

Changes	The Current SAT	The New SAT (coming spring 2016)
SECTIONS	3 sections Math Critical Reading Writing Skills	2 sections Math Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
SCORING	Composite score (600–2400) 3 section scores (200–800)	Total score (400–1600) 2 section scores (200–800) 3 test scores (10–40) 7 sub-scores (1–15) 2 cross-test scores
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
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
READING AND WRITING	Two sections: Critical Reading Writing Skills Vocabulary tested by sentence completion questions; famous for "SAT Words," often considered obscure Passage-based questions, with passages drawn from random topics	Two tests: Reading Test Writing and Language Test No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words Passages will draw from significant historical or scientific documents – may include informational graphics, such as charts The reading passages will include complex structure and vocabulary Passage-based grammar – including punctuation
MATH	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I Geometry Some Algebra II	Focuses on: 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) Students respond to a short prompt by providing personal opinion with supporting evidence	The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed) Students will be provided a substantial passage (600–700 words) and will then be asked to analyze how the author built their argument; students will need to understand the techniques authors used to write persuasively

While the overall time per question is about the same, certain sections of the test will require a speedier pace.

	The Current SAT			The New SAT	
	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions		Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions
Critical Reading	70	67	Reading	65	52
Writing	60	49	Writing and Language	35	44
Mathematics	70	54	Math	80	57
TOTAL	200	170	TOTAL	180	153
Essay	25	1	Essay (optional)	50	1