

# About the Redesigned SAT

## 3 SECTIONS:

Evidence-Based  
Reading and Writing  
200-800 points

Math  
200-800 points

Essay  
Separate Score



50 Minutes\*



3 Hours\*

*\*Please note: All time limits are tentative and subject to research.*

# SAT

# 8 Key Changes to the SAT



**Relevant words  
in context**



**Command of  
evidence**



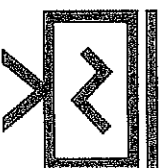
**Essay analyzing a  
source**



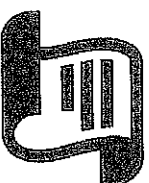
**Math focused on  
three key areas**



**Problems grounded in  
real-world contexts**



**Analysis in science  
and social studies**



**Founding documents  
and great global  
conversation**



**No penalty for  
wrong answers**

**SAT**

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## Key Content Changes

Like other assessments in the SAT Suite of Assessments ([/about](#)), the new SAT includes a Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. The SAT has an optional essay component, ([/sat/inside-the-test/essay](#)) which some colleges will require. SAT questions focus on skills that matter most for college readiness and success, according to the latest research.



## Words in Context

Many questions on the new SAT focus on important, widely used words and phrases found in texts in many different subjects. Some questions ask you to figure out a word's meaning based on context. The words are ones that you will probably encounter in college or in the workplace long after test day.

No longer will students use flashcards to memorize obscure words, only to forget them the minute they put their test pencils down. The redesigned exams will engage students in close reading and honor the best work of the classroom.



## Command of Evidence

The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the SAT Essay ask you to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources. These sources include informational graphics, such as tables, charts, and graphs, as well as multiparagraph passages in the areas of literature and literary nonfiction, the humanities, science, history and social studies, and on topics about work and career.

For every passage or pair of passages you'll see during the Reading Test, ([/sat/inside-the-test/reading](#)) at least one question will ask you to identify which part of the text best supports the answer to the previous question. In other instances, you'll be asked to find the best answer to a question by pulling together information conveyed in words and graphics.

The Writing and Language Test ([/sat/inside-the-test/writing-language](#)) also focuses on command of evidence. It asks you to do things like analyze a series of sentences or paragraphs and decide if it makes sense. Other questions ask you to interpret graphics and to edit a part of the accompanying passage so that it clearly and accurately communicates the information in the graphics.

The SAT Essay ([/sat/inside-the-test/essay](#)) also tests command of evidence. After reading a passage, you'll be asked to determine how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience through the use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive devices. Scorers look for cogent, clear analyses supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the text provided.



## Essay Analyzing a Source

The redesigned SAT Essay asks you to read a passage and explain how an author builds an argument to persuade an audience. This task closely mirrors college writing assignments because it is asking you to analyze how the author used evidence, reasoning, and stylistic and persuasive elements.

The new Essay is designed to support high school students and teachers as they cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing. It will promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing how authors do their work as writers.

The essay prompt will be the same every time the new SAT is offered, but the source material students are asked to write about will be different each time.

Not all students will take the SAT with Essay, but some school districts and colleges require it. The SAT is the only assessment in the SAT Suite that includes the Essay. Learn more about the Essay. ([/sat/inside-the-test/essay](#))



## Math that Matters Most

The Math Test focuses in-depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Heart of Algebra, and Passport to Advanced Math.

Problem Solving and Data Analysis is about being quantitatively literate. It includes using ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science, and career contexts.

The Heart of Algebra focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems, which helps students develop key powers of abstraction.

Passport to Advanced Math focuses on more complex equations and the manipulation they require.

Current research shows that these areas are used disproportionately in a wide range of majors and careers. The redesigned SAT also includes questions on other topics in math, including the kinds of geometric and trigonometric skills that are most relevant to college and careers. Learn more about the Math Test. (</sat/inside-the-test/math>)



## Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts

Throughout the SAT, you'll be asked questions grounded in the real world, directly related to work performed in college and career.

The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section includes questions on literature and literary nonfiction, but also features charts, graphs, and passages like the ones students are likely to encounter in science, social science, and other majors and careers.

