

COMPARISON OF TEST LENGTH AND TIMING: CURRENT AND REDESIGNED SAT

Current SAT			Redesigned SAT		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Critical Reading	70	67	Reading	65	52
Writing	60	49	Writing and Language	35	44
Essay	25	1	Essay (optional)	50	1
Mathematics	70	54	Math	80	58
Total	225	171	Total	180 (230 with Essay)	154 (155 with Essay)

Eight Key Changes

Reflected throughout the redesigned SAT is the College Board's deeper focus on fewer topics. All components will align to good classroom instruction, demanding deep thinking and rigorous analysis on questions grounded in real-world knowledge. Key changes to test content fall into eight categories:



Words in Context.

Instead of being asked to define obscure and seemingly random words, commonly called "SAT words," students will encounter relevant words and phrases that derive their meanings from the contexts in which they are used. These skills are broadly useful in numerous subjects and careers.



Command of Evidence

Students will analyze materials from a variety of content areas (literature and literary nonfiction, science, history, and social studies) and on career-related topics. Students will use textual evidence to support their answers, and they will apply an understanding of how authors make use of evidence.



Essay Analyzing a Source

After completing the other three tests, students opting to take the Essay will be given 50 minutes to compose a clear and cogent analysis of text in response to a prompt common to every administration of the SAT. Essays will be scored on reading comprehension, writing skill, and argument analysis.



Focus on Math that Matters Most

In keeping with the redesign's philosophy of deeper focus on fewer topics, the Math Test will focus on four areas essential for college readiness: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math, and Additional Topics in Math.



Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts

Students will engage with questions grounded in the real world and directly related to the work performed in college and career. Both the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Tests will include literature and literary nonfiction, and they will also feature charts, graphs, and passages similar to those that students are likely to encounter in science, social science, and other majors and careers. The Math Test will feature multistep applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life contexts.



Analysis in Science and Analysis in History/Social Studies

Across all components of the exam, students will be asked to apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts.



U.S. Founding Documents and the Great Global Conversation

The U.S. Founding Documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have helped inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life. Over time, authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity. Every time students take the SAT, they will encounter a passage from one of the founding documents or from a text from the global conversation. Our hope 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.



Rights-Only Scoring.

The redesigned SAT will remove the correction for guessing that has been used to score the SAT in the past. Instead, students will earn points for the questions they answer correctly. This move to rights-only scoring encourages students to give the best answer they have to every question.