

THE SAT® IS CHANGING.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

Changes will impact students in the class of 2017. If you're in the class of 2014, 2015 or 2016, you won't be affected.

Changes	The Current SAT	The Redesigned SAT (coming spring 2016)
SCORING	Composite score (600–2400) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 section scores (200–800) 	Composite score (400–1600) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 section scores (200–800) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 3 test scores (10–40) • 7 sub-scores (1–15) ◦ 2 cross-test scores
INCORRECT ANSWER PENALTY	1/4 point off for each incorrect answer on multiple-choice questions	No penalty for incorrect answers
FORMAT OF TEST	Paper and pencil only	Paper and pencil AND a computer-based option
LENGTH OF TEST (WITHOUT BREAKS)	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)
ANSWER CHOICES	5 answer choices per question	4 answer choices per question
SECTIONS	3 sections (Math, Critical Reading, Writing Skills)	2 sections (Math, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing)
READING AND WRITING	2 sections (Critical Reading, Writing Skills) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary tested by sentence-completion questions; famous for "SAT Words" often considered obscure • Passage-based questions, with passages drawn from random topics 	2 sections (Reading test, Writing and Language test) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words • Reading passages will draw from significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts Passages will include complex structure and vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
MATH	Covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I • Geometry • Some Algebra II 	Focuses on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application-based, multi-step questions • Higher-level math, including trigonometry • One "extended-thinking" grid-in question (worth 4 points) • Core math competencies (translating math into English and English into math) • A deep understanding of the theories behind mathematical principles, such as building equations
CALCULATORS	Calculators permitted in every math section	Calculators only allowed in the longer of the two math sections
THE ESSAY	Required first section of the test (25 minutes, timed) <p>Students respond to a short prompt by providing personal opinion with supporting evidence</p>	The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed) <p>Students will be provided with a substantial passage (600–700 words) and asked to analyze how the author built his or her argument; students will need to understand the techniques the author used to write persuasively</p>