

What You Need to Know About the SAT® Suite of Assessments

In October 2015 and March 2016, the College Board will launch the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and redesigned SAT®, respectively. What does that mean for you?

Which Test Will You Take?

Students in the graduating class of 2015 will take the current SAT.

Most students in the class of 2016 will take the current SAT; students planning to take the SAT in the spring of their graduating year will take the redesigned SAT.

Students in the graduating class of 2017 will have a choice of whether to take the current SAT during the October, November, December 2015, or January 2016 test administrations or to take the redesigned SAT starting in March 2016.

Redesigned Assessments: Key Changes

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT will feature **key changes** that will make the test clearer, more closely connected to your course work, and more useful for college admission officers. Learn more about the key changes at deliveringopportunity.org/sat/redesign.



Relevant Words in Context — The redesigned assessments will focus on relevant words, not obscure vocabulary, that students will use in college and beyond.



Command of Evidence — The redesigned assessments will ask students to demonstrate their ability to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources.



Essay Analyzing a Source — The redesigned SAT essay section, which will be optional, will more closely mirror college writing assignments. Students will read a passage and explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience.



Focus on Math That Matters Most — The tests will focus on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis; the Heart of Algebra; and Passport to Advanced Math.

What You Need to Know About the SAT Suite of Assessments



Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts — Throughout the redesigned assessments, students will engage with questions grounded in the real world and directly related to the work performed in college and career.



Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies — Students will apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to solve problems in a broad array of contexts.



Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation — Every time students take one of the redesigned assessments, they will encounter a passage from a founding document or a text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.



No Penalty for Wrong Answers — The redesigned assessments will remove the penalty for wrong answers. Students will earn points for the questions they answer correctly.

The Redesigned SAT: Opportunity, Alignment, and Practice

- ▶ There's more opportunity than ever for you to showcase the skills that matter most for college. The test will be focused on what is familiar to students in their classrooms today.
- ▶ The test items and forms are undergoing extensive testing to ensure that the overall difficulty level of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT stay about the same as that of the current assessments.
- ▶ The College Board is making excellence easier through free, personalized, focused practice resources for all students. These practice resources are supplemental to the best way to prepare for the SAT: through great classroom instruction.
- ▶ Sample PSAT/NMSQT and SAT questions are already available at collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.

The College Board is breaking down barriers to college through dramatically expanded scholarships, fee waivers for all who need them, and AP[®] credit. We are also expanding career opportunity by giving

What You Need to Know About the SAT Suite of Assessments

students access to better planning tools and the skills that matter most for jobs of the future, including STEM and coding. Remember, the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT can help you in many ways:

Opening doors to colleges. More than 2,000 colleges and universities use the SAT as one of several factors to make admission decisions.

Helping students qualify for scholarships. Some colleges and organizations award scholarships or merit aid based on PSAT/NMSQT and SAT scores and more scholarship organizations are being added all the time.

Helping colleges find students. By opting in to the Student Search Service[®] when registering for the SAT, you can receive free information from colleges and scholarship programs.

Creating the potential to earn students advanced placement or college credit. The PSAT/NMSQT identifies students with AP potential, and research shows that students who succeed in Advanced Placement[®] courses in high school are more likely to succeed in college and save time and money through credit-grading placement policies.

Worried about the cost of taking the test, sending scores, or applying to college? Fee waivers are available to help eligible students cover these costs. Visit sat.org/feewaivers.