

The SAT Gets a Makeover; the Way Your Student Needs to Prepare Will Too

██████████ *Identifies the Major Changes and Adjusts Test Prep Curricula*

The SAT will undergo a major revision that will affect the PSAT as early as Fall 2015, and the SAT in Spring 2016.

What will be different? Well, the scoring, the format, and the questions. ██████████

██████████ has dedicated time to dissecting the changes and determining how these changes will affect students preparing for the test.

The new format of the test will require students to lean more heavily on long-term learning and skill building, rather than rote memorization.

Previously, there has been a clear disconnect between what students learn in school and what they encounter on the test, especially with regard to vocabulary. The changes to the SAT are intended to more closely resemble what students are learning in school. With Common Core standards being adopted by 46 states, we will likely see more alignment with the Common Core standards.

██████████ has always advocated for life-long learning with a focus on development of critical thinking skills. Overall, the educators and leadership at ██████████ believe the changes to the SAT are positive and will allow us to predict college success more effectively.

Beyond the release of the official sample format and new sample questions by the College Board in mid-April, here's a general breakdown of the changes:

Current SAT	New SAT
2400-point standard	1600-point standard with a separate essay score
¼-point penalty for incorrect answers	No penalty for incorrect answers
Critical Reading and Writing sections are scored separately.	Evidence -Based Reading and Writing will be combined into one score.
Students are permitted to use a calculator for the math section.	Use of a calculator will be prohibited on some portions of the math section and more math questions will be based on real-world scenarios.
Students are required to complete sentences during writing section, using unfamiliar "SAT words".	Sentence Completion questions will be eliminated and replaced with "real world" vocabulary in context questions.

<p>Essay is mandatory and format is free-response only.</p>	<p>Essay is “optional” and students will have to analyze a given text in terms of the passage’s use of evidence, reasoning, and stylistic elements. Many schools will still require the essay portion.</p>
<p>Reading and Writing questions do not focus on evidence and analysis.</p>	<p>Reading questions will focus on evidence and analysis and some will require students to site passages in support of previous answers.</p>

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