

**SAT**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**ACT**

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**THEA**

[www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)

**2009-10 SAT Dates:**

<b>U.S. Registration Deadlines</b>		
<b>2009-10 Test Dates</b>	<b>Test</b>	<b>Regular Registration Deadline (postmark/submit by)</b>
10-Oct-09	SAT & Subject Tests	9-Sep-09
7-Nov-09	SAT & Subject Tests	1-Oct-09
5-Dec-09	SAT & Subject Tests	30-Oct-09
23-Jan-10	SAT & Subject Tests	15-Dec-09
13-Mar-10	SAT only	4-Feb-10
1-May-10	SAT & Subject Tests	25-Mar-10
5-Jun-10	SAT & Subject Tests	29-Apr-10

**2009-10 ACT Dates:**

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>(Late Fee Required)</b>
September 12, 2009*	7-Aug-09	August 8 – 21, 2009
October 24, 2009	18-Sep-09	September 19 – October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	6-Nov-09	November 7 – 20, 2009
February 6, 2010**	5-Jan-10	January 6 – 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	5-Mar-10	March 6 – 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	7-May-10	May 8 – 21, 2010

**ACT HIDALGO TEST SITE**

OCTOBER 24, 2009  
 DECEMBER 12, 2009  
 FEBRUARY 6, 2010

**THEA TEST DATES FOR THE FALL 2009**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2009  
 NOVEMBER 14, 2009

# ABOUT THE THEA

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 1989, the Texas Higher Education Assessment® (THEA®) has provided Texas students and institutions of higher education with a flexible, fair, and accurate testing and score-reporting system. Its purpose is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges or universities.

The THEA Test is offered in the following testing formats:

- The **THEA paper-and-pencil test** is offered five times a year at centers across Texas. This registration bulletin provides complete information about how to register to test, prepare for the test, and obtain your score report.

The **THEA Quick Test** is the same as the THEA paper-and-pencil test and is offered by many colleges, universities, and high schools on a schedule determined by the institution. Consult with your advisor to determine whether the THEA Quick Test is an option for you. For a list of available test sites and their contact information, visit the THEA Web site at [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com) and select the THEA Quick Test link. An official score report for all sections will be mailed to you within one week after your answer document is received. Once you have taken the THEA Quick Test, you must wait 30 days before retaking it.

The THEA Test consists of three sections: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Refer to the table below for descriptions of these sections. Each section of the THEA Test is designed to measure a student's academic skill against an established standard of competence. A student's score on each section of the test is based on his or her performance in relation to the skills being tested. Scores are not related to how well other students have performed on the same section.

Section	Description
Reading	<p><b>Consists of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions matched to about seven reading selections of 300 to 750 words each.</b></p> <p>The reading selections represent a variety of subject areas and are similar to reading materials (e.g., textbooks, manuals) that students are likely to encounter during their first year of college. Students will be asked to answer several multiple-choice questions about each reading selection.</p>
Mathematics	<p><b>Consists of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions covering four general areas: fundamental mathematics, algebra, geometry, and problem solving.</b></p> <p>The test questions focus on a student's ability to perform mathematical operations and solve problems. Appropriate formulas will be provided to help students perform some of the calculations required by the test questions. Note that you may use a four-function (+, -, ×, ÷) nonprogrammable calculator (with square root [√] and percent [%] keys).</p>
Writing	<p><b>Contains two subsections: a writing sample subsection requiring students to demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively in writing on a given topic and a multiple-choice subsection including approximately 40 questions assessing students' ability to recognize various elements of effective writing.</b></p> <p>Students are asked to prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on an assigned topic. Students' writing samples are scored on the basis of how effectively they communicate a whole message to a specified audience for a stated purpose. Students will be assessed on their ability to express, organize, and support opinions and ideas, rather than on the position they express.</p>

# Comparative Features of the ACT and SAT

## The ACT (ACT, Inc.)

## SAT (College Board)

**Purpose:** Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Designed to measure critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills.

