



Comparative Features of the SAT and ACT for the CTY Talent Search 2009-2010

	COLLEGE BOARD (SAT)	ACT, Inc. (ACT)
Test Fee:	\$45.00	\$32.00
Test Purpose:	Designed to measure critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills.	Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science.
Test Dates:	Dec 5* Jan 23* Mar 13 May 1 Jun 5	Dec 12* Feb 6* (not in NY) Apr 10 Jun 12
Length of Tests:	3.75 hours	3.5 - 4 hours
Test Content CTY Considers:	<p>SAT MATHEMATICS Covers mathematics concepts from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers and Operations • Algebra and Functions • Geometry and Measurement • Data Analysis, Statistics, & Probability <p>SAT CRITICAL READING Sentence Completion: Measures understanding of meanings of works and how different parts of a sentence fit together Passage-based reading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests vocabulary in context, literal comprehension, and extended reading • Passages taken from the humanities, social studies, natural sciences, and literary fiction 	<p>ACT MATHEMATICS TEST Covers mathematics content from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra • Intermediate Algebra and Coordinate Geometry • Plane Geometry and Trigonometry <p>ACT READING TEST Arts and Literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prose Fiction • Humanities (Art history, art, music, philosophy, theater, architecture, dance, religion/ethics, literary criticism) <p>Social Studies and Natural Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History, Political Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Sciences

**Test Content CTY
Does Not Consider:**

SAT WRITING (MANDATORY)

**ACT ENGLISH TEST
(MANDATORY)**

**ACT SCIENCE TEST
(MANDATORY)**

Method of Scoring:

Scores adjusted for guessing. Correct answers carry full weight while a chance level penalty is applied for each incorrect answer.

Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing.

**Score Range of Test
Portions Considered
by CTY:**

SAT Mathematics: 200-800

ACT Mathematics Test: 1-36

- Pre-Algebra & Elementary Algebra: 1-18
- Inter. Algebra & Coordinate Geometry: 1-18
- Plane Geometry & Trigonometry: 1-18

SAT Critical Reading: 200-800

SAT maximum total of 2400 possible points includes the mandatory Writing test. CTY considers only the Mathematics and Critical Reading sections, not writing, for CTY eligibility and awards.

ACT Reading Test: 1-36

- Arts and Literature: 1-18
- Social Studies and Sciences: 1-18

The ACT maximum total score of 36 possible points derives from the averages from all portions, including the English and Science sections. CTY considers only the Mathematics and Reading tests for CTY eligibility and awards.

*Best test dates for students interested in CTY Summer Programs 2010.

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