

ATLAS TEST PREP

Comparison Guide to the SAT and ACT

	SAT (2016 & later)	ACT
Format & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Long Sections: Writing & Language, Reading, 2 Math, Essay (optional) -Questions have 4 Answer Choices -Total Time: 3h 50m (w/ Essay) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -5 Long Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, Essay (optional) -Most questions have 4 answer choices, Math has 5 -Total Time: 3h 25m (w/ Essay)
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined 400-1600 -Reading and Writing 200-800 -Math 200-800 -Essay Score Separate -“Cross-Test Scores” report performance on Science/History/Social Studies for entire exam -No deduction for incorrect answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composite Score: 1-36 -English 1-36 -Math 1-36 -Reading 1-36 -Science 1-36 -Essay Score Separate -No deduction for incorrect answers
Writing / English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and edit a passage for logical structure and effective rhetoric -standard English grammar and usage -punctuation -includes informational graphics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and edit a passage for logical structure and effective rhetoric -standard English grammar and usage -punctuation -commonly confused words
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry -emphasis on Algebra -Calculator prohibited on one section -some formulas provided -12 Grid in Questions -1 extended thinking Question (4pts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry -math tests in a straight forward manner -extensive range of concepts tested -emphasis on word problems -no formulas provided
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary de-emphasized 4 long passages and 1 paired -2 passages including diagrams and charts -1 passage from U.S. “founding document” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 long passages -very little emphasis on vocabulary -straightforward questions that require reading comprehension
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rSAT does not have a stand-alone science section, but tests through math, reading, writing, and language piece of the exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 questions over 7 passages -emphasis on graphs, charts, diagrams, etc... -science is a reasoning test and rarely requires any science knowledge
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 minutes, at the end of the exam -analyze a passage and evaluate -students’ opinion discouraged -essay is scored on a 2-8 scale on 3 traits (Reading, Analysis, and Writing) -optional, but recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes, at the end of the exam -prompt related to HS students -demands a structured response -essay is scored on a 2-12 scale - optional, but recommended