

Counselor Resource Guide to the Redesigned Assessments:

PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10,
PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

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Please note that there may be refinements and additions to elements of the assessments as we continue to work through our comprehensive research agenda. We are continuing to engage College Board members as well as K–12 and higher education leaders with an unprecedented level of transparency on assessment development. As a result, we will continue to update and offer the most current information as the results of these studies become available. As always, the most up-to-date, official information for school counselors can be found at deliveringopportunity.org.

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT[®] and the Advanced Placement Program[®]. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

For further information, visit collegeboard.org.

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Dear Counselor,

Welcome to the *Counselor Resource Guide to the Redesigned Assessments: PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®*. This guide is one of a number of tools the College Board will offer to help you better support the students and families in your care as they prepare for our redesigned assessments.

There is so much to look forward to in 2015, including the spring release of redesigned SAT practice tests through Khan Academy. In October, schools will begin offering the PSAT 8/9, which will serve as the entry point for college and career preparation for eighth- and ninth-grade students, the PSAT 10 for 10th-graders, as well as the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, the nation's largest and most representative precollege assessment. The redesigned SAT, which will be the anchor of our vertically aligned, longitudinal assessment system, and the PSAT 10 will both launch in spring 2016. Each component of the SAT Suite of Assessments will work together to open doors for improved instruction, identify students who need to get back on target for readiness, expand access to challenging course work and, ultimately, help ensure a more successful transition to college.

These components of the **College Board Readiness and Success System** make it easier for students to navigate a path through high school, college, and career through unmatched benefits to students, educators, and states/districts. No one knows more about helping students navigate this path than school counselors, which is why we have created this guide — to help you help your students access the opportunities they have earned.

We will continue to provide tools and training leading up to and through the transition to our new assessments, including:

- ▶ Workshops and resources to help you plan and make sure your students are ready.
- ▶ Ready-to-use slides and talking points that you can use to help students, families, and fellow educators understand the impact of these changes.
- ▶ Updated FAQs.
- ▶ Support from College Board regional staff.

We know how pivotal the support of a counselor is to so many of our nation's students and how our goal of propelling students into the success they've earned is only possible with your help. We, on the College Board team, thank you and look forward to working with you and your K–12 colleagues across the country in order to go beyond delivering assessments to delivering opportunity.

Sincerely,



Cynthia B. Schmeiser
Chief of Assessment
The College Board

Dear Colleagues,

We want to thank you for the countless hours you put in every day to make sure that your students have what they need to pursue a postsecondary education — be it at a community college, career-tech school, or four-year university. Your work is essential to the college and career readiness of our next generation of leaders; we simply can't stress enough how valuable it is.

As you know, changes to the PSAT™ 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT® are coming soon — October 2015 — followed by changes to the PSAT™ 10 and SAT® in spring 2016. Students, parents, and educators are sure to have many questions about the redesigned tests, and they'll be looking to you for the answers. This counselor guide can help.

We also thank you for the feedback you have given us. Rest assured: We are listening. We know your time is limited and is best spent with your students — not searching for the information you need. This guide is intended to be a one-stop shop for practical, easy-to-use tools and resources to help you prepare your students to take the redesigned assessments; the websites we direct you to will be continuously updated with the latest news. We hope you find this guide useful as you help students understand and make the most of the opportunities they have earned through their hard work.

Thank you again for your unwavering dedication to students and their families. Regardless of the educational path they choose, many would never be able to find their way without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lorraine Hastings
Vice President
Membership, Mobilization & Engagement
The College Board

The College Board Readiness and Success System

Stagnant Results and a Call to Action

In September 2013, the College Board released results for the graduating class of 2013 and cited stagnant performance on the SAT®; in October 2014, similar results revealed that fewer than half of all SAT takers in the class of 2014 graduated from high school academically prepared for the rigors of college-level course work. These results have real implications for students, their families, and the future of the nation.

After engaging in an in-depth analysis of how our programs could be used to increase opportunities to help students succeed in college and career, the College Board pledged to demand more from assessments so that they inspire productive practice and support students who are behind. In addition to the implementation of the redesigned SAT in spring 2016, the College Board will also introduce companion programs for lower grades: the PSAT™ 8/9, and the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® will launch in October 2015, and the PSAT™ 10 (which is the same test as the PSAT/NMSQT) will be first administered in the spring of 2016. Working toward solutions that will advance readiness and success for all students, we are committed to increasing our supports so that more students graduate from high school ready for postsecondary success.

Unparalleled Benefits

The goal of this guide is to provide a deeper understanding of the SAT Suite of Assessments, which comprises the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT. However, this SAT Suite is only one component of the College Board Readiness and Success System, which was designed to make it easier for students to navigate a path through high school, college, and career through unparalleled benefits to students, educators, states, and districts.

Focused, clear, and useful assessments that reflect what students are already learning in their classrooms

Focused on what is familiar to students, the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will reflect strong instruction in mathematics, English language arts, science, history, and social studies — making it clear what students need to know to practice for the exams. We are being clearer and more open about the components of these redesigned tests

than ever before. Full **test specifications** and **extensive sample items** for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT are currently available on our website, and we remain committed to expanding the materials and resources available at deliveringopportunity.org.

The College Board's assessments will work together to provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time, allowing students' performance on these assessments to help teachers accelerate students who are either ahead or behind. Each of these assessments will provide insight scores to support teachers and students in their efforts to create personalized plans for student practice and growth. And the subscores and guidance will be directly linked to your individual state standards.

Free, personalized, deliberate practice resources for all students

The College Board is making excellence easier through free, personalized, focused practice resources for all students. These resources are supplemental to the strong instruction students are receiving in their classrooms. In partnership with Khan Academy, we're removing barriers that students and their families face in accessing high-quality practice resources for the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, in addition to offering teachers a new partner in their hard work of preparing students for college.

The College Board is also collaborating with school districts and organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to ensure that as many students as possible can take advantage of these practice resources.

A full, redesigned PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT practice test will be available in March 2015 through the College Board, followed by dynamic, interactive study tools available through Khan Academy beginning in June 2015, which can be used for PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT practice because of the tight alignment between the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10. These practice resources are supplemental to the best way to prepare for the tests — through great classroom instruction.

College opportunities through scholarships, AP® credit, and fee waivers

With the College Board Readiness and Success System, we are breaking down barriers to college through dramatically expanding scholarship opportunities, identifying students with AP® potential, and providing fee waivers to all who need them.