Questions on the Writing and Language Test ask you to do more than correct errors; they ask you to edit, revise, and improve texts from the humanities, history, social science, science, and career contexts.

The Math section features multistep applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life situations. The test sets up a scenario and asks several questions that give you the opportunity to dig in and model it mathematically.



## **Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies**

The redesigned SAT asks you to apply your reading, writing, language, and math knowledge and skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts. In this way, the assessments call on the same sorts of knowledge and skills that you'll use in college, at work, and throughout your life to make sense of recent discoveries, political developments, global events, and health and environmental issues.

The redesigned SAT includes a range of challenging texts and informational graphics that address these sorts of issues and topics in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section. Questions will require you to read and understand texts, revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics, synthesize information presented through texts and graphics, and solve problems that are grounded in science and social science.



## **The Great Global Conversation and U.S. Founding Documents**

When you take the SAT, you'll be asked to read a passage from U.S. founding documents or the global conversation they inspired.

The U.S. founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have been inspired by and have helped to inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life.

Authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Nelson Mandela, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity.

The new SAT includes texts from this global conversation. The goal is to inspire a close reading of these rich, meaningful, often profound texts, not only as a way to develop valuable college and career readiness skills but also as an opportunity to reflect on and deeply engage with issues and concerns central to informed citizenship.



## No Penalty for Guessing

On the new SAT, you simply earn points for the questions you answer correctly. So go ahead and give your best answer to every question — there's no advantage to leaving them blank.

Register for the new SAT, coming March 2016 >

(<https://account.collegeboard.org/login/login?idp=ECL&appld=115&affiliateId=aru&bannerId=satreg-rr&DURL=https%3A//nsat.collegeboard.org/satweb/login.jsp>)

Get free, personalized SAT practice from Khan Academy >

(<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>)

Seniors

If you're testing before March, you'll take the current SAT.

More  <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register>



The College Board and Khan Academy are committed to leveling the playing field by providing world-class SAT practice, entirely for free.

Practice Now (<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>)





# Comparing the SAT (Current and Redesigned) to the ACT

A guide from Summit Educational Group

When it is released in 2016, the new SAT will be a significant change from the current test. Also, the redesign will affect how we determine whether a student is better-suited for the SAT or ACT. Below is a broad comparison of the new SAT to the current SAT and the ACT.

