

# How to Determine Whether the SAT or ACT is the Better Choice for Your Teen!

Both tests require an equal and thorough knowledge of grammar, composition, and critical reading.

## SAT Strengths

## ACT Strengths

The student has strong logic skills that he can apply to the math problems presented

The student has strong deductive reasoning skills to evaluate science lab results through the charts and graphs presented.

The student is a quick learner

The student is a diligent student

The student need only have completed Algebra I and II , as well as Geometry

The student should have completed Algebra I and II, as well as Geometry and Trigonometry

The student is a spontaneous thinker with strong composition skills

The student is a pensive person and may need additional time to write essays.

The SAT essay portion is only 25 minutes long and requires a response to a contemplative question with support from their breadth of knowledge in history, literature, the arts, science, and current events

The ACT essay portion is 30 minutes long and requires a response to a contemporary problem with support gleaned from critical thinking and analysis

The student is more at ease with essay topics that asks him to address life issues such as "Success", "Failure" and "Adversity", and "Technology" . A student will use examples to support their stance from history, the arts, science, literature and current events.

The student is more at ease with essay topics that challenge them to give an opinion on a high school issue and successfully defend their opinion with logic and reasoning.

The student has a broad educational foundation with strengths in logic, history, literature or worldview

The student is strong in math and science, especially in using deductive reasoning, charts and graphs to determine an outcome.

The SAT Writing sections test a student's ability to discern grammar errors without having to cite specific names of the errors. In 2/3 of the sections, students must determine how to correct the error through multiple choice answers

The ACT has an English section that includes subsections of grammar and usage, punctuation and sentence structure. Student's must know how to correct all specific grammar errors through multiple choice selections.

The SAT test discourages guessing through a penalty for wrong answers. Students should be confident of their answer or leave it blank

The ACT test only counts "correct" answers towards their score. Students are encouraged to answer all questions and even make logical guesses

There are many study aids for the SAT math with strategies, examples and practice , but the math questions can have tricky wording at times.

Students can study the math lessons to prepare well for the straightforward ACT math section. The ACT math test is more comprehensive than the SAT and covers Matrices, Logarithms and Trigonometry as well.

The SAT is designed to anticipate a student's future performance by comparing their abilities to those who that have been successful at post-secondary academics

The ACT is designed to measure a student's success in high school as it pertains to whether or not they are prepared advanced studies

### The Basic Educational Philosophy of each assessment organization

The SAT® Reasoning Test™, the SAT Subject Tests™, and the PSAT/NMSQT® all measure content knowledge as well as critical thinking and reasoning skills that are foundations for success in college

Questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, Mathematics, and Science.