

The New SAT

Evidence Based Reading and Writing

This section will consist of a Reading Test and a Writing and Language Test (800 Points)

What does it include?

1



The Reading Test:

This will be like the current Reading Section of the SAT. It will be assessing the students' comprehension and reading skills across a range of content areas.

2



Writing and Language Test:

This part is intended to replace the current Writing section. It will be more like the English section on the ACT - more focused on testing the students' revising and editing skills in the context of passages.

3



Essay (Optional):

The SAT currently has a mandatory Essay section which is 30% of the Writing Score. The New SAT will have an optional Essay portion and the scores will be reported separately.

CONCLUSION:

The New test will be combining the current Reading and Writing section into a single 800 point section. Essay will be optional.

A little insight into the test:

Analysis of Data in Graphics

Students will have to analyze and interpret data in tables, graphs, and charts.



Vocabulary

The SAT vocabulary (sentence completions) as we know it will be gone! Instead, students will have to determine the meaning of vocabulary in context within the reading passages.

Passages

All passages are taken from previously published sources including US and world literature, history, the humanities, science, and career-related topics. For example, a possible passage could be the "I Have a Dream Speech" or the Gettysburg Address.

Different Style of Questions

The way some questions are presented will be changing. The Reading Test will not only require students to answer questions based on what is stated but also will ask students to determine which portion of a text best supports the answer to a given question.

Current

VS.

New



5 Answer Choices

All questions currently have 5 answer choices.



Hard Vocabulary

The current test includes sentence completions which requires you to memorize 100's of vocabulary words.



Penalty for guessing

-1/4 point subtracted for incorrect multiple-choice.



Reading Portion

The Reading section currently is 67 questions in 70 minutes.



Writing Section

The Writing section (includes the essay) currently is 50 questions in 60 minutes.



Mandatory Essay

The current test requires you to write an essay. The score is part of the overall Writing score.



4 Answer Choices

The new test will have 4 answer choices for all questions.



Relevant Vocabulary

There will be no sentence completions on the new test. No more memorizing 100's of words!



No Penalty

There will be no penalty for wrong answers



Reading Portion

The Reading Test will be 52 questions in 65 minutes.



Writing and Language Test

The Writing and Language Test will be 35 minutes and 44 questions. Essay is separate.



Essay (Optional)

If you decide to take the Essay, it will be 50 minutes at the end of the test. Scores will be reported separately.

Sneak Peek: Essay

The SAT Essay will be the same for every test. Only the passage will be different.

"Write an essay in which you explain how [the author] builds an argument to persuade [his/her] audience that [author's claim]. In your essay, analyze how [the author] uses one or more of the features listed above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of [his/her] argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant aspects of the passage. Your essay should not explain whether you agree with [the author's] claims, but rather explain how the author builds an argument to persuade [his/her] audience."