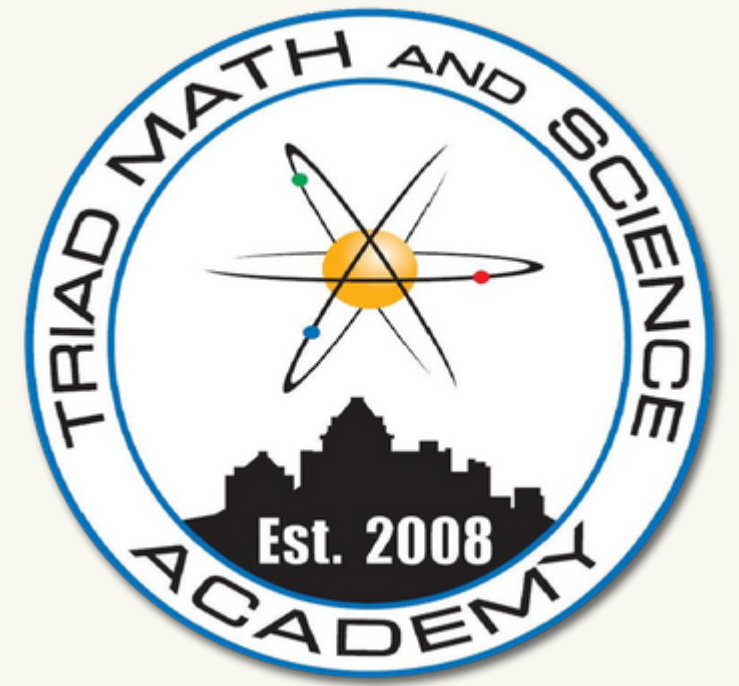


# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING 101



What are the PSAT, SAT, ACT exams?

# What Are College Admissions Tests?

You may know college admission tests by name — the PSAT, SAT, and the ACT. These tests, also called college entrance exams, are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college-level work.

College admissions officers will review test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes you took in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays.



# PSAT

The Preliminary SAT, also known as the PSAT/NMSQT® (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), is a practice version of the SAT exam. Many students take the test in both 10th and 11th grade.

**If you earn a high score on the PSAT your junior year, you could qualify to receive a National Merit Scholarship—\$180** million dollars in merit scholarships are awarded to students each year.



# SAT

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The SAT is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test created and administered by the College Board.

There are two SAT sections:

- Math (calculator and no calculator)
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing



SAT<sup>®</sup>

# ACT

The ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. It is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test administered by ACT, Inc.

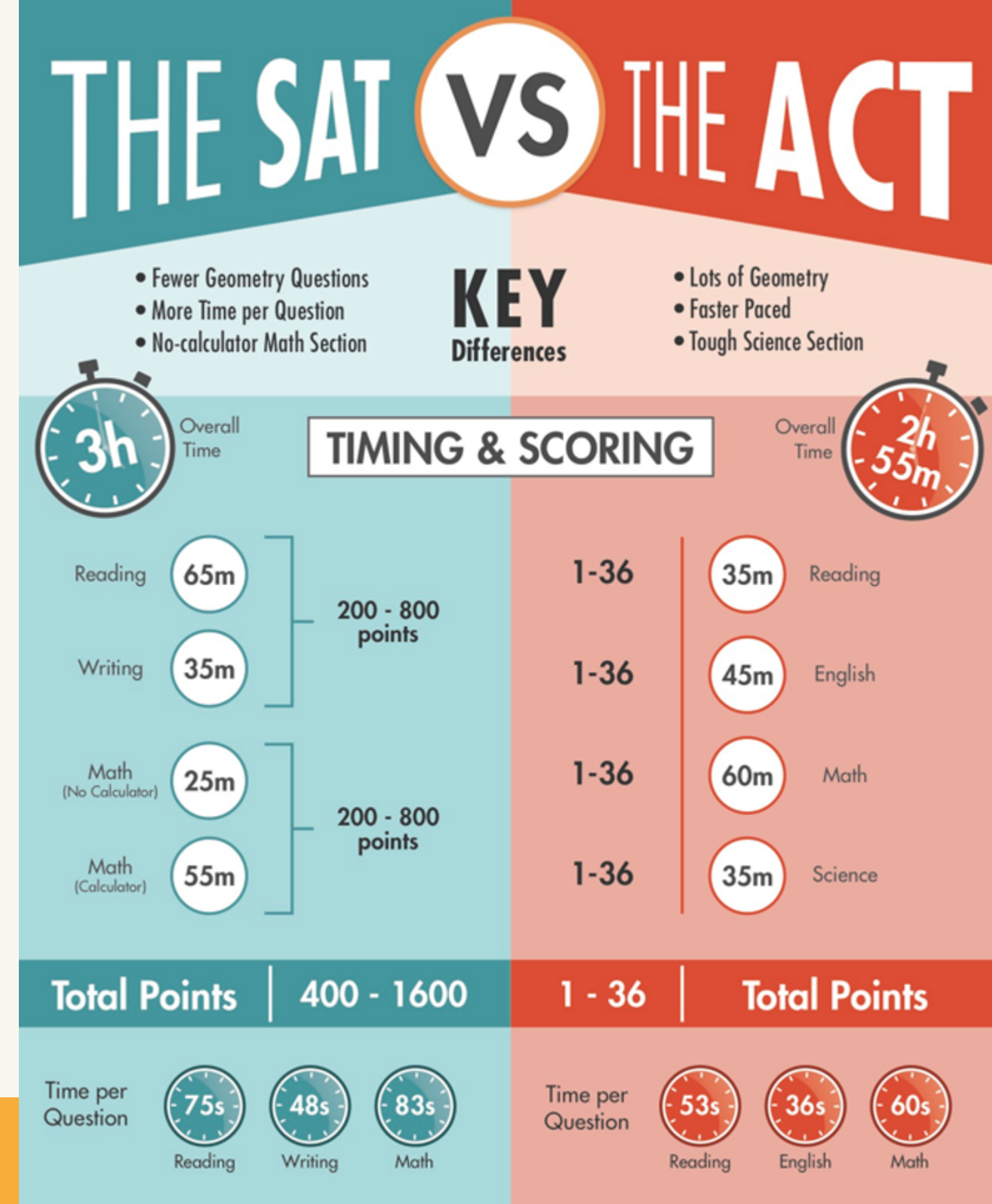
There are four ACT sections:

