

**SAT Content Guide**

Basic info, Timing, Key Features, and More

**Total Testing Time**: 3 Hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])

**Components:**

1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
   1. Reading Test
   2. Writing and Language Test
2. Math (calculator and non-calculator portions)
3. Essay (Optional)

**Scoring:**

* Scale ranging from 400 to 1600
* Scale ranging from 200-800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three dimensions for Essay
* Essay results reported separately
* Subscores reported for every test, providing added insights for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors

**Timing:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Component | Time Allotted | Number of Questions |
| Reading | 65 | 52 |
| Writing and Language | 35 | 44 |
| Essay (optional) | 50 | 1 |
| Math (non-calculator) | 25 | 20:  15 multiple choice, 5 grid-ins |
| Math (calculator) | 55 | 38:  30 multiple choice, 5 grid-ins |
| Total | **180**  **(230 with Essay)** | **154**  **(155 with Essay)** |

**Component Breakdown:**

1. **Reading:** The SAT Reading Test measures students’ understanding of the meaning and use of words and phrases in the context of extended prose passages.
   1. Emphasis on words in context
   2. Emphasis on command of evidence
   3. Inclusion of informational graphics
   4. Specified range of text complexity
2. **Writing and Language:** The SAT Writing and Language Test measures students’ ability to apply knowledge of words, phrases, and language in general in the context of extended prose passages.
   1. Emphasis on words in context
   2. Emphasis on command of evidence
   3. Inclusion of informational graphics
3. **Essay:** This section of the SAT is optional. In the Essay, students are asked to write a cogent and clear response based on the comprehension and analysis of a source text, supporting their claims and points about the text with evidence drawn from the passage. While the source text will be different for each form of the SAT, the prompt will be largely consistent in format and wording across administrations. This sections test reading, analysis, and writing skills.
   1. One (1) Essay
   2. Use of a common prompt
   3. Emphasis on analysis of argument
   4. Use of clear, powerful evaluation criteria
4. **Math:** The SAT Math Test covers all mathematical practices, with an emphasis on problem solving, modeling, using appropriate tools strategically, and looking for and making use of structure to do algebra
   1. Heart of Algebra (19 Questions)
   2. Problem Solving and Data Analysis (17 Questions)
   3. Passport to Advanced Math (16 Questions)
   4. Additional Topics in Math (6 Questions)

**Important Features of Redesigned SAT 2016:**

* Continued emphasis on reasoning alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness and success
* Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact
* Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)