

Talking Points: Redesigned SAT® Overview

- Fewer than half of the students who take the SAT® are college ready – and even among those who are, the majority of low-income, high-achieving students do not apply to colleges within their reach.
- In 2014, as part of our commitment to address these challenges and move beyond delivering assessments to delivering opportunity, the College Board announced details of a redesigned SAT®.
- Before embarking on a redesign of the SAT, the College Board solicited feedback from students, parents, and its members in K–12 and higher education.
- The College Board also carefully examined the best available research about what students need to know in reading, writing, language, and math to be ready for college and career.
- The redesigned test – which will be administered beginning in March 2016 – measures the skills and knowledge that evidence shows is essential for college and career readiness, and better reflects what students are learning in class.
- The redesigned SAT will:
 - Be 3 hours (add 50 minutes if taking the SAT Essay)
 - Have 2 sections (3 with Essay): Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math
 - Use a score scale of 400 to 1600, with the Essay scored separately
- Changes include:
 - A focus on the areas of math that matter most for college and career
 - A move away from obscure vocabulary words to use of relevant words in context
 - The elimination of the guessing penalty
- To level the playing field for students who are interested in taking the SAT and preparing for college-level courses, the College Board has partnered with Khan Academy®, a leader in online education, to develop free, world-class practice tools for the redesigned SAT.
- Unlike traditional, high-priced test prep that focuses on strategies for taking the test and quick cramming, Official SAT Practice (satpractice.org) supports and reinforces what students are learning in classrooms by helping them focus on the knowledge and skills essential for college readiness.
- Along with the redesigned SAT, College Board assessments, including PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, and the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, will provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time, allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind. The assessments are connected to benefits including scholarships, advanced coursework, fee waivers, and free practice tools.
- More information about the redesigned SAT is available at sat.org/new.
