

## The Tests – A Comparison Chart of the PSAT, SAT and ACT

	<b>PSAT</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam	College Admissions Exam	College Admissions Exam
<b>Score Reporting</b>	Practice only, scores not reported to colleges	All SAT scores are reported to colleges	Highest ACT score only reported to college
<b>Maximum score</b>	240: The sum of three sections with maximum point yields of 80	2400: the sum of three sections with maximum point yields of 800	36: the average of 4 sections with maximum point yields of 36
<b>Scoring</b>	Correct Answers result in a point gain. Incorrect Answers result in a ¼ point deduction Unanswered questions do not result in a point gain, but also do not result in any additional point loss	Correct Answers result in a point gain. Incorrect Answers result in a ¼ point deduction Unanswered questions do not result in a point gain, but also do not result in any additional point loss	Correct answers result in a point gain. Incorrect and Unanswered questions do not result in any additional point loss
<b>Format</b>	Critical Reading, Math and Writing tests broken into 5 sections, No Essay	Critical Reading, Math and Writing tests broken into 10 sections, Essay included	English, Math, Reading and Science sections, Essay optional
<b>Timing (including breaks)</b>	2 ½ hours	5 hours	3 ½ hours
<b>Offered</b>	October	Throughout Academic Year	Throughout Academic Year