

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

ACT vs SAT Comparison

ACT	SAT
Time: 3 hours, 35 mins (with optional essay)	Time: 3 hours, 50 mins (with optional essay)
4 Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science plus an optional essay	4 Sections: Evidence-based Reading and Writing, Math w/out calculator, Math w/ calculator plus an optional essay
Score: 1-36 (based on an average of sub sections scores, also 1-36) Optional writing score of 0-12, not included in overall composite score	Score: Out of 1600, 800 for Math, 800 for Evidence-based Reading & Writing Optional essay receives a separate score
Wrong answer penalty: No penalty	Wrong answer penalty: No penalty
Math content: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 & Trigonometry	Math content: Algebra, Data analysis, some Geometry, Trigonometry, Algebra 2
Calculator: Permitted on whole test	Calculator: Permitted for 37 questions but not for 20 questions
General focus: Broad range of content and skills	General focus: In-depth analysis of evidence and content
Multiple Choice: 5 answer choices	Multiple choice: 4 answer choices