Building on our track record of delivering opportunity with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the College Board has partnered with five leading scholarship providers to expand access to nearly \$180 million in existing scholarship dollars to low-income and underrepresented students:

- ▶ **American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC)**
- ▶ **Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF)**
- ▶ **Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)**
- ▶ **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (JCKF)**
- ▶ **United Negro College Fund (UNCF)**

Recruitment will begin with students from the class of 2015 who have taken the PSAT/NMSQT during high school and opted in to receive materials from scholarship providers. Once it launches in spring 2016, recruitment will also include students who opt in when taking the PSAT 10. **Together with these partners, the College Board will help to facilitate outreach and support to those students who may not otherwise have had access to scholarship opportunities they have earned.**

The College Board's commitment to action also extends to helping students overcome financial barriers that prevent them from successfully transitioning to college and career. Currently we contribute approximately \$78 million in program fee waivers to students each year. And with the support of colleges and universities, the College Board directly provides four college application fee waivers to every income-eligible senior who takes the SAT or an SAT Subject Test using a fee waiver. In addition, because research shows that increasing access to the tests leads to increased college-going rates, the College Board is working to expand its **SAT School Day** program, through which students have the option to take the SAT during the school day at the district's or state's expense. To learn more about SAT School Day, visit professionals.collegeboard.com.

Career opportunities through powerful career planning partnerships and a focus on coding and STEM

The College Board is expanding career opportunity by giving students access to better planning tools and the skills that matter most for jobs of the future.

The College Board is also focused on STEM disciplines, which are essential to our nation's ability to compete in the global marketplace. AP course work highlights these disciplines, while the math test on the redesigned SAT asks students to demonstrate problem-solving skills in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-world contexts.

We will provide additional information on the full College Board Readiness and Success System in the coming months.

Focused and Useful Assessments: PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

This guide has been designed to outline what you need to know about the redesigned PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, including who should take each test, when, and why. Some initial handouts are included in the Tools and Resources for Ongoing Conversations section, but additional robust resources will be regularly updated. Make sure to bookmark the [K–12 Educator](#) page to access the most current resources so that you can share this information with students, families, and colleagues.

Supported by Research, Focused on the Skills That Matter Most

The redesigned College Board assessments are evidence based. We know from the best available research that there is a critical set of knowledge, skills, and understandings that predicts student success in college and workforce training programs.

High school graduates who are college and career ready have a high likelihood of successfully entering postsecondary education (i.e., four-year institution, two-year institution, trade school, technical school, and/or workforce training program) without remediation. Research shows that the threshold reading and math skills required for college readiness are essentially the same as those required for career training readiness, meaning that students who plan to enter college or career training programs should be held to a common readiness standard.*

Based on a wealth of evidence about essential prerequisites for student success in postsecondary education, we conclude that students must be able to:

- ▶ Read, analyze, and use reasoning to comprehend challenging literary and informational texts, including texts on science and history/social studies topics, to demonstrate and expand their knowledge and understanding;
- ▶ Revise and edit extended texts across a range of academic and career-related subjects for expression of ideas and to show facility with a core set of grammar, usage, and punctuation conventions;
- ▶ Show command of a focused but powerful set of knowledge, skills, and understandings in math and apply that ability to solve problems situated in science, social studies, and career-related contexts;
- ▶ Make careful and considered use of evidence as they read and write;

* ACT, Inc., *Ready for College and Ready for Work: Same or Different?* (Iowa City: IA: Author, 2006), 3–6, <http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/ReadinessBrief.pdf>; Achieve, Inc. *Make the Case: College Ready AND Career Ready* (Washington, DC: Author, 2013), 1–3. <http://www.futurereadyproject.org/sites/frp/files/Flex-CollegeReady%26CareerReady.pdf>

- ▶ Demonstrate skill in analyzing data, including data represented graphically in tables, graphs, charts, and other formats, in reading, writing, and math contexts; and
- ▶ Reveal an understanding of relevant words in context and how word choice helps shape meaning and tone.

The SAT Suite of Assessments will measure against the skills outlined above. Aligned to the same research, the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will be on comparable (vertically aligned) scoring scales, so that students and educators can track growth and target areas of opportunity.

Overview of the SAT Suite of Assessments

For the first time, all scores from the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will be on the same score scale, so that students and educators can track growth across assessments and target areas of knowledge and skills that need to be strengthened.

PSAT 8/9: Readiness Baseline

What is it? Replacing ReadStep™, the PSAT 8/9 serves as the foundation for understanding students' progress as they enter high school. An early indicator of college readiness that is aligned with the PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, the PSAT 8/9 will provide detailed performance feedback.

Who should take it? All eighth- and ninth-graders (beginning with the high school graduating classes of 2020 and 2019). The PSAT 8/9 will first be offered in October 2015.

Reflects what is taught in the classroom: The focus is on the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career readiness. The PSAT 8/9 will include grade-level appropriate content for eighth- and ninth-graders that will match the scope and difficulty of work found in the classroom.

Opportunities: The PSAT 8/9 serves as a foundation for understanding student readiness as students enter high school in addition to providing hands-on opportunities to practice the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for success in college and career.

PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT: Check-in and Focus

What are they? These assessments are the same test and only differ in the time at which they are administered; the PSAT 10 is offered to 10th-graders in the spring, while the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th- and 11th-graders in the fall. These assessments serve as “check-ins” on student progress and pinpoint areas for development.

Who should take them? 10th-graders (high school graduating class of 2018) and 11th-graders (class of 2017). Taking the PSAT 10 and/or PSAT/NMSQT provides students with a midpoint check-in on their progress toward college and career readiness as well as detailed feedback that evaluates the knowledge and skills in need of strengthening. The first administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be in October 2015; the PSAT 10 will first be offered in spring 2016.

Reflects what is taught in the classroom: The focus is on the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career readiness. The PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT have questions and tasks that more closely resemble what is happening in today’s classrooms. The text will be more complex than the PSAT 8/9 and the tasks more challenging.

Opportunities: The PSAT 10 provides early feedback to help students identify the knowledge and skills they need to be college and career ready. In addition, through their PSAT/NMSQT results, students may also be connected with AP courses, scholarship and recognition programs, and college planning resources.

SAT: Connect to College

What is it? As the nation’s most widely used college admission test, the SAT is the first step toward higher education for students of all backgrounds. It’s taken by more than two million students every year and is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. When used in combination with high school GPA, SAT scores are shown to be the best predictors of a student’s potential to succeed in college. The SAT covers core content areas deemed essential for success in college — reading, mathematics, and writing and language. The SAT is connected to the College Board’s earlier grade college readiness assessments, which work together to provide an ongoing, grade-level picture of a student’s progress.

Who should take it? Students typically take the SAT in the spring of their junior year and in the fall or spring of their senior year. The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in spring 2016.

Reflects what is taught in the classroom: The focus is on the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career readiness. The SAT has questions and tasks that more closely resemble what is happening in today’s classrooms. The text will be more complex than the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT and the tasks more challenging.

Opportunities: The SAT provides a powerful connection to college. In addition, every senior who takes the SAT using a fee waiver will receive four college application fee waivers directly from the College Board.

