

# The Redesigned SAT

The SAT is changing in March 2016.

According to the College Board, the test is changing to better reflect high school curriculum and be a better indicator of college readiness.



## Quick Facts

- A** Reading and Writing will be combined into one section called Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
- A** Reading and Writing sections will incorporate data interpretation questions
- A** Scores will revert from the 600-2400 scale to the 400-1600 scale
- A** The essay will be its own section and will be optional
- A** Math will now have a section eliminating the use of calculators
- A** Math sectional will add some higher-level concepts
- A** There will be no penalty for guessing

### Consider Taking the ACT

While there are still many unknowns when it comes to the new SAT (the College Board has not yet released a full-length sample test), the ACT will remain relatively unchanged.



In general, it's not that we recommend one test over the other, but as colleges look to both tests equally, you should consider the well-established ACT as an alternative to the new SAT.

## About the New SAT

With the upcoming changes to the SAT, many of you might be confused about what this means for your students. Here are a few points to keep in mind in the coming months.

The new SAT will first be given in March 2016. The old format test will continue to be given through January 2016, so members of the class of 2017 who wish to take this version may still do so until then. Note that the PSAT given in October 2015 will be in the new format.

Learn more about the new test sections below:

### READING:

- No longer contains vocabulary-dependent Sentence Completion questions
- Will contain 5 reading passages with 10-11 questions each
- Passages will be generally similar to those seen on old SAT
- Some questions will focus on providing textual evidence for answers
- Some passages may contain data representations like tables and graphs

### WRITING & LANGUAGE

- Will present questions in the context of a larger passage, rather than the disconnected sentences in the current SAT
- Format is very similar to that of the ACT English test, and many of the same concepts are tested
- Some passages may contain data representations like tables and graphs

### MATH

- Will contain two sections: one in which calculators are permitted and one in which they are not (the current SAT allows calculators on all Math sections)
- Content will overlap with old SAT in many ways, but focus will shift away from abstract reasoning questions and toward math seen at school
- Content heavily weighed towards algebra (62% of test) and statistics (28%), with Geometry and Trigonometry making up only 10% of the test

### THE ESSAY

- Will now be separate from the rest of Reading & Writing
- Essay will be optional
- Prompt will be radically different from the old SAT essay
- Students will be given a passage and asked to discuss and analyze its contents

# THE REDESIGNED SAT

**A-List is well prepared for the transition to the new SAT. Our staff is ready to take on the new content and prepare students for the redesigned test.**



- A** We're well positioned to adapt to the new test. Many of the changes, such as finding evidence to support your answer on reading passage questions, are things we've already been doing with our students.
- A** In addition, A-List's assessment platform allows for online test analysis and will be modified to match the new SAT format as details are publicly disclosed by the College Board.
- A** Our work with the Common Core and the ACT provides us with strong foundations for the new test, as the College Board has indicated that in format and substance the exam will integrate components and formats reflecting CCSS and the ACT.
- A** Remember that the ACT is not changing. If your school or your students are preparing for the ACT, this news does not affect you at all.
- A** Don't forget to consider the ACT. The ACT is a known test: besides the addition of the optional essay in 2005, the ACT has not changed since 1989. And the ACT is just as widely accepted by colleges as the SAT is. Rather than adapting your program to an unknown entity of the new SAT, your students may prefer using the well-established ACT.
- A** Despite the public focus on these recently announced changes, quality instruction, targeted skills development and strong materials and assessments remain critical to helping our students succeed.

## What About Practice Tests?

The College Board will eventually release full-length practice tests for both the new SAT and new PSAT. A new edition of their book *The Official SAT Study Guide* will be released in the summer of 2015.

We look forward to providing more context and information as additional details emerge.

## The PSAT

The PSAT will also change formats in similar ways.

- Slightly shorter than the new SAT (138 questions in 165 minutes)
- Will not have an essay
- First new PSAT to be given in October 2015

## NEW TEST BREAKDOWN

Component		Time	Number of Questions
Evidence-based Reading and Writing	Reading	65 minutes	52 questions
	Writing & Language	35 minutes	44 questions
Math	Calculator	55 minutes	37 questions
	No Calculator	25 minutes	20 questions
Essay (optional)		50 minutes	1 essay
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>180 minutes</b> (230 min with Essay)	<b>153 questions</b> (plus optional Essay)

## CONTACT US

Let us help you prepare for the SAT and ACT!

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