



Many parents and students want to know the difference between the tests that can be taken in junior and senior years of high school. This is a breakdown to help you see some of the bigger differences and similarities between the tests. The truth is that the NEW SAT is becoming more ACT-like, making the differences between the two tests even less important than they used to be. The main difference that discerning parents and students are paying attention to is that the NEW SAT is just that - NEW. And so colleges will need a couple of years, at least, to adjust their expectations to it. The ACT, on the other hand, is known commodity. You can always contact Mulholland Prep if you have questions!!!

	The NEW PSAT	The NEW SAT	THE ACT
<b>TIME</b>	2 Hours, 45 Minutes	3 Hours, plus 50 minutes for optional essay	3 Hours, plus 30 minutes for optional essay
<b>SECTIONS</b>	Math Reading Writing No Essay	Math Reading Writing Optional Essay	English Math Reading Science Optional Essay
<b>CONCEPTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math through geometry</li> <li>• Reading Comprehension and sentence completions</li> <li>• Grammar correction and contextual corrections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math through trig/pre-calc</li> <li>• Reading Comprehension and sentence completions</li> <li>• Grammar correction and contextual corrections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math through Trigonometry</li> <li>• Grammar correction and contextual word correction</li> <li>• Reading comprehension in four different sub-categories</li> <li>• Science understanding (reading graphs and descriptions of experiments)</li> </ul>
<b>SCORING</b>	Total of subjects, each subject given a sub-score. Highest possible score: 1520	Total of subjects, each subject given a sub-score Highest possible: 1600	Composite score, averaging score on four individual sub-sections, plus four sub-section scores Highest possible: 36
<b>SUMMED UP IN ONE SENTENCE</b>	“Can you do really, really well and qualify for National Merit? Otherwise - this is a true practice test.”	“Can you figure out our test?”	“Can you finish our test?”

*\*please note: extended time and/or accommodations make deciding which test to take more difficult. Please consult with us if you have this situation.*