

# Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

## Overview

*“The redesigned SAT will ask students to apply a deep understanding of the few skills and content areas most important for college and career readiness” with the goal of supporting “college readiness and success for more students.”* (From the College Board Guide to Implementing the Redesigned SAT)

Section	Questions	Time
<b>Reading</b> (200-800)	<b>52 MC Questions</b> (4 single passages + 1 paired set drawing from U.S. & World Literature, History/Social Studies, and Science with 2 passages including informational graphics)  <b>Skills:</b> Evidence-based content area comprehension and reasoning skills, Vocabulary in Context	<b>65 minutes</b>
<b>Writing and Language</b>	<b>44 MC Questions</b> (4 passages drawing from Careers, History/Social Studies, Humanities, or Science & including Argumentative, Informational/Explanatory, and Nonfiction Narrative passages.)  <b>Skills:</b> Vocabulary in context, Command of evidence/analysis, Sentence structure, Usage, Punctuation	<b>35 minutes</b>
<b>Math</b> (200-800)	<b>58 Questions</b> <b>Calculator Section</b> (30 MC Questions, 6 Free Response and 2 Extended Thinking) <b>No Calculator Section</b> (15 MC Questions, 5 Free Response) <b>Skills:</b> “Heart of Algebra” (Linear Equations & Functions), Problem Solving & Data Analysis, “Passport to Advanced Math Questions (Advanced Algebra), “Additional Topics in Math (Geometry and Trigonometry)	<b>80 minutes</b> (55 minutes) (25 minutes)
<b>Essay (Optional)</b> (6-24)	<b>1 Question</b> (Source passage of 650-750 words-students must analyze <i>how</i> the author makes the argument)  <b>Skills:</b> Scored in 3 categories: <b>Reading, Analysis, Writing</b> (2-8 points per category) (comprehension, evaluation of evidence, thesis construction, complex sentence construction, use of standardized English)	<b>50 minutes</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>3 hours</b> <b>(with Essay: 3 hours, 50 minutes)</b>

## SAT SCORING

Each section (2)—Reading/Writing & Language and Math—receives a scaled score of 200-800, for a total score of 400-1600. The test is designed so the average score is about 500 per section, or 1000 total. Student score reports also include percentile rank, which shows how they compare to other students as well as sub-scores which reflect performance on each of the .

*The redesigned SAT will remove the penalty for wrong answers. 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 problem.* (College Board)

## ORDER OF DIFFICULTY

Old SAT: Some questions on the SAT are arranged in order of difficulty, while others are not. Questions that are not related to a reading passage are arranged in order of difficulty: sentence completions, error identification, improving sentences, and all math questions. The questions that are **not** arranged by difficulty are: long and short reading passages, improving paragraphs, and the essay. Depending on one's goal score in each section, it might be advantageous for some test takers to leave questions blank. Learn to pace yourself and plan your time for the highest possible score.

New SAT: *Currently, College Board does not offer any information about the order of difficulty on the redesigned SAT. It is likely that only the math section will remain in order of difficulty for both the multiple choice and student-produced response sections.* (LATutors, <https://www.latutors123.com/tutoring-resources/new-sat/format-dates/>)

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS & “EQUATING”

*In our statistical analysis equating adjusts for slight differences in difficulty between test editions and ensures that a student's score of, say, 450 on one edition of a test reflects the same ability as a score of 450 on another edition of the test. Equating also ensures that a student's score does not depend on how well others did on the same edition of the test. Every SAT includes a 25-minute section, which doesn't count toward your final score. It may be a critical reading, mathematics, or multiple-choice writing section. We do this because it helps us assess questions for next year's test, and it ensures that the SAT accurately reflects your skills. Also, the unscored section helps us account for minor differences in difficulty across all the different forms of the test.* (College Board, <https://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/how-sat-is-scored>)

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