

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

| | PSAT | SAT | ACT |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Purpose | National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam | College Admissions Exam | College Admissions Exam |
| Score Reporting | Practice only, scores not reported to colleges | All SAT scores are reported to colleges | Highest ACT score only reported to college |
| Maximum score | 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 |
| Scoring | Correct Answers result in a point gain. Incorrect Answers result in a $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 |
| Format | 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 |
| Timing (including breaks) | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours | 5 hours | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours |
| Offered | October | Throughout Academic Year | Throughout Academic Year |