

SAT-ACT-ACCUPLACER

	SAT	ACT	ACCUPLACER
Purpose	Measures critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills	Measures academic achievement in English, math, reading, and science	Measures readiness for college level coursework in math, reading, and writing
College Use	Used by universities and colleges as part of application process	Used by universities and colleges as part of the application process	Used by many community colleges and some four-year schools for course placement
Distinguishing Feature(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay is required • Math sections include student response/grid-in questions • ¼ point deduction for incorrect answers 	Measures science reasoning	Online, computer adaptive
Scoring	Highest Score - 2400 MCPS Target Score - 1650	Highest Score 36 MCPS Target Score 24	Highest Score 120 Maryland Community Colleges Target Scores for college level courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence Skills 90 <u>and</u> Reading Comprehension 79 • Elementary Algebra 62 <u>and</u> College Level Math 45
Score Reporting	Student chooses scores from a specific test date to be sent to schools. If test date is not specified, all scores will be sent.	Student chooses scores from a specific test date to be sent to schools.	Administered and shared with student by the post-secondary institution requiring the assessment.
Sections	10 Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Reading – 3 • Writing – 3 • Math – 3 • Experimental - 1 	4 Required Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Math • Reading • Science reasoning • <i>Optional writing (essay) section</i> 	Adaptive – questions depend upon previous answer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Elementary Algebra • College Level Math • Reading Comprehension • Sentence Skills • <i>Writing (optional)</i>

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Reading Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and long reading passages • Fiction and non-fiction readings • Draw inferences, synthesize information, main/supporting ideas, vocabulary in context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 one-page passages • Fiction and non-fiction readings, one each from social science, humanities, prose fiction, and natural sciences • Main/supporting ideas, comparisons, inferences, summarizing, generalizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and long reading passages • Fiction and non-fiction • Main/supporting ideas, inferences, summarizing, generalizations, vocabulary in context
Writing/English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar • Usage • Word choice • Essay required (format – student must take and support a position) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage/Mechanics: Punctuation, Grammar & Usage, Sentence Structure • Rhetorical Skills: Strategy, Organization, Style • <i>Essay optional (format – student must take and support a position)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage/Mechanics: Punctuation, Grammar & Usage, Sentence Structure • Coordination/subordination • <i>Writing (optional)</i>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers and Operations • Algebra and Functions • Geometry and Measurement • Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Algebra • Elementary Algebra • Intermediate Algebra • Coordinate Geometry • Plane Geometry • Trigonometry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Elementary Algebra • College Level Math
Science	<p>Not directly assessed (Critical reading assessment skills include “understanding sentences that deal with scientific ideas”)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences, <u>not</u> content. • Readings, charts, experiments • Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Earth/Space Sciences, Physics 	<p>Not assessed</p>