interests and learning style! Our test was developed from one of the most well-known data scientists in the world, Galen Buckwalter.



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Ready to Get Started?

Book in a free one hour consultation with one of our expert Advisors who can answer all your individual questions and create a plan for you or your child.

[Talk To Us](#)



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