



# SAT vs. ACT Mini-Test

*To know which test is right for you, you don't have to take full-length diagnostics — just compare your reading and math scores. (Don't worry about the Science, English, and Writing + Language sections.) Here's how to do it, step-by-step:*

- Set aside 2–3 hours on two weekends in a row. Try to take each test at the same time on the same day (for example, 11am on a Sunday)
- Get the official testing booklets:
  - [The Official College Board SAT Manual](#)
  - [The Real Act Prep Guide](#)

- Get decent sleep the night before, eat breakfast, and test in a quiet place with phone off (some libraries have study rooms you can book)
- Resist the temptation to exceed time limits. The point of this exercise isn't to do as well as possible—it's to figure out which test is the best fit

## Weekend 1

Complete the "Reading Test" section of the ACT (35 minutes, 40 questions). Also complete the "Reading Test" section of the SAT (65 minutes, 52 questions)

- Grade each test using the booklets' grading rubric to determine how many questions you got right
- Use the Reading Score Charts below to find out your **scaled Reading scores**

## Weekend 2

Complete both Math Test sections of the SAT (total: 80 minutes, 58 questions). Also complete the ACT "Mathematics Test" (60 minutes, 60 questions)

- Grade each test using the booklets' grading rubric to determine how many questions you got right
- Scroll down to the Math Score Charts to find out your **scaled Math scores**

## Reading Score Charts

*Your raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly (one point for each correct answer). On the chart, locate your raw score to find out your scaled score:*

ACT Reading Score	
Raw	Scaled
40	36
38-39	35
37	34
36	33
35	32
34	31
33	30

SAT Reading Score	
Raw	Scaled
51-52	800
50	780
48-49	760
46-47	740
45	720
43-44	700
42	680

32	29
31	28
30	27
29	26
28	25
27	24
26	23
24-25	22
23	21
21-22	20
20	19
19	18
17-18	17
16	16
14-15	15
13	14
11-12	13
9-10	12

40-41	660
38-39	640
36-37	620
34-35	600
32-33	580
30-31	560
29	540
27-28	520
25-26	500
23-24	480
21-22	460
19-20	440
17-18	420
15-16	400
13-14	380
12	360
10-11	340
9	320

Make a note of your  
scaled  
ACT Reading score.

Make a note of your  
scaled  
SAT Reading score.

*Congrats on completing the Reading tests! If you feel disappointed by your scores, you're not alone. Don't worry—it's an opportunity for big point gains in the future!*

## **Math Score Charts**

*Your raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly (one point for each correct answer). On the chart, locate your raw score to find out your scaled score:*

ACT Math Score	
Raw	Scaled
59-60	36
57-58	35
56	34
54-55	33
53	32
52	31

SAT Math Score	
Raw	Scaled
58	800
57	790
56	780
55	760
54	750
53	740

50-51	30		52	730
48-49	29		51	710
45-47	28		50	700
42-44	27		49	690
39-41	26		48	680
36-38	25		46-47	670
34-35	24		45	660
32-33	23		44	650
30-31	22		43	640
29	21		42	630
27-28	20		41	620
24-26	19		40	610
22-23	18		38-39	600
19-21	17		37	590
15-18	16		36	580
12-14	15		35	570
9-11	14		33-34	560
7-8	13		32	550

6	12		31	540
5	11		30	530
4	10		28-29	520
3	9		27	510
2	7		26	500
1	4		25	490
0	1		23-24	480
<p>Scroll down to make a note of your scaled ACT Math score ↓</p>			22	470
			21	460
			20	450
			19	440
			18	430
			17	420
			16	410
			15	390
			14	380
			13	370
			12	360

		11	340
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Make a note of your scaled ACT Math score.

Make a note of your scaled SAT Math score.

*Congrats on completing the Math tests! Don't forget—a low score just means you have the opportunity for big point gains in the future!*

## **Last Step: Compare Your Overall Scores**

For your overall ACT score, <i>take the average of</i> your scaled ACT Reading & ACT Math scores	For your overall SAT score, <i>add</i> your scaled ACT Reading & ACT Math scores
For example, if your reading score is 14 and your math score is 16, your ACT score is 15 (out of 36)	For example, if your reading score is 400 and your math score is 450, your SAT score is 850 (out of 1600)
Make a note of your ACT score.	Make a note of your SAT score.



Finally, use the link below to compare your two overall scores and determine whether they favor the ACT or SAT—or are so close that you should make a judgment call just based on which test you liked more:

<https://www.compassprep.com/concordance-and-comparison-sat-and-act-scores/>

Then you're ready to start studying! Remember—the earlier you start, the less stressful it is, and the better your score will be!