Overview by Content

The assessments in the College Board Readiness and Success System all focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills that research has shown to be important for college/career readiness and success. Based on this domain, our assessments will include grade-level appropriate content that will match the scope and difficulty of work found in classrooms. For more information, please review Section II of our test specifications at deliveringopportunity.org.

Reading Test

Differences in text complexity of the source materials included in the assessments is one of the most important differentiators between the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT Reading tests. The skills needed are similar, but as the complexity of the text increases, the student’s ability to draw on those skills becomes more crucial and the tasks more challenging.

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Draw a fairly simple, one-step conclusion spelled out clearly in text.	Draw an inference to reach the right conclusion.	Perform several steps to draw the right conclusion.
Identify relationships based on multiple, fairly straightforward pieces of information stated in the text.	Infer somewhat more complicated relationships based on more subtle pieces of information stated in the text.	Infer more complex relationships from the text by piecing facts or incidents together.
Determine explicit meaning from the graphic or text.	Recognize trends in graphical data.	Synthesize information from a graphic and passage.

Writing and Language

Questions related to passages will ask students to make **more sophisticated choices** in vocabulary, sentence structure, organization, tone, and factual support as they progress from the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT to the SAT. Students will encounter passages on science and history/social studies topics, to demonstrate and expand their knowledge and understanding.

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Use punctuation effectively in simple contexts, such as using commas to separate items in a list.	Use punctuation effectively in somewhat challenging contexts, such as using a colon to introduce a list.	Use punctuation effectively in challenging contexts, such as using a semicolon to link independent clauses.
Edit straightforward sentences that pose some challenge, such as sentences with an introductory phrase.	Edit compound and complex sentences, including sentences with introductory phrases and clauses.	Edit syntactically challenging sentences, such as lengthy sentences that include several clauses.
Accurately incorporate basic information from graphics into a text.	Accurately incorporate somewhat detailed or nuanced information from graphics into a text.	Incorporate accurate, specific, and complex information from graphics into a text.

Math Test

As students progress through the SAT Suite of Assessments, the emphasis will shift from one- or two-step problems to multistep problems as well as to those that require the use of more complicated math concepts and equations. The Math test will require students to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-world contexts.

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Many items requiring one or two steps to solve.	Many items requiring two or more steps to solve.	Emphasis on multistep problems.
May require the use of common geometric equations.	May require the use of common geometric equations and spatial reasoning.	Requires the use of geometry concepts and reasoning.
Includes ratios, proportions, percents, introductory probability, and statistics.	Requires comparing linear and exponential growth.	Includes statistics topics such as sampling and inferring correlation and causation from a research method.
May require the use of properties of right triangles to solve problems.	Requires the use of trigonometric relationships.	Requires the use of trigonometry.

The SAT with Essay: Redesigned for Flexibility and Opportunity

As part of the redesigned SAT, the SAT Essay will allow students to engage in and demonstrate the deep critical reading, analysis, and writing skills they have learned in high school. The basic aim of the redesigned SAT optional Essay is to determine whether students can demonstrate college and career readiness proficiency in reading, writing, and analysis by comprehending a high-quality source text and producing a cogent and clearly written analysis of that text supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the source. Although the source text will vary from administration to administration, the Essay prompt itself is highly consistent. Students who elect to take the SAT Essay will be allotted 50 minutes to do so. Essays will be scored by two raters; each will assess by using three analytic traits: Reading, Analysis, and Writing.

Students should be advised to check the admission requirements of the institutions to which they plan to apply to determine whether the SAT Essay is required. Even if it is not, students may elect to take the SAT Essay and submit their scores to offer a more complete profile of their writing achievement.

Central Features of the SAT Suite of Assessments

The redesigned SAT will be the anchor of an assessment system designed to monitor student growth across grades annually. Each component of the SAT Suite of Assessments will be vertically aligned, so that students and educators can track growth and identify areas in need of strengthening.

Redesigned Assessments: Key Changes

The SAT Suite is driven by College Board research that identifies the factors that matter most in college and career readiness. The redesigned PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will feature the key changes below that will make the tests clearer for students, more closely connected to K–12 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.



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.

Central Features of the Redesigned PSAT 8/9

This high-level comparison between the current eighth- and ninth-grade assessments and PSAT 8/9 highlights major design features of the two tests. The first table provides a comparison of the major features; the second table provides a comparison by test; and the third table compares the score components. The first administration of the PSAT 8/9 will be October 2015.

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES: READISTEP™ AND PSAT 8/9		
CATEGORY	READISTEP	PSAT 8/9
Total Testing Time*	2 hours	2 hours and 25 minutes
Components	Critical Reading Writing Mathematics	Writing and Language Reading Math
Important Features	Emphasis on general reasoning skills; Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts; Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).	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).
Score Reporting*	Scale ranging from 3 to 21. Scale ranging from 1 to 7 for Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.	Total Score: Scale ranges from 240 to 1440. Section Score: Scale ranges from 120 to 720, and 6 to 36 on test and cross-test scores.
Subscore Reporting	None	Subscores on a 1 to 15 scale for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, educators, and counselors.

* While the information in these tables represents our current plans for the nature and features of the redesign, some specific elements, such as test timing, length, and reported scores, may be refined based on the results of ongoing research.

COMPARISON OF TEST LENGTH AND TIMING: READISTEP AND PSAT 8/9

READISTEP			PSAT 8/9		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Critical Reading	40	45	Reading	55	40
Writing	40	50	Writing and Language	30	42
Mathematics	40	36	Math	60	38
Total	120	131	Total	145	120

SCORE COMPONENTS OF THE PSAT 8/9

CATEGORY	READISTEP	PSAT 8/9
Total Score	N/A	1
Section Scores	N/A	2
Test Scores	3	3
Cross-Test Scores	N/A	2
Subscores	N/A	6

Central Features of the Redesigned PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT

This high-level comparison between the current and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT highlights major design features of the current and redesigned tests. The first table provides a comparison of the major features; the second table provides a comparison by test; and the third table compares the score components. The first administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be October 2015; the PSAT 10 will first be offered in spring 2016.

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES: CURRENT PSAT/NMSQT AND REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT		
CATEGORY	CURRENT PSAT/NMSQT	REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT
Total Testing Time*	2 hours and 10 minutes	2 hours and 45 minutes
Components	Critical Reading Writing Mathematics	Reading Test Writing and Language Test Math Test
Important Features	Emphasis on general reasoning skills; Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts; Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).	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).
Score Reporting*	Scale ranging from 60 to 240. Scale ranging from 20 to 80 for Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.	Total Score: Scale ranges from 320 to 1520. Section scores: Scale ranges from 160 to 760, and 8 to 38 for test and cross-test scores.
Subscore Reporting	None	Subscores on a 1 to 15 scale for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, educators, and counselors.

* While the information in these tables represents our current plans for the nature and features of the redesign, some specific elements, such as test timing, length, and reported scores, may be refined based on the results of ongoing research.

