

# Getting to Know the New SAT Side-By-Side Comparison



Michigan Association of  
Secondary School Principals

## ACT

## SAT

[2016 Redesign]

<b>Test Length</b>	<b>3 hours, 25 min</b> (with Writing Test)	<b>3 hours, 50 min</b> (with Essay)
<b>Tested Subjects</b>	<b>English</b> (45 min) <b>Reading</b> (35 min) <b>Science</b> (35 min) <b>Math</b> (60 min) <b>Writing</b> (30 min)	<b>Writing and Language</b> (35 min) <b>Reading</b> (65 min) <b>Math</b> (80 min) [One section with calculators and one without] <b>Essay (optional)</b> (50 min)
<b>Scoring Scale</b>	<b>Composite of 1-36</b> Four scores of 1-36 for each test, averaged for composite Writing Test scored 0-12 with results reported separately	<b>Scale of 400 to 1600</b> 200-800: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing 200-800: Math 2-8 on each of three traits for Essay with results reported separately
<b>Wrong Answer Penalty</b>	<b>No penalty.</b>	<b>No penalty.</b>
<b>Question Types</b>	<b>Reading, Writing, Math, Science</b> 100% multiple choice <b>Essay</b> writing prompt	<b>Reading, Writing</b> 100% passage-based multiple choice <b>Math</b> 78% multiple choice, 22% produced response <b>Essay</b> writing prompt

## CONTENT COMPARISON

<b>English/Language</b>	<b>Usage/Mechanics</b> punctuation, grammar and usage, sentence structure <b>Rhetorical Skills</b> strategy, organization, style	<b>Four passages, 400-450 words per passage</b> Questions on: expression of ideas, standard English, conventions, vocabulary in context, analysis
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Four long passages</b> <b>Reading comprehension</b> focus on showing understanding of: what is directly stated and statements with implied meanings <b>Little emphasis on vocabulary</b>	<b>Four single passages and one paired passage</b> Questions on: vocabulary in context, command of evidence, analysis in history/social studies and science <b>Vocabulary de-emphasized</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>Focus on scientific reasoning</b> Analysis/interpretation/evaluation of scientific passages, charts, diagrams, etc.	<b>No science section</b> [questions built into math, reading, and writing sections]
<b>Math</b>	<b>Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry</b>	<b>Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math, and Additional Topics in Math</b>
<b>Essay</b>	<b>Final Section - 30 min</b> Topic of importance to high school students	<b>Final Section - 50 min</b> Written analysis of a provided source text

# Resources:

A great deal of information about the redesigned SAT is available directly from College Board, which maintains a website specifically for informing students, parents, educators, and college admissions faculty.

For more information, visit: <http://deliveringopportunity.org/>

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## **A side-by-side comparison of the current SAT and the redesigned SAT**

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign/compare-tests>

## **Sign-up for updates from College Board about the new SAT**

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/updates>

## **A simplified one-page blueprint of the redesigned SAT**

<https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/sat-blueprint.pdf>

## **Information on the new SAT scoring scale and the types of score reports that you can expect**

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/higher-ed/scores>

## **A presentation you can use to help you discuss this transition with parents and students**

<https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/sat-presentation-k-12-students-parents.ppt>

## **The complete test blueprint for the redesigned SAT including a breakdown of the number, type, and tested content for every question on the test, how those questions contribute to the composite score and some sample questions for each subject area and question type**

[https://www.collegeboard.org/pdf/sat/delivering-opportunity/test\\_specifications\\_for\\_the\\_redesigned\\_sat\\_102414.pdf](https://www.collegeboard.org/pdf/sat/delivering-opportunity/test_specifications_for_the_redesigned_sat_102414.pdf)

## **There are pages within the SAT website specifically designed for different audiences, which you can use and share**

- Students and parents: <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/student-parent>
- K-12 Educators: <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/k-12-educator>
- Higher Ed\*: <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/higher-ed>

(\*NOTE: This site includes very detailed information. For testing gurus and college admissions counselors, it provides a wealth of information.)

## **A skills crosswalk between the current SAT and the redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT**

(thanks to Patrick O'Connor at MACAC for sharing this resource)

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-assessments/practice>