



The SAT[®]

**What Does It Mean
for Students?**

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The SAT Focuses on College Success™ Skills

- Critical Reading
- Mathematics
- Writing

The SAT® tests students' reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed through their course work.

It measures their ability to analyze and solve problems by applying what they have learned in school.

How hard is the SAT?

- 97% of college-bound students complete 3 years of math so the test measures the math they are already studying.
- Extensive field trials confirmed that students are taking more upper level math, which is why the overall difficulty of the test is not affected.
- While the test is long, field trials also confirmed that the increased length of the test has no impact on the students' scores.

Time Frame

Class of 2008—current juniors

- PSAT/NMSQT as juniors in fall 2007 or earlier
- SAT as juniors in March 2007 and later
- SAT as seniors

Time Specifications

SAT

	SAT
	3 hours 45 minutes
Critical Reading	70 minutes Two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section
Math	70 minutes Two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section
Writing	60 minutes Two multiple-choice sections (one 25-minute section and one 10-minute section) and one 25-minute essay
Variable Section	25 minutes

Contents of the SAT

Critical Reading

- There are no analogies.
- Short reading passages have replaced analogies and measure the kind of reasoning formerly measured by analogies.

Contents of the SAT

Math

- There are no quantitative comparisons.
- The content reflects the mathematics that college-bound students typically learn during their first three years of high school.
- The reasoning aspects of the test together with the broad content more effectively assess the mathematics necessary for student success in college.

Contents of the SAT

Writing

- Multiple-choice grammar and usage questions
 - Measure the student's understanding of how to use language in a clear, consistent manner, how to revise and edit, and how to recognize an error in a sentence.
- Student-written essay
 - Measures the student's use of language: logical presentation of ideas, development of a point of view, and clarity of expression under timed conditions.
 - Essay practice tool provided AT NO COST to all schools administering the PSAT/NMSQT.

Test Content and Question Types

	SAT
Critical Reading	Sentence Completion Critical Reading: Short and long reading passages
Math	Multiple-choice items and student-produced responses measuring: Number and Operations; Algebra I, II, and Functions; Geometry; and Statistics, Probability, and Data Analysis
Writing	Multiple-choice: Improving sentences and paragraphs and identifying errors. Student-written essay: Effectively communicate a point of view on an issue, supporting a position with reasoning and examples.

Test Scores

	SAT
Critical Reading	CR 200–800
Math	M 200–800
Writing	W 200–800 <u>2 subscores</u> Essay: 2–12 (~1/3 of writing score) Multiple-choice: 20–80 (~2/3 of writing score)

How Students Can Prepare

Students should:

- Challenge themselves throughout high school by taking rigorous courses, including at least 3 years of math
- Read and write as much as possible—both in and outside of school
- Familiarize themselves with the SAT so they know what to expect on test day
- Familiarize themselves with the different types of questions on the SAT, the directions for each type of question, and how the test is scored.
- Take the PSAT and establish a long-term plan based on those results.

PSAT/NMSQT Skills Feedback

- The PSAT/NMSQT provides individualized feedback to students through its Score Report *Plus*.
- Students should use this Score Report *Plus* to identifying areas for study in their long-term preparation plans.

PSAT/NMSQT

Score Report *Plus*

- Tells students how their scores compare with those of other sophomores or juniors
- Tells students what SAT score ranges they can expect
- Includes a question-by-question breakdown
- Helps students identify strengths and weaknesses and provides tips on how to improve specific skills

PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus*

Students will use their Score Report *Plus* code to access free enhancements online at www.collegeboard.com/psatextra:

- Complete explanations for all answers, including why some answers were wrong.
- Full explanations of answers for additional higher-level math practice SAT questions on the back of the PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- Entire SAT essay scoring guide, plus actual sample essay papers at every score point for the practice essay on the back of the PSAT/NMSQT score report.

Skills Feedback

Score Report *Plus*

Improve Your Skills—Examples

- Being precise and clear
 - **How to improve:** Learn to recognize sentence elements that are ambiguous and confusing. In your writing, choose words carefully and connect them for clear meaning. See questions 4, 6, 8.
- Understanding geometry and coordinate geometry
 - **How to improve:** Review geometry units in your textbook involving perimeter, area, volume, circumference, angles, lines, and slope. Familiarize yourself with the formulas given at the beginning of math sections of the set. See questions 7, 13, 19.

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Get ready for the SAT® with help from the test maker.

Have you registered for the SAT yet?

College Board Announces Scores for New SAT with Writing Section

8-29-06: The College Board announced SAT scores for the class of 2006, the first to take the new version of the SAT featuring a writing section.

[College-Bound Seniors 2006 press release](#)

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Register online now for the next SAT test date.

Get ready for the SAT with official practice tests and questions.

[College Board Discusses 2006 SAT Score Changes](#)

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