

# Introducing the Redesigned SAT

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The redesigned SAT® will be the anchor of the SAT Suite of Assessments, which is designed to monitor student growth across grades annually, beginning in middle school. This level of feedback will help both students and educators engage in the best possible practice for future tests: strong classroom work and instruction. Working together, the College Board assessments provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

The redesigned PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT will feature the key changes below that will make the test clearer for test-takers, more closely connected to K–12 course work, and more useful for college admission officers. Learn more about the key changes at [deliveringopportunity.org/sat/redesign](http://deliveringopportunity.org/sat/redesign).



**Relevant Words in Context** — The redesigned assessments will focus on relevant words, not obscure vocabulary, that students will use in college and beyond.



**Command of Evidence** — The redesigned assessments will ask students to demonstrate their ability to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources.



**Essay Analyzing a Source** — The redesigned SAT essay section, which will be optional, will more closely mirror college writing assignments. Students will read a passage and explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience.



**Focus on Math That Matters Most** — The tests will focus on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis; the Heart of Algebra; and Passport to Advanced Math.



**Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts** — Throughout the redesigned assessments, students will engage with questions grounded in the real world and directly related to the work performed in college and career.

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**Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies** — Students will apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to solve problems in a broad array of contexts.



**Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation** — Every time students take one of the redesigned assessments, they will encounter a passage from a founding document or a text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.



**No Penalty for Wrong Answers** — The redesigned assessments will remove the penalty for wrong answers. Students will earn points for the questions they answer correctly.

## Learn More

For more information on the redesigned SAT, including sample questions and test specifications, visit [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org); to access additional resources to help you share information about the College Board's redesigned assessments with students, families, and colleagues, visit [deliveringopportunity.org](http://deliveringopportunity.org).

## Central Features of the Redesigned SAT

This high-level comparison between the current SAT and the redesigned SAT highlights major design features of the two tests. The first table provides a comparison of the major features of the current SAT and redesigned SAT. The second table provides a comparison by test, including the number of items and testing time. The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in spring 2016.

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES: CURRENT SAT VS. REDESIGNED SAT		
CATEGORY	CURRENT SAT	REDESIGNED SAT
<b>Total Testing Time*</b>	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
<b>Components</b>	Critical Reading Writing Mathematics Essay	Reading Test Writing and Language Test Math Test Essay (optional)
<b>Important Features</b>	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).	Continued emphasis on reasoning, alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings 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 (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).
<b>Essay</b>	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.	Optional and given at the end of the SAT; postsecondary institutions 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.
<b>Score Reporting*</b>	Scale ranging from 600 to 2400. Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing. Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing.	Total Score: scale ranges from 400 to 1600. Section Score: Scale ranges from 200 to 800, and 10 to 40 on test and cross-test scores. Essay results reported separately, with Reading, Analysis, Writing each reported on a 2 to 8 scale.
<b>Subscore Reporting</b>	None	Subscores on a 1 to 15 scale for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors.

\* While the information in these tables represents our current plans for the nature and features of the redesign, some specific elements, such as test timing, length, and reported scores, may be refined based on the results of ongoing research.

## 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	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>180 (230 with Essay)</b>	<b>153 (154 with Essay)</b>

## SCORE COMPONENTS OF THE REDESIGNED SAT

CATEGORY	CURRENT SAT	REDESIGNED SAT
Composite Score	0	1
Area Scores	2	2
Test Scores	N/A	3 plus Essay scores
Cross-Test Scores	N/A	2
Subscores	N/A	7

# Tools and Resources for Ongoing Conversations

The following resources have been designed to deepen your understanding of the redesigned assessments, and they provide easy-to-use tools to facilitate conversations with parents, students, and colleagues.

At the top-right corner of each sheet, you will see a label indicating the intended audience for that sheet. The pages labeled “counselors” are for your use only; the Discussion Topics are meant for you to use with the group listed; and the remaining resources may be distributed to each audience as indicated.

Below are a few strategies to help get you started communicating information about the redesigned SAT® Suite of Assessments.

## **For parents and students:**

- ▶ Host parent information sessions to share information about the College Readiness and Success System and its benefits to students.
- ▶ Share information with parent, teacher, and student organizations by regularly providing updates in newsletters and other school and district communications.

## **For teachers and administrators:**

- ▶ Provide Lunch & Learn sessions for teachers to discuss changes, preparation techniques, and resources for students.
- ▶ Encourage teachers to sign up for updates on **[deliveringopportunity.org](http://deliveringopportunity.org)**.
- ▶ Conduct classroom guidance sessions to share grade-appropriate information about the redesigned assessments.
- ▶ Discuss with school leadership the benefits of holding in-service days (spring, summer, or fall of 2015) for staff development around the redesigned assessments.

Additional tools and resources, including PowerPoint slides to help you share information, will continue to be developed in the coming months. For updates and the latest resources, visit the K–12 Educators page at **[deliveringopportunity.org](http://deliveringopportunity.org)**.