COMPARISON OF TEST LENGTH AND TIMING: CURRENT AND REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT

CURRENT PSAT/NMSQT			REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Critical Reading	50	48	Reading	60	47
Writing	30	39	Writing and Language	35	44
Mathematics	50	38	Math	70	47
Total	130	125	Total	165	138

SCORE COMPONENTS OF THE REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT

CATEGORY	CURRENT PSAT/NMSQT	REDESIGNED PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT
Total Score	N/A	1
Section Scores	N/A	2
Test Scores	3	3
Cross-Test Scores	N/A	2
Subscores	N/A	7

Central Features of the Redesigned SAT

This high-level comparison between the current SAT and the redesigned SAT highlights major design features of the two tests. The first table provides a comparison of the major features of the current SAT and redesigned SAT. The second table provides a comparison by test, including the number of items and testing time. The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in spring 2016.

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES: CURRENT SAT VS. REDESIGNED SAT		
CATEGORY	CURRENT SAT	REDESIGNED SAT
Total Testing Time*	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
Components	Critical Reading Writing Mathematics Essay	Reading Test Writing and Language Test Math Test Essay (optional)
Important Features	Emphasis on general reasoning skills; Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts; Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).	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).
Essay	Required and given at the beginning of the SAT; 25 minutes to write the essay. Tests writing skill; students take a position on a presented issue.	Optional and given at the end of the SAT; postsecondary institutions determine whether they will require the essay for admission; 50 minutes to write the essay. Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text.
Score Reporting*	Scale ranging from 600 to 2400. Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing. Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing.	Total Score: scale ranges from 400 to 1600. Section Score: Scale ranges from 200 to 800, and 10 to 40 on test and cross-test scores. Essay results reported separately, with Reading, Analysis, Writing each reported on a 2 to 8 scale.
Subscore Reporting	None	Subscores on a 1 to 15 scale for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors.

* While the information in these tables represents our current plans for the nature and features of the redesign, some specific elements, such as test timing, length, and reported scores, may be refined based on the results of ongoing research.

COMPARISON OF TEST LENGTH AND TIMING: CURRENT AND REDESIGNED SAT

CURRENT SAT			REDESIGNED SAT		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/ Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/ Tasks
Critical Reading	70	67	Reading	65	52
Writing	60	49	Writing and Language	35	44
Essay	25	1	Essay (optional)	50	1
Mathematics	70	54	Math	80	57
Total	225	171	Total	180 (230 with Essay)	153 (154 with Essay)

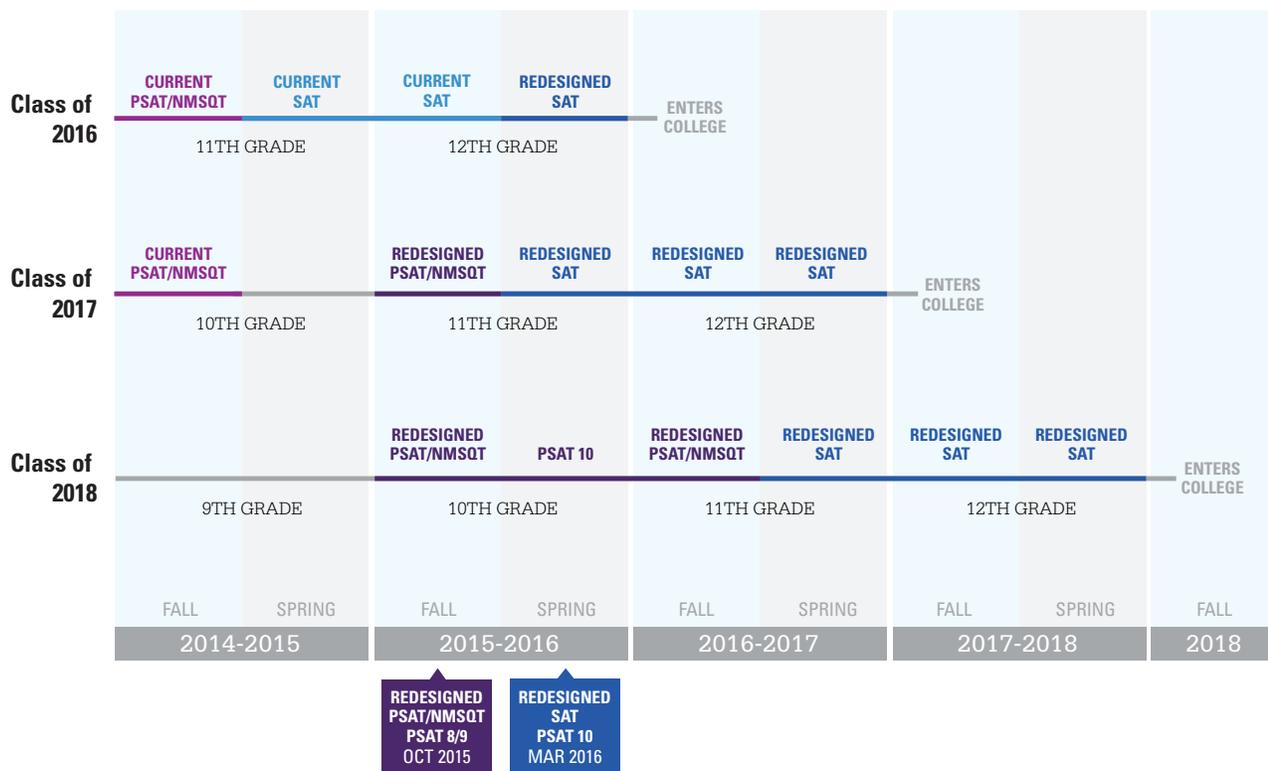
SCORE COMPONENTS OF THE REDESIGNED SAT

CATEGORY	CURRENT SAT	REDESIGNED SAT
Composite Score	0	1
Area Scores	2	2
Test Scores	N/A	3 plus Essay scores
Cross-Test Scores	N/A	2
Subscores	N/A	7

Timelines

Administrations

The first administration of the redesigned PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT will be in October 2015, while the redesigned SAT and PSAT 10 will first be offered in the spring of 2016. Understanding how these administration dates will affect the members of upcoming high school graduating classes is an important step in helping you to help students navigate a path through high school, college, and career.



PSAT/NMSQT Wednesday Administrations

During the initial year of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, there will only be two administrations of the assessment. We will offer the PSAT/NMSQT on two Wednesdays, Oct. 14, 2015 (recommended test date), and Oct. 28, 2015 (alternate test date), rather than offering a Saturday administration. We realize that school-day testing represents a change for your school that may impact instructional time and create scheduling challenges.

Recognizing that moving to a Wednesday administration may be inconvenient for some schools, we are committed to offering the Saturday test date again in 2016-17. We will be creating and posting additional resources to help you communicate this change with your faculty and parents.