- English
- Reading
- Math
- Science



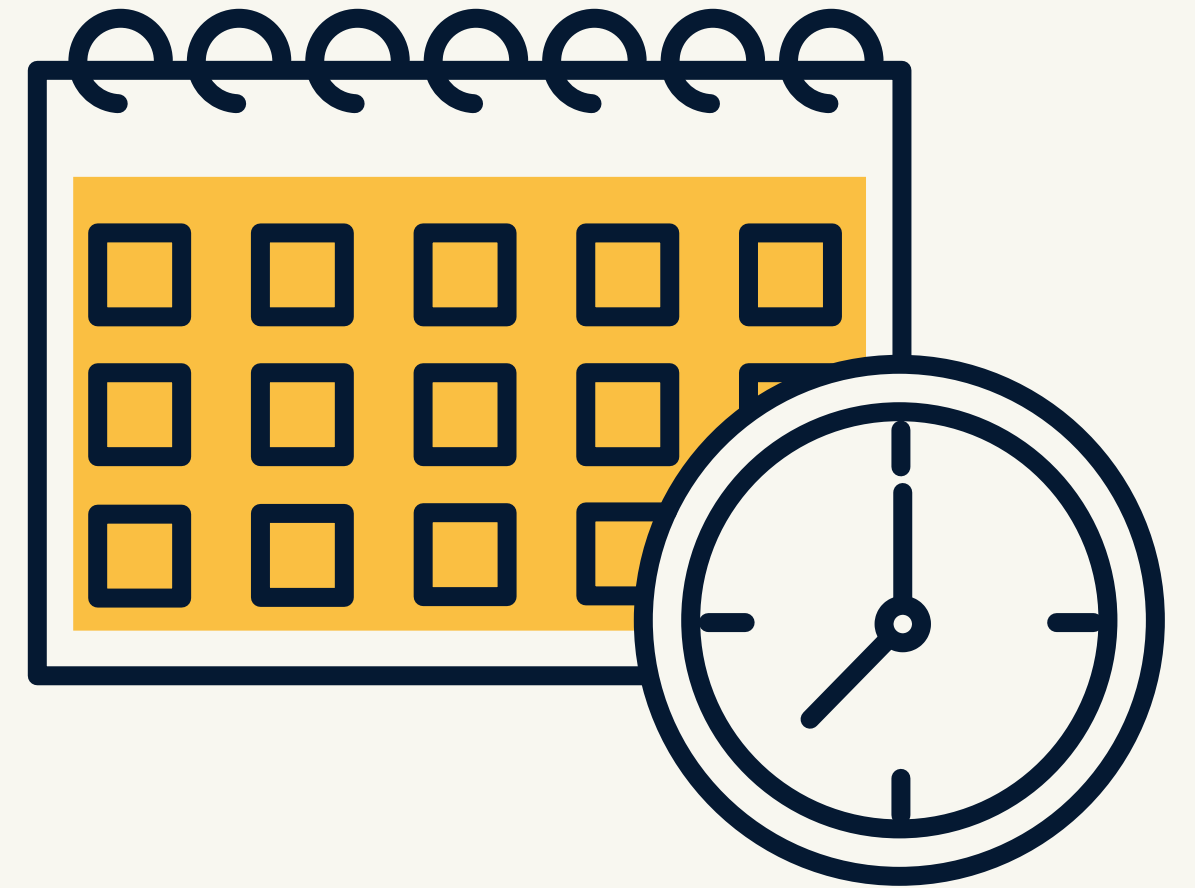
# So Which One Should I Take?

**BOTH OF THEM!** Most colleges and universities will accept scores from either the SAT or ACT, and do not favor one test over the other. That said, college-bound students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT.



# When Should I Take It?

Most high school students take the ACT, SAT, or both during the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year. It's important to leave time to re-take the test if you need to raise your score before you apply to college.





# How Do I Register?

Registration deadlines fall approximately five weeks before each test date. You can get registration materials from your College Counselors, or you can register online for each exam.

