



College Entrance Exams
At-a-Glance

	PSAT 8/9	PSAT/NMSQT	SAT	ACT
Grade 9	X (Fall)			
Grade 10		X (Fall)		
Grade 11		X (Fall)	X (Spring)	X (Spring)
Grade 12			X (Fall)	X (Fall)
Total Test Time	2 hrs. 25 mins.	2 hrs. 45 mins.	3 hrs. (+ 50 mins. for the Optional Essay)	2 hrs. 55 mins. (+ 40 mins. For the Optional Writing)
Components	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing -Reading Test -Writing and Language Test Math	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing -Reading Test -Writing and Language Test Math	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing -Reading Test -Writing and Language Test Math (Calculator/No Calculator) Essay (Optional)	English Section Math Section Reading Section Science Section Writing (Optional)
Important Features	-Focus on the knowledge, skills and understandings identified as most important for College and Career success. -Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in context, word choice, meaning, tone and impact. -Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving, Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math -Right-only scoring (no penalty for guessing.	-Focus on the knowledge, skills and understandings identified as most important for College and Career success. -Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in context, word choice, meaning, tone and impact. -Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving, Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math -Right-only scoring (no penalty for guessing.	-Focus on the knowledge, skills and understandings identified as most important for College and Career success. -Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in context, word choice, meaning, tone and impact. -Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving, Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math -Right-only scoring (no penalty for guessing.	-Grammar, Usage/Mechanics, Sentence Structure/Rhetorical Skills. -Pre-Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry -Comprehension (Stated and implied) -Interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem solving -No penalty for wrong answers
Essay*	No	No	Optional, given at the end of the SAT. 50 minutes Tests reading, analysis of a provided source text, and writing skills.	Optional, Essay prompt that addresses contemporary issues. Expository writing, evaluative argument and rhetorical analysis.
Score Reporting	Total Score: Scale ranges from 240 to 1440	Total Score: Scale Ranges from 320-1520	Composite Score: 400 to 1600 -Sum of two section scores -Does not include Essay	Composite Score: 1-36 -Average of four test sections -Does not include Writing

-For detailed information about the College Board Suite of Assessments visit: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/>

-For detailed information about the ACT visit: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>

*Students should check with the college/university he/she is applying to because some colleges/universities may require a SAT Essay score or an ACT Writing score.

*The information provided at the links below reflect what was most recently provided to the College Board and ACT. For specific information about an institution’s policy or admission requirements, please contact its Admissions Office.

[SAT Essay Policies of Colleges and Scholarship Providers](#)

[ACT Writing Test](#)