The College Board is committed to creating opportunities for students to take the PSAT/NMSQT, qualify for scholarship opportunities, including the National Merit Scholarship, practice for the SAT, and discover their AP potential. After a thorough evaluation of test date options, the College Board decided that offering two Wednesday administrations enables more students to take the PSAT/NMSQT unencumbered by the need to find transportation or to miss work, sports, or other extracurricular activities that can often conflict with Saturday test days.

Important Dates to Note

The milestones and their target dates below provide useful information as you plan for the changes related to the redesign of the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT. Be sure to visit deliveringopportunity.org.

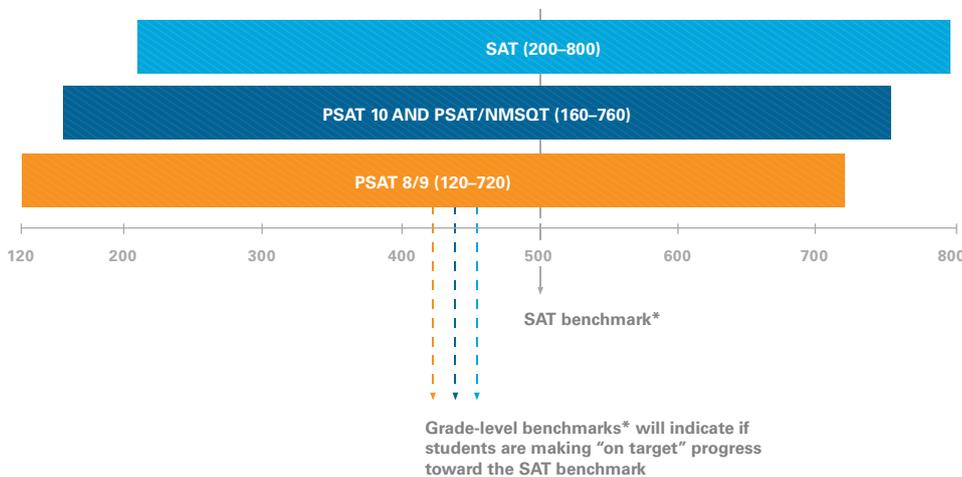
2014	
December 2014	Launch of the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT practice site (visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org to learn more)
2015	
January 2015	Monthly Counselor Webinars begin (to learn more and to register, please visit collegeboard.org/cw) College Board Conferences: Middle States Regional Forum
February 2015	College Board Conferences: New England, Midwestern, Southern, Western, and Southwestern Regional Forums
March 2015	<i>Counselor Resource Guide to the Redesigned Assessments: PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®</i> published and posted online First full-length practice test for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT released on collegeboard.org College Board Conferences: Prepárate™ and A Dream Deferred™
April 2015	Ordering for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT opens SAT School Day administration (current)
June 2015	Khan Academy resources for redesigned assessments launch <i>SAT Guide for Teachers/Curriculum Specialists</i> published and posted online <i>SAT Guide for Students and Parents</i> published and posted online
July 2015	College Board Conference: AP Annual Conference, featuring an additional day of sessions on the redesigned assessments
September 2015	Fall PSAT 8/9 testing window opens PSAT/NMSQT ordering closes Visit the College Board booth and sessions at NACAC

2015 (continued)	
October 2015	<p>First administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT</p> <p>SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)</p> <p>SAT School Day administration (current)</p>
November 2015	SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)
December 2015	<p>PSAT 8/9 score reporting begins</p> <p>PSAT/NMSQT scores returned</p> <p>PSAT/NMSQT concordance published</p> <p>SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)</p>
2016	
January 2016	<p>SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (final administration of the current SAT)</p> <p>Fall PSAT 8/9 testing window closes</p> <p>Practice resources for the current SAT will be retired following the January administration</p>
February 2016	Spring PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 testing window opens
March 2016	<p>First administration of the redesigned SAT</p> <p>SAT School Day administration (redesigned SAT)</p> <p>SAT Subject Test administration</p> <p>Spring PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 testing window closes</p>
April 2016	SAT School Day administration (redesigned SAT)
May 2016	<p>SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (redesigned SAT)</p> <p>Scores returned from the March SAT</p> <p>Concordance published for the redesigned SAT</p>
June 2016	SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (redesigned SAT)

Scores and Reporting

Proposed Vertical Scale for the College Board Readiness and Success System

The redesigned SAT will be the anchor of a vertically aligned, longitudinal SAT Suite of Assessments that is designed to monitor student growth across grades annually. For the first time, all scores from PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will be on the same scoring scale, so that students and educators can track growth and target areas in need of improvement. This level of feedback will help both students and educators engage in the best possible practice for future exams: strong classroom work and instruction.

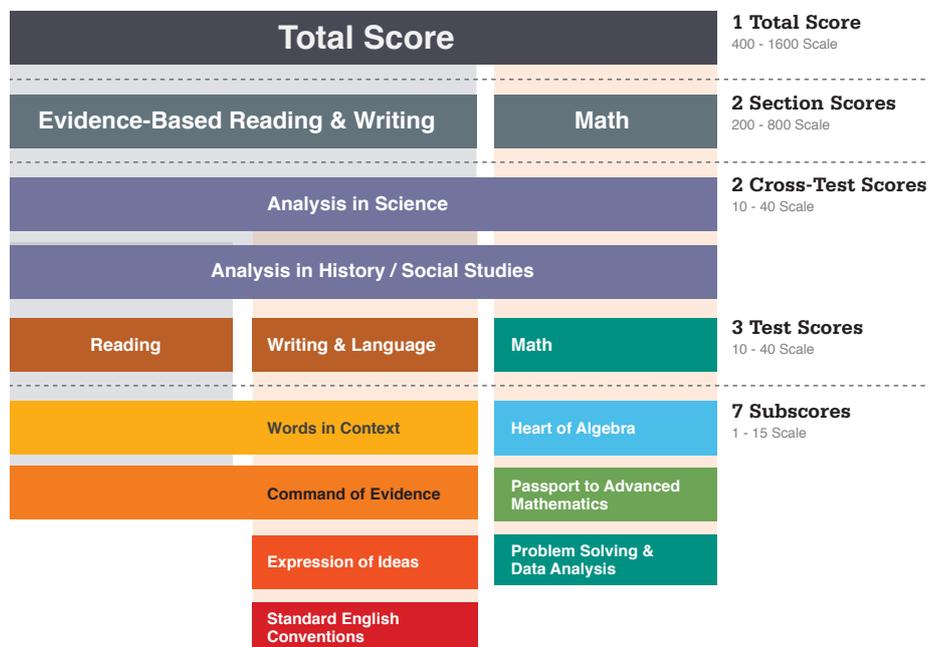


Our Updated Reports: More Specifics, Better Information

The PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT have been redesigned to provide students and educators with enhanced information by reporting more scores than ever before, and the scores reported through the redesigned SAT are the same Insight Scores that will be reported in companion assessments given in earlier grades: PSAT 8/9 in grades eight and nine; PSAT 10 in the spring of grade 10; and PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of grades 10 and 11.

