

# Demystifying the SAT & ACT

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February 18, 2020

SAT			ACT		
<i>Section</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Questions</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Questions</i>
Reading	65 minutes	52 questions	English	45 minutes	75 questions
English	35 minutes	44 questions	Math	60 minutes	60 questions
Math (No Calc)	25 minutes	20 questions	Reading	40 minutes	40 questions
Math (W/ Calc)	55 minutes	38 questions	Science	35 minutes	40 questions
<i>Total:</i>	<b>3 h 0 min</b>	<b>154 questions</b>		<b>2 h 55 min</b>	<b>215 questions</b>

# Scoring the Tests

## SAT

- Total Score: 400 - 1600
- Reading and English are combined for a Verbal score of 200 - 800
- Math: No Calculator and Math: With Calculator are combined for a Math score of 200-800

## ACT

- Total Composite Score: 1 - 36
  - Average of all four sections
- English scored from 1 to 36
- Math scored from 1 to 36
- Reading scored from 1 to 36
- Science scored from 1 to 36

# How do I choose?

- Struggle with timing on tests in school?
  - The SAT may be a better choice
- Avid reader?
  - The ACT science section is very similar to reading
- Strong in math?
  - The SAT weights math as half of your score
- Taken both tests (including PSAT and in-school practice ACT)?
  - Choose the test with the higher percentile score!
- Anxious test-taker?
  - Both are stressful, but both can be mastered

# I'm a straight-A student. Why are my scores poor?

## 1. Gaps in knowledge

- Grammar rules were last seen in elementary/middle school
- Students in advanced math are rusty on basic algebra and geometry
- Students still in Algebra I or Geometry may not have seen trigonometry or complex functions

## 2. Inefficiency due to lack of strategy

- There is no partial credit on the test, so it is hard to know where a mistake was made
- Break the cycle of “guessing wrong”

## 3. Anxiety

- This test is **not** a measure of intelligence or future success!
- Develop self-awareness and set reasonable expectations
- Working with a tutor or study group can make the test feel more human

# Test Dates & Deadlines

<b>ACT</b>	
<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020
April 15, 2020	No registration needed*
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020
September 12, 2020	August 7, 2020
October 24, 2020	September 20, 2020
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021

<b>SAT</b>	
<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020
August 29, 2020	July 31, 2020
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020
November 7, 2020	October 9, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 6, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021

\* Administered in WY public schools to juniors free of charge

# Special Accommodations

- Students with documented disabilities may get additional (1.5x or 2x) time
  - Disabilities may include learning disorders, vision impairment, and relevant medical conditions
- Must submit documentation from a psychoeducational or doctor's evaluation
- Accommodations from the school district do not apply
  - Both the College Board (SAT) and ACT, Inc. require documentation and approximately 8 weeks for processing requests
- Should I take extra time if I can?
  - Anyone who qualifies will almost certainly benefit from additional time
- How do I get started?
  - Visit [here](#) for the ACT's guide and [here](#) for the SAT's guide
  - TCSD can provide evaluation for needs

# What do I do?

- Have been tutoring for standardized tests since 2014
  - Trained by a top Colorado program
- A non-perfect scorer who became a perfect-scorer
  - These tests can be learned!
- Employ proven strategies
  - Taking an objective approach to an objective test
- Focus on the big picture
  - What score do you need?
  - How much do you care?
  - What might be holding you back?
- Available for private after-school tutoring for spring test dates

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