	Current SAT	New SAT (Spring 2016)	ACT
<b>Description</b>	The new SAT will require similar skills and test similar content to that of the ACT and current SAT. Many of the changes to the new SAT's format will make it look a lot like the ACT, but the SAT will retain its focus as an aptitude test. Among the biggest changes to the SAT are a sharper focus on critical-thinking, an emphasis on real-world problems, a new scoring system, and an overhaul of the essay section. Overall, the redesigned SAT will place a bigger emphasis on problem-solving and understanding context. Comparatively, the ACT will remain more of an achievement test, requiring a broad knowledge of many concepts, as well as considerable speed and endurance.		
<b>Format &amp; Length</b>	10 short sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Critical Reading; 3 Mathematics; 3 Writing (including Essay); 1 experimental (not scored)</li> <li>• Questions have 5 answer choices</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 45 minutes</li> </ul>	5 long sections (comprising 3 "tests" and an optional essay): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing &amp; Language; Reading; 2 Math; Essay</li> <li>• Questions have 4 answer choices</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)</li> </ul>	5 long sections (comprising 4 "tests" and an optional essay): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English; Mathematics; Reading; Science; Writing (optional essay)</li> <li>• Most questions have 4 answer choices (Math has 5)</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 25 minutes (with essay)</li> </ul>
<b>Scoring</b>	Combined score: 600-2400 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Reading: 200-800; Math: 200-800; Writing: 200-800</li> <li>• Writing score comprised of Multiple Choice and Essay subscores.</li> <li>• ¼-point deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>	Combined score: 400-1600 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800; Math: 200-800</li> <li>• Essay score reported separately</li> <li>• "Cross-Test Scores" report performance on Science and History/Social Studies across entire test</li> <li>• No deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>	Composite score: 1-36 (average of 4 tests) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English: 1-36; Math: 1-36; Reading: 1-36; Science: 1-36</li> <li>• Writing score not factored into Composite score</li> <li>• Combined English/Writing score provided separately: 1-36</li> <li>• No deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>
<b>Writing/English</b>	Identify and correct errors in single sentences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• punctuation not tested</li> </ul> Limited and predictable set of errors	Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure, and effective rhetoric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• punctuation</li> <li>• logical structure</li> <li>• effective rhetoric</li> <li>• includes informational graphics</li> </ul>	Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure, and effective rhetoric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• punctuation</li> <li>• logical structure</li> <li>• effective rhetoric</li> <li>• commonly confused words</li> </ul>
<b>Math</b>	Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Geometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply core math skills to solve mostly non-standard, "tricky" problems</li> <li>• formulas provided</li> </ul> 10 Grid-In questions (no answer choices)	Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong emphasis on Algebra</li> </ul> Calculator prohibited on one section 13 Grid-In questions (no answer choices)	Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• math tested in straightforward manner</li> <li>• extensive range of concepts tested</li> <li>• emphasis on word problems</li> <li>• formulas not provided</li> </ul>
<b>Reading</b>	Vocabulary-based sentence completions  Total of 7 short and long reading passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• many inference, tone, purpose questions</li> <li>• questions follow order of passage</li> </ul>	Vocabulary de-emphasized  4 long passages and 1 paired passage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 passages include diagrams/charts</li> <li>• 1 passage from "Great Global Conversation"</li> </ul>	4 long passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very little emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>• straightforward questions that require close reading of passage</li> <li>• order of questions is random</li> <li>• less time per question</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	The current SAT does not have a Science section.	The new SAT does not have stand-alone Science section, but Science questions will be included throughout the Math, Reading, and Writing & Language tests.	40 questions distributed over 7 passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasis on charts, diagrams, etc.</li> <li>• Science is a reasoning test—rarely requires prior science knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>Essay</b>	25 minutes, required, always first section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broad theme</li> <li>• can be approached formulaically or creatively</li> </ul>	50 minutes, optional, always last section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analyze a passage and evaluate author's reasoning and rhetoric</li> <li>• students' opinions discouraged</li> <li>• Essay is scored on 2-8 scale on three traits (Reading, Analysis, and Writing)</li> </ul>	30 minutes, optional, always the last test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• narrow topic "relevant" to high school students</li> <li>• demands a more structured response</li> <li>• optional, but required by most schools</li> </ul>



# Current SAT vs. ACT: Concordance

Scores on the ACT cannot be directly converted to SAT scores – they are different tests. However, “concordance” can be developed that matches comparable performance on the two exams by comparing thousands of students who took the tests at approximately the same time. Colleges and the NCAA use tables like the ones below to evaluate applicants

who have taken different tests. ACT and the College Board have developed concordance tables comparing ACT and SAT scores. One table shows the concordance between the ACT Composite score and the sum of SAT Critical Reading and Math Scores, while the other shows the concordance between ACT combined English/Writing score and the SAT Writing Score. An ACT Composite score alone should not be directly converted into a 600-2400 SAT score because the Composite score does not include the essay.

*This chart compares only the current SAT with the ACT. Information on how the new SAT will compare to the ACT has not yet been released.*

Concordance between ACT Composite Score and SAT Critical Reading and Math		Concordance between ACT Combined English/Writing Score and SAT Writing Score	
ACT Composite	SAT CR+M	ACT English/Writing	SAT Writing
36	1600	36	800
35	1560	35	800
34	1510	34	770
33	1460	33	740
32	1420	32	720
31	1380	31	690
30	1340	30	670
29	1300	29	650
28	1260	28	630
27	1220	27	610
26	1190	26	590
25	1150	25	570
24	1110	24	550
23	1070	23	530
22	1030	22	510
21	990	21	490
20	950	20	470
19	910	19	450
18	870	18	430
17	830	17	420
16	790	16	400
15	740	15	380
14	690	14	360
13	640	13	340
12	590	12	330
11	530	11	310

Source: <http://www.act.org/aap/concordance>