By obtaining more and better information earlier, teachers and students alike can identify areas of need and make more timely interventions. Middle schools and high schools can also use this information to evaluate their curriculum to make sure that it is focused on enabling students to attain essential college- and career-ready knowledge, skills, and understandings and that the courses it comprises are vertically aligned.

The redesigned SAT will report a total score, section scores, test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. These reported Insight Scores are intended to provide additional information about student achievement and readiness that will convey a cohesive profile of student readiness.



*The redesigned assessment will report a total score that will be the sum of Total and Section Scores

Total and Section Scores

The redesigned assessment will report a total score that will be the sum of two section scores: (1) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; and (2) Math. The total score will be reported on a scale range:

- ▶ 240 to 1440 on the PSAT 8/9
- ▶ 320 to 1520 on the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
- ▶ 400 to 1600 on the redesigned SAT

On the redesigned SAT, the three scores reported for the redesigned SAT Essay will be reported separately and will not be factored into the total score.

Cross-Test Scores

Pending the results of research, the redesigned PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will also report two cross-test scores: (1) Analysis in History/Social Studies; and (2) Analysis in Science. Each of these scores will be reported on a scale range that is unique to each assessment. These scores are based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests, and they will reflect the application of reading, writing, language, and math skills in history/social studies and in science contexts:

- ▶ 6 to 36 on the PSAT 8/9
- ▶ 8 to 38 on the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
- ▶ 10 to 40 on the SAT

Subscores

The redesigned assessments will report multiple subscores for:

- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Writing and Language
- ▶ Math

The Reading and Writing and Language Tests will contribute questions to two subscores: (1) Command of Evidence; and (2) Words in Context. The Writing and Language Test will also report two additional subscores: (1) Expression of Ideas; and (2) Standard English Conventions. The Math Test will report three subscores: (1) Heart of Algebra; (2) Problem Solving and Data Analysis; and (3) Passport to Advanced Math.* These scores will be reported on a 1–15 scale.

*Note: the PSAT 8/9 will not report a Passport to Advanced Math subscore.

Planned Concordances for the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT

Because the PSAT 10 and the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT are different from the current PSAT/NMSQT and SAT, numerical scores on one version of the test will not be strictly equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. We will provide a concordance between the scores on the current tests and those on the redesigned tests that show how they relate.

Preliminary concordances for the PSAT 10 and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be made available to educators in December 2015. Additional concordance information, including concordance linking scores on the redesigned SAT and on the ACT test, will be released after the first operational administration of the redesigned SAT in 2016.

Redesigned Assessments and Online Reporting

We are rolling out a new online reporting system that will result in students only having to log in once to access their PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and SAT Subject Test score reports.

The student online reporting will launch when PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT scores are released, likely by late 2015. The student online reporting will be enhanced to include scores from PSAT 10, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests™, likely by mid-2016.

K–12 institutions will receive all of their reporting online in a new, single portal for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests. The reports will allow for interactive features such as sorting and filtering by different student demographics and will be accessible from different levels of the K–12 hierarchy (i.e., a district can access school-level data). Note: In the immediate term, Advanced Placement Program® (AP) reporting will continue to be completed through the AP Online Scoring Report System (OSR).

Be sure to sign up for updates at deliveringopportunity.org to learn about upcoming professional development opportunities, including those designed to support the implementation of online reporting.

Counselor Registration and Score Roster

Beginning summer 2015, the existing Web-based Counselor Registration report will be updated to allow users to see registrations for the current and redesigned SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and fee-waiver usage and test day absences. In addition, when the new online reporting system launches, the Counselor Registration report will be combined with the Score Roster reports and will include new functionality.

Updated features of the Counselor Registration and Score Roster will include:

- ▶ Cross-program roster of scores (and SAT assessment registrations).
- ▶ Ability to batch print
 - › Student score reports
 - › Score labels
 - › SAT admission tickets
- ▶ Ability to “search” and custom group students (e.g., “all students in my tutoring program”).
- ▶ Ability to download preformatted student data files, or export roster reports directly into Excel or to PDF.

Online Reporting: Access

With the move to free online reporting for all school-based PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT reporting, counselors will be able to use the same College Board logins they use to access other College Board tools, like AP OSR and/or AP Potential™. Each institution (whether school, district, or state) will be allowed to have an unlimited number of users, who will be managed by an internal administrator at the institution. Once the online reporting is established, schools will receive a single-copy paper score report, for the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT for distribution to the student. The College Board will share more information about the online reporting system in the months prior to the first PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT score report release.

Frequently Asked Questions

The College Board is excited to begin offering our redesigned assessments. Working together, these components of the SAT Suite of Assessments will provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

Because you play an essential role in fostering a culture of high expectations and achievement within your school community, we recognize that you are likely being asked important questions about the upcoming changes by your students, their families, and your colleagues. In this section, you'll find answers to questions that school counselors have told us are most essential. In order to provide you with the most up-to-date answers to these questions, we are committed to regularly updating our online FAQs; please visit the K–12 Educator page deliveringopportunity.org to review our current list.

The Redesigned SAT®, the Current SAT, and ACT

Q [How will changes to the SAT® benefit my students?](#)

A Working together, College Board assessments will provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind. The questions on the redesigned SAT will be more familiar to students because they'll reflect the best of instruction in mathematics, English language arts, science, history, and social studies, making it clear what students need to know to prepare for the tests.

The College Board has already provided the full test specifications for the redesigned SAT (available online), and through a partnership with Khan Academy, the College Board is making free test practice materials available to all students.

Q [How will the redesign of the SAT affect the high school graduating classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017?](#)

A We recognize that, during this transition, you are likely to be asked a lot of important questions by your students, their families, and your colleagues about which tests students should take and when.

The high school graduating class of 2015 will primarily take the current SAT. These students should continue to visit the SAT website to register for the test and to receive and send their scores.

As of the date of publication, **the high school graduating class of 2016** may have already taken the current PSAT/NMSQT® in the fall of their junior year. These students will have the option to take both the current SAT (March 2015–January 2016) and the redesigned SAT (beginning March 2016).

The high school graduating class of 2017 will have the option to take the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of their 11th-grade year, when students are typically eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program. Taking the PSAT 10 and/or PSAT/NMSQT provides students with a midpoint check-in on their progress toward college and career readiness as well as detailed feedback that evaluates the knowledge and skills in need of strengthening. The first administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be in October 2015; the PSAT 10 will first be offered in spring 2016.

Q [Should I advise my students to get all their testing done before March 2016?](#)

A When the College Board switches over to the redesigned SAT in spring 2016, the current SAT will no longer be offered. However, some students will take the SAT before that time and then take the redesigned SAT later. Because the test and score scale are changing, we recommend that these students send in all scores, allowing colleges to use those that are most favorable to the student. Keep in mind that some colleges require students to send all scores.

