

Chapter 5

New Scores Mean More Information about Your Learning

One of the important changes of the redesign of the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT has been a shift in the scales used. The redesigned SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9) will report a total score, section scores, test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. These scores are intended to provide insight about your achievement and readiness for college and career.

One of the other principal features of the redesign of the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT has been a shift in the range of scores provided. Prior to the redesign, the SAT scale ranged from 600 to 2400, representing the combined results on three sections of the test: Critical Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. (The Essay score (SAT only) was combined with the results on the multiple-choice writing questions to produce the Writing section score.) Each section score ranged from 200 to 800. Students became accustomed to the range of numbers, 600 to 2400, which has been the scale since 2005, so the College Board set out to alter it only after determining that such a change would provide several benefits for all.



REMEMBER

More scores = more information. The scores reported on the redesigned SAT will provide more detailed information about your achievement and readiness for college and career.

More Scores Illuminate More Insights into Learning

Where the former version of the SAT provided scores for three categories — Critical Reading, Writing, and Mathematics — the redesign provides a wider array of scores. These include a total score; two section scores, for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and for Math; three test scores; two cross-test scores; and seven subscores on categories within the subjects. Scores for the optional Essay will be reported separately.

The **total** score will be the most commonly used number associated with the SAT. The total score will range from 400 to 1600. This score will be the

sum of the scores on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section. Of the 154 questions in the entire exam (not counting the Essay), 96 questions are on the Reading and the Writing and Language Tests and 58 questions are on the Math Test.

Section scores for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and for Math will be reported on a scale from 200 to 800. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score is derived in equal measure from the scores on the Reading and the Writing and Language Tests. The Math section score is derived from the score on the Math Test.

Test scores will be reported on a scale of 10 to 40 for each of the three required tests: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math.

Cross-test scores — one for Analysis in History/Social Studies and one for Analysis in Science — will be reported on a scale of 10 to 40 and will be based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests that reflect the application of reading, writing, language, and math skills in history/social studies and science contexts.

Subscores will be reported on a scale of 1 to 15. They will provide more detailed information about how you're doing in specific areas of literacy and math.

Two subscores will be reported for Writing and Language: Expression of Ideas and Standard English Conventions. The Expression of Ideas subscore will be based on questions focusing on topic development, organization, and rhetorically effective use of language. The Standard English Conventions subscore will be based on questions focusing on sentence structure, usage, and punctuation.

The Math Test will report three subscores: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math. Heart of Algebra will focus on linear equations and inequalities. Problem Solving and Data Analysis will focus on quantitative reasoning, the interpretation and synthesis of data, and solving problems in rich and varied contexts. Passport to Advanced Math will focus on topics central to the ability of students to progress to more advanced mathematics, such as understanding the structure of expressions, reasoning with more complex equations, and interpreting and building functions.

The final two subscores — Words in Context and Command of Evidence — will be based on questions in both the Reading and the Writing and Language Tests. The Words in Context questions will address word/phrase meaning in context and rhetorical word choice. The Command of Evidence questions will ask you to interpret and use evidence found in a wide range of passages and informational graphics, such as graphs, tables, and charts.

The optional Essay will yield three **Essay** scores, one each on three dimensions:

- ▶ **Reading:** How well you demonstrated your understanding of the passage
- ▶ **Analysis:** How well you analyzed the passage and carried out the task of explaining how the author of the passage builds an argument to persuade an audience
- ▶ **Writing:** How skillfully you crafted your response

Two scorers will read each essay and assign a score of 1 to 4 on each of the three dimensions. The two raters' scores will be combined to yield a Reading, Analysis, and Writing score, each on a scale of 2 to 8. These scores won't be combined with each other or with scores on any other part of the SAT.

Concordance

Because the redesigned SAT is a different test than the pre-March 2016 SAT, a numerical score on one test will not be strictly equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. The College Board will provide a concordance between the pre-March 2016 SAT and the redesigned SAT that shows how to relate scores on one test to scores on the other. This will be important for students who took the pre-March 2016 SAT, as it will allow college admission offices to estimate how those students would have scored on the redesigned SAT had they taken it. The concordance will allow students who took the pre-March 2016 SAT to keep their college applications complete and up-to-date without having to retake the SAT.

In addition to being used by college admission offices, the concordance will also be important for K–12 educators and counselors, and for students and parents who have been accustomed to thinking in terms of the 600 to 2400 range.

REMEMBER

Your Essay scores on the redesigned SAT will be reported separately from your scores on the Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests. You'll receive three scores on the Essay — each ranging from 2 to 8 — on three key dimensions.

REMEMBER

A concordance provided by the College Board will allow college admission offices to relate scores on the pre-March 2016 SAT to scores on the redesigned SAT.