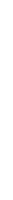




# SAT AND ACT CHANGES

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# TEST COMPONENTS

## Current SAT

Critical Reading

Mathematics

Essay

## New SAT

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

- Reading Test
- Writing and Language Test

Mathematics

Essay (Optional)

# IMPORTANT FEATURES

## Current SAT

Emphasis on general reasoning skills

Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts

Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)

## New SAT

Focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success

Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone and impact

Rights-only scoring (no penalty for guessing)

# TEST LENGTH AND TIMING

## Current SAT

TOTAL: 3 hours and 45 minutes

- Critical Reading
  - 70 minutes
  - 67 Questions/Tasks
- Writing
  - 60 minutes
  - 49 Questions/Tasks
- Essay
  - 25 minutes
  - 1 Question
- Mathematics
  - 70 minutes
  - 54 Questions/Tasks

## New SAT

TOTAL: 3 hours plus 50 minutes for optional Essay

- Reading
  - 65 minutes
  - 52 Questions/Tasks
- Writing and Language
  - 35 minutes
  - 44 Questions/Tasks
- Essay (Optional)
  - 50 minutes
  - 1 Question
- Mathematics
  - 80 minutes
  - 58 Questions/Tasks

# READING

## Current SAT: Critical Reading

### Reading Passages

- Passage-based reading with long and short excerpts from works in natural sciences, humanities, social sciences and literary fiction

### Sentence Completions

## New SAT: Reading Test

### 4 long passages & 1 set of paired passages

- 500-750 words per passage/paired set
- 1 passage: *U.S. and World Literature*
- 2 passages or 1 passage and 1 paired set: *History/Social Studies*
- 2 passages or 1 passage and 1 paired set: *Science*

# READING CONTENT

## Words in Context

- Non-obscure vocabulary that can be determined by contextual evidence

## Command of Evidence

- Ability to analyze referenced lines to determine deeper meaning
- Ability to locate contextual support for given themes

## Analysis in Science

- Ability to understand and answer questions about scientific concepts (graphs and charts may be included)

## Analysis in History/Social Science

- Ability to understand and answer questions about historic concepts (graphs and charts may be included)

# WRITING & LANGUAGE FORMAT

44 multiple choice questions

4 passages

- 1 passage: *Careers*
- 1 passage: *History/Social Studies*
- 1 passage: *Humanities*
- 1 passage: *Science*

Shift: Independent Sentences to Related Context

- Similarity to ACT English

# MATHEMATICS

## Current SAT

### 57 Questions

- 45 Multiple Choice
- 11 grid-in (student-produced response)
- 1 extended thinking (multi-point, grid-in)
- Includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability

## New SAT

### Calculator Section

- 37 Questions
  - 30 Multiple Choice
  - 6 grid-in (student-produced response)
  - 1 extended thinking (multi-point, grid-in question)

### No-Calculator Section

- 20 Questions
  - 15 Multiple Choice
  - 5 grid-in (student-produced response)

# MATH: SPECIFIC CHANGES

## No Calculator Section

- Problems still require substantial calculations
- Importance of computation simplification
- Arithmetic, Percents, Negatives and Proportions

## Focus on Real World Problems

- High prevalence of “word problems”

# MATH: CONTENT

## Algebra

- Solving equations, creating expressions and relationships, interpreting formulas

## Problem Solving and Data Analysis

- Proper use of ratios, proportions and percentages, graphical relationships, data analysis

## Advanced Math

- Rewriting and manipulating expressions, quadratics and exponential equations

## Additional Topics

- Calculating area and volume, measuring lines, angles, triangles and circles using theorems, Trigonometry

# ESSAY

## Current SAT

Required and given at the beginning of the SAT

25 minutes to write the essay

Tests writing skill; students take a position on a presented issue

Multiple choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage

## New SAT

Optional and given at the end of the SAT; colleges determine whether they will require the Essay for admission

50 minutes to write the essay

Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills. Students produce a written analysis of a provided source text

# SCORE REPORTING

## Current SAT

Scale ranging from 600-2400

- 200-800 Critical Reading,
- 200-800 Mathematics
- 200-800 Essay

## New SAT

Scale ranging from 400-1600

- 200-800 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
- 200-800 Mathematics

Essay results reported separately

- Two different readers will score the essay
- Each scorer will award 1-4 points for each dimension (reading, analysis and writing)
- 2 to 8 on each of three dimensions for Essay

# CHANGES TO THE ACT

## New (additional) scores

- In addition to the 1-36 score in each of the existing tests (English, Mathematics, Reading, Science and optional Writing), students will see score breakdowns in the following categories:
  - STEM: based on a student's overall performance on the Math and Science sections
  - English Language: based on a student's score in the English, Reading and Writing sections
  - Progress Toward Career Readiness Indicator: based on the ACT Composite Score, this is an indicator of a student's potential level of achievement on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (an assessment-based credential that certifies skills)
  - Text Complexity Progress Indicator: based on a student's performance on all of the writing passages, this will help students understand if they are making progress towards preparedness for complex tests.

# ENHANCEMENTS TO THE ACT WRITING TEST

A broader range of engaging subject matter

- Formerly, topics would typically be centered around school-themed issues. Now, more general, contemporary issues are presented.
- Prompts were offered to give for/against positions on an issue. Now, three different perspectives encourage critical engagement with the issue presented.
- Students were asked to take a position on an issue. Now, students are asked to develop an argument that puts their own perspective in dialogue with others.
- More structure and planning and more time allowed for composing. Before, 30 minutes were provided to plan and compose, with blank space for planning provided. Now, 40 minutes are given to plan and compose. In addition, there is guidance and structure provided for planning and prewriting.

# ACT WRITING SCORES

Prior to September 2015, a holistic writing score of 2-12 was provided.

Students will receive 4 domain scores, each reflecting a key dimension of writing competency.

- Ideas and Analysis: 2-12
- Development and Support: 2-12
- Organization: 2-12
- Language Use and Conventions: 2-12

Students will receive a Writing score and an ELA score on the familiar 1-36 scale.