Q [Will the redesigned SAT be easier or harder than the ACT?](#)

A There is no research to validate that any group of students perform “better” or “worse” on one college entrance exam over another. Like its competitor, the ACT, the redesigned SAT is an achievement test, but what makes the redesigned SAT unique is its focus on what research shows is most essential for college and career readiness and success. The ACT test measures skills across a large domain while the redesigned SAT will measure fewer things much more deeply.

Q [What are the differences between the tests?](#)

A The ACT test measures skills across a large domain while the redesigned SAT will measure fewer things much more deeply. For example:

In the redesigned SAT’s Reading Test and optional essay, students are asked not only to demonstrate their understanding of texts but in many cases also to explain their reasoning (e.g., by determining which portion of a reading passage provides the best textual evidence for the answer to another question).

In the redesigned SAT's Math Test, students are asked to respond to multistep problems that are presented in real-life contexts like those they will encounter in college and in their careers.

In the redesigned SAT, students are also being asked to analyze and synthesize both words and numbers and to find inconsistencies in the information they convey. This is also an important difference in what is being measured by the new test.

The SAT Suite of Assessments

Q How will changes to the College Board's assessments benefit my students?

A The SAT Suite will be composed of focused, clear, and useful assessments that reflect what students are already learning in their classrooms. Working together, these assessments will provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind. In addition, for the first time, all scores from PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT will be on the same score scale, so that students and educators can track growth and target areas of opportunity. The College Board assessments are clearer and more open than any in our history. We're telling everyone what's on the exams: students and teachers can review the full SAT test specifications [https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/test_specifications_for_the_redesigned_sat_na3.pdf] so that they know exactly what to expect on the test.

In addition to being great practice for the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT is currently the best indicator of a student's potential to succeed in certain Advanced Placement® courses, which allows us to connect more students with challenging course work. By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, eligible students will enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and may be identified and recruited by some of the nation's largest scholarship providers such as the American Indian Graduate Center, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). A full redesigned PSAT/NMSQT practice test will be available in March 2015 through the College Board, followed by dynamic, interactive study tools available through Khan Academy beginning in June 2015, which can be used for PSAT/NMSQT practice because of the tight alignment between the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT.

Q Can I just use one version and administer the fall PSAT/NMSQT to all my students in grades 8–11 to avoid confusion on test day?

A The College Board is making our current college and career readiness assessments more flexible and more aligned to the redesigned SAT. Our assessments will feature grade-level appropriate content, and they will

introduce more flexibility by offering schools options to administer in the fall or the spring. The College Board offers the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 as grade-appropriate assessment options for middle and high school students.

- ▶ The PSAT/NMSQT is designed for sophomores and juniors to take in the fall; most junior test-takers will be eligible to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions and will be connected with the College Board's additional scholarship partners [<https://www.collegeboard.org/releases/2015/college-board-announces-expansion-scholarships-students-taking-psat-nmsqt>].
- ▶ The PSAT 10, which covers the same test content as the PSAT/NMSQT, is designed for sophomores to take in the spring. The PSAT 10 offers flexibility in test administration as well as a check-in on student progress. While most test-takers will not be eligible to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions, they will be eligible for all of the College Board's scholarship opportunities [<https://www.collegeboard.org/releases/2015/college-board-announces-expansion-scholarships-students-taking-psat-nmsqt>].
- ▶ The PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 (for ninth-grade test-takers) can provide schools and students with information to identify students who may be successful on AP Exams via AP Potential [<https://appotential.collegeboard.org/app/welcome.do>].
- ▶ The PSAT 8/9 is designed to be administered in either the fall or spring to students in grades eight and nine.

We strongly encourage the use of grade-level appropriate assessments. Working together, College Board assessments provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

Test Preparation and Khan Academy

Q What resources connect classroom instruction to the redesigned assessments, and how can students best prepare for success on the tests?

A The College Board is making excellence easier through focused, clear, and useful assessments that reflect what students are already learning in their classrooms. Our redesigned assessments reflect the best of instruction in math, English language arts, science, history, and social studies, making it clear what students need to know to prepare for the exams.

The College Board is also providing 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. In partnership with Khan Academy, we are removing barriers that students and their families face in accessing high-quality practice resources for the PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT. Khan Academy offers teachers a new partner in their hard work to prepare students for college. In addition, by collaborating with school districts and organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the College Board is ensuring that as many students as possible can take advantage of these resources.

For a more in-depth look at the kinds of questions that will be on the redesigned SAT, visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.

Fee Waivers and Access to Opportunity

Q How will the College Board ensure that the redesigned SAT and administration policies are fair to all students?

A Years of research have consistently demonstrated that the SAT is a valid predictor of first-year college success for all students, regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status. We are committed to sustaining or improving the predictive validity of the SAT. We will build on the careful and expert work of statisticians to create a redesigned test that continues to be a strong predictor of college success when considered in combination with high school grades and other factors. We are rigorously testing the redesigned exam, through content reviews and individual item testing, to ensure that the redesigned SAT is a fair and valid test for all students.

In addition, the College Board's commitment to make the SAT more focused, useful, and clear will benefit all students. The redesigned SAT will be:

Focused on the few things that evidence shows matter most for success in college and career ... and will reflect and reinforce the key skills and knowledge that students are learning in their best courses.

Useful. Everything students encounter on this test should be widely applicable to their work in college and career training opportunities.

Clear and open. Students and teachers will know what is covered on the test and Khan Academy’s freely available practice materials are continuing to grow.

Recognizing the inequities inherent in high-priced test preparation, we are proud to be working with educators, community groups, college-access organizations, and parents to provide the necessary resources to propel students to college success. The redesigned SAT and our partnership with Khan Academy are components of a commitment by the College Board and our members to move beyond delivering assessments to delivering opportunity. To ensure that assessments are not a stopping point, but that the results propel students into the opportunities they have earned, we will provide access to AP courses for those who are ready, as well as SAT and college application fee waivers to income-eligible students.

The Redesigned SAT and Higher Education

Q How will colleges and universities use the redesigned SAT and the current SAT in the admission process?

A The SAT is taken by more than two million students every year and is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. The SAT provides a trusted, globally recognized indicator of academic readiness for college. In a way, the SAT is the bridge between the hard work students have already done and the college that is the best fit for their future. Many schools’ websites share the range of SAT scores reported by their admitted students; this valuable information allows students to research which colleges might be the best fit.

We are committed to continuing to work with K–12 and higher education leaders and educators during the transition from the current SAT to the redesigned SAT. The College Board will provide concordance between the current SAT and the redesigned SAT shortly after the first administration of the redesigned SAT to ensure that the redesigned SAT will continue to provide students with a powerful connection to college.

