



The New SAT

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**includes information adapted from the College Board

Introduction to the New SAT

- The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in March, 2016
- The redesign primarily impacts those enrolling in college in fall 2017 (current juniors).
- One of the biggest goals of changing the SAT is to make sure it's highly relevant to student's future success.
- The new test will focus more on the skills and knowledge necessary for students to succeed in college and the workplace.
- The changes were clearly driven by the development and implementation of Common Core State Standards.

Comparing the Structure of the Current SAT and New SAT

Category	Current SAT	New SAT
Total Testing Time	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
Components	1. Essay 2. Mathematics 3. Critical Reading 4. Writing	1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing • Reading Test • Writing and Language Test 2. Math • Calculator • No Calculator 3. Essay (optional)

Reading Test

Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies

The redesigned SAT asks you to apply your reading, writing, language, and math knowledge and skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts. In this way, the assessments call on the same sorts of knowledge and skills that you'll use in college, at work, and throughout your life to make sense of recent discoveries, political developments, global events, and health and environmental issues.

The redesigned SAT includes a range of challenging texts and informational graphics that address these sorts of issues and topics in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section. Questions will require you to read and understand texts, revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics, synthesize information presented through texts and graphics, and solve problems that are grounded in science and social science.

U.S. Founding Documents and the Great Global Conversation

When you take the SAT, you'll be asked to read a passage from U.S. founding documents or the global conversation they inspired.

The U.S. founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have been inspired by and have helped to inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life.

Authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Nelson Mandela, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity.

The new SAT includes texts from this global conversation. The goal is to inspire a close reading of these rich, meaningful, often profound texts, not only as a way to develop valuable college and career readiness skills but also as an opportunity to reflect on and deeply engage with issues and concerns central to informed citizenship.

Reading & Writing and Language Tests

Command of Evidence

The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the SAT Essay ask you to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources. These sources include informational graphics, such as tables, charts, and graphs, as well as multiparagraph passages in the areas of literature and literary nonfiction, the humanities, science, history and social studies, and on topics about work and career.



For every passage or pair of passages you'll see during the [Reading Test](#), at least one question will ask you to identify which part of the text best supports the answer to the previous question. In other instances, you'll be asked to find the best answer to a question by pulling together information conveyed in words and graphics.

The [Writing and Language Test](#) also focuses on command of evidence. It asks you to do things like analyze a series of sentences or paragraphs and decide if it makes sense. Other questions ask you to interpret graphics and to edit a part of the accompanying passage so that it clearly and accurately communicates the information in the graphics.

Essay

OLD

NEW

Essay

- 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



Essay Analyzing a Source

The redesigned SAT Essay asks you to read a passage and explain how an author builds an argument to persuade an audience. This task closely mirrors college writing assignments because it is asking you to analyze how the author used evidence, reasoning, and stylistic and persuasive elements.

The new Essay is designed to support high school students and teachers as they cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing. It will promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing how authors do their work as writers.

The essay prompt will be the same every time the new SAT is offered, but the source material students are asked to write about will be different each time.

Not all students will take the SAT with Essay, but some school districts and colleges require it. The SAT is the only assessment in the SAT Suite that includes the Essay. [Learn more about the Essay.](#)

"Old" vs. "New" Essay Prompt

"Old"

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Originality is widely regarded as an extremely valuable attribute. People are praised for the originality of their ideas in a wide range of endeavors, from the arts to politics to science. For the same reason, people are criticized for failing to be original. But the belief that originality is something to be prized above all else is a misguided one. Most of the best ideas have already been thought of, and we ignore them at our own peril.

Assignment: Is originality overrated? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

"New"

Students are given a nonfiction text to read, and asked to annotate for strategies the author uses to build an argument.

Write an essay in which you explain how Jimmy Carter builds an argument to persuade his audience that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should not be developed for industry. In your essay, analyze how Carter uses one or more of the features listed in the box above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage.

Your essay should not explain whether you agree with Carter's claims, but rather explain how Carter builds an argument to persuade his audience.

Changes to the Content of the Mathematics Test

- **It's About the Real World**

Problem solving and modeling from college courses, careers, and your personal life.

- **Focus**

The Heart of Algebra, Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math

What the Math Test Measures

- **Fluency**

Solving problems flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and strategically

- **Conceptual Understanding**

Understanding concepts and making connections

- **Applications**

Analyzing real-world problems mathematically and finding solutions

“Old” SAT Math Questions

The percent increase from 6 to 16 is equal to the percent increase from 12 to what number?

- A. 16
- B. 22
- C. 23
- D. 32
- E. 36

"New" SAT Math Questions

According to the Project on Student Debt prepared by the Institute for College Access and Success, 7 out of 10 students graduating in 2012 from a four-year college in the United States had student loan debt. The average amount borrowed per student was \$29,400, which is up from \$18,750 in 2004. If students debt experiences the same total increase over the next eight years, approximately how much will a college student in 2020 owe, assuming she takes out student loans to pay for her education.

- A. \$40,050.00
- B. \$46,099.20
- C. \$48,150.00
- D. \$50,700.00

What We are Doing to Prepare Students for the New SAT

- Common Core aligned curriculum
- Standardized Test Preparation Course
- Khan Academy
- PSAT
- Parent Information Night; Tuesday, January 26; 6:30 pm in the PAC
- High School Website
 - Direct link to College Board website
 - 8 key changes reviewed
 - SAT schedule information