**Content:** **ACT English Test (75 items, 45 minutes)**

- Usage/Mechanics
- Punctuation (13%)
  - Basic Grammar and Usage (16%)
  - Sentence Structure (24%)
  - Rhetorical Skills
  - Strategies (16%)
  - Organization (15%)
  - Style (16%)

**ACT Mathematics Test (60 items, 60 minutes)**

- Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra (23%, 17%)  
Intermediate Algebra and Coord. Geometry (15%, 15%)  
Plane Geometry and Trigonometry (23%, 7%)

**ACT Reading Test (40 items, 35 minutes)**

- Arts and Literature
- Prose Fiction (25%)
  - Humanities (25%) (art history, art, music, philosophy, theater, architecture, dance, religion/ethics, literary criticism)
- Social Studies and Natural Sciences (25%, 25%)
- History, Political Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Sciences

**ACT Science Test (40 items, 35 minutes)**

Interpretation analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in Biology, Earth/Space Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics

- Data Representation (38%)
- Research Summaries (45%)
- Conflicting Viewpoints (17%)

**ACT Writing Test (Optional) (1 prompt, 30 minutes)**

Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. Consists of one 30-minute essay.

**SAT Writing (Mandatory) (60 minutes)**

- Multiple Choice (35 minutes)  
Essay (25 minutes)

**SAT Mathematics (70 minutes)**

- Arithmetic (20%)  
Algebra (35–40%)  
Geometry (25–30%)  
Data Analysis (10–15%)

**SAT Critical Reading (70 minutes)**

- Sentence Completion  
Critical Reading in Humanities, Social Narrative (80% nonfiction)  
80% Extended Reasoning  
10% Literal Comprehension  
10% Vocabulary  
Elementary Analogies  
Adding Short Passages

**No Science Test**

**Method of Scoring:** Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for guessing.

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

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## The ACT (ACT, Inc.)

## SAT (College Board)

### Test Score Scales:

- ACT English Test: 1-36**
- Usage/Mechanics: 1-18
  - Rhetorical Skills: 1-18
- ACT Reading Test: 1-36**
- Arts and Literature: 1-18
  - Social Studies and Sciences: 1-18
- ACT Mathematics Test: 1-36**
- Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra: 1-18
  - Inter. Algebra and Coordinate Geometry: 1-18
  - Plane Geometry and Trigonometry: 1-18
- ACT Science Test: 1-36**
- ACT Composite: 1-36**  
(average of four test scores—does not include writing)
- ACT English and Writing: 1-36**
- Essay Subscore: 2-12

- SAT Writing: 200-800**
- Multiple Choice: 20-80
  - Essay: 2-12
- SAT Critical Reading: 200-800**

**SAT Mathematics: 200-800**

**No Science Test**

**SAT Total: 600-2400**  
(sum of SAT Critical Reading, Math, and Writing Scores)

### Student Information:

#### Student Profile Section

- Background (Demographics)
- High School Courses and Grades
- Admission/Enrollment Information
- Educational Plans, Interests, and Needs
- Special Educational Needs, Interests, and Goals
- College Extracurricular Plans
- High School Information and Extracurricular Activities
- Out of Class Accomplishments
- Evaluation of High School Experience

#### Educational and Career Planning

- ACT Interest Inventory
- World-of-Work Map
- College Majors and Programs

#### Student Descriptive Questionnaire

- Background (Demographics)
- Educational Background
- High School and Community Activities
- Sports
- Student Plans for College

### Common Uses:

Admissions (accepted by most, but not all, colleges and universities)  
Talent Identification  
Academic Advising  
Freshman Course Placement Decisions  
Awarding Course Credit, Especially in English and Math Courses  
Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion)

Admissions (accepted by most, not all, colleges and universities)  
Talent Identification  
Academic Advising  
Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion)

### Research Services:

Class Profile Service  
Prediction Research Service  
Course Placement Service  
Retention Research Service

Class Profile Service  
Validity Research Service