Staying Informed

Q What's the best way to stay up-to-date on redesign news?

A Information about the redesigned SAT, free test-preparation materials, and additional initiatives to expand access to opportunity — including College Application Fee Waivers — are available at deliveringopportunity.org, where you can also sign up to receive updates.

You can also connect with the College Board and the SAT on social media. Whether you're in need of customer service, have a question about our redesigned assessments, or want to explore our programs and services, we encourage you and your students to follow and engage with us online:

 Twitter:

[@CollegeBoard](https://twitter.com/CollegeBoard)

[@OfficialSAT](https://twitter.com/OfficialSAT)

[@SATQuestion](https://twitter.com/SATQuestion)

 Facebook:

facebook.com/thecollegeboard

 Instagram:

[@collegeboard](https://instagram.com/collegeboard)

Q What types of educator resources, district support, and training will be available for the College Board Readiness and Success System? When will the resources be available?

A The College Board recognizes your essential role in fostering a culture of high expectations and achievement. We are committed to providing you with practical and meaningful resources that will help support you in accelerating your students' college and career readiness, including monthly webinars on the redesigned PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, as well as in-person workshops.

To find out what is happening in the counselor community and to register for upcoming professional development opportunities, visit collegeboard.org/cw. For updates on our redesigned assessments, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

Tools and Resources for Ongoing Conversations

The following resources have been designed to deepen your understanding of the redesigned assessments, and they provide easy-to-use tools to facilitate conversations with parents, students, and colleagues.

At the top-right corner of each sheet, you will see a label indicating the intended audience for that sheet. The pages labeled “counselors” are for your use only; the Discussion Topics are meant for you to use with the group listed; and the remaining resources may be distributed to each audience as indicated.

Below are a few strategies to help get you started communicating information about the redesigned SAT[®] Suite of Assessments.

For parents and students:

- ▶ Host parent information sessions to share information about the College Readiness and Success System and its benefits to students.
- ▶ Share information with parent, teacher, and student organizations by regularly providing updates in newsletters and other school and district communications.

For teachers and administrators:

- ▶ Provide Lunch & Learn sessions for teachers to discuss changes, preparation techniques, and resources for students.
- ▶ Encourage teachers to sign up for updates on deliveringopportunity.org.
- ▶ Conduct classroom guidance sessions to share grade-appropriate information about the redesigned assessments.
- ▶ Discuss with school leadership the benefits of holding in-service days (spring, summer, or fall of 2015) for staff development around the redesigned assessments.

Additional tools and resources, including PowerPoint slides to help you share information, will continue to be developed in the coming months. For updates and the latest resources, visit the K–12 Educators page at deliveringopportunity.org.

Preparing Students for the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

8th and 9th Grades (Classes of 2018 and 2019)

- Tell students and families the PSAT™ 8/9 will be replacing ReadStep™.
- Make sure they are aware of the test administration date chosen for their district, time, and practice resources and activities.
- Share benefits of the PSAT 8/9:
 - ▶ Early indicator of college readiness
 - ▶ Detailed performance feedback connected to classroom teaching standards
 - ▶ Early access to career exploration tools
- Include general assessment information on your school's website and in a newsletter.
- Distribute and review materials during classes, parent nights, and Lunch & Learn activities.

Preparing Students for the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

10th Grade (Class of 2017)

- Tell students and families that the PSAT/NMSQT® (fall) and PSAT™ 10 (spring) are the same test offered at different times during students' academic careers.
- Make sure they are aware of the test administration date, time, and practice resources and activities.
- Explain how the redesigned PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT are opportunities to check in on student progress and pinpoint areas for development.
- Share benefits of the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT:
 - ▶ Early indicator of college readiness
 - ▶ Detailed performance feedback connected to classroom teaching standards
 - ▶ Early access to career and college planning tools
 - ▶ Sharing scores will enhance test practice through Khan Academy
 - ▶ Connection to scholarships and recognition programs
 - ▶ Connection to colleges and universities
 - ▶ Assesses potential for 20+ AP® courses
- Distribute and review materials during classes, parent nights, and Lunch & Learn activities.
- Hold an information session about Khan Academy and free practice test materials available at collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.

Preparing Students for the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

11th Grade (Class of 2016)

- Inform students that the SAT® will continue to be offered in both the spring and fall for 11th- and 12th-grade students during the national and SAT School Day administrations.
- Advise students to opt in to the Student Search Service® when registering for the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT to receive information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.
- Highlight the advantages of the redesigned SAT:
 - ▶ Powerful connection to colleges and universities across the country
 - ▶ Free, world-class SAT practice and preparation with Khan Academy
 - ▶ Direct access to college application fee waivers for low-income students
 - ▶ Reinforcement of the key skills and knowledge students are learning in the classroom
- Remind students and families of the SAT administration date and time, and what they'll need to do to prepare.
- Review school reports, SAT study plans, and college planning resources with students and families.
- Encourage students and families to use college planning tools like BigFuture™ to research colleges and make a personalized college list.
- Encourage students and families to follow The Official SAT Question of the Day™, @SATQuestion, on Twitter.
- Work with teachers to include practice questions in their classroom review and bell ringers.
- Distribute and review materials during classes, parent nights, and Lunch & Learn activities.
- Hold an information session about Khan Academy and free practice test materials.

Preparing Students for the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

12th Grade (Class of 2015) Current SAT®

- Remind students and families of the current SAT® administration date and time, and what they'll need to do to prepare.
- Review school reports, SAT study plans, and college planning resources with students and families.
- Highlight advantages of the current SAT:
 - ▶ Colleges and universities across the country accept and trust SAT results in the college admission process
 - ▶ Direct access to college application fee waivers for low-income students
- Follow the "10 by 10" checklist provided by the College Board: 10 months to apply to college and 10 things counselors can do to help. Visit collegeboard.org/cw for more information.
- Encourage students to follow The Official SAT Question of the Day™, [@SATQuestion](https://twitter.com/SATQuestion), on Twitter.
- Work with teachers to include practice questions in their classroom review.

Continue to visit the K–12 Educators page at deliveringopportunity.org to access robust resources that will help you share information about the College Readiness and Success System with students and families.

Preparing Yourself for the PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

Here are 10 things that you can do to help educate yourself about the College Board Readiness and Success System, designed to make it easier for students to navigate a path through high school, college, and career:

Learn about why we are redesigning our assessments, and how the components of the College Readiness and Success System reflect the best instruction in math, English language arts, science, and social studies.

Understand the **key differences** between the existing and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT®, including changes made to test components, scoring, and length.

Decide with administrators at your school which tests to offer, and when to hold these test days.

Review the **redesigned SAT test specifications** to deepen your understanding of the changes being made to the SAT, including its emphasis on text complexity, command of evidence, and real-life contexts. For more information, including test specifications, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

Become Familiar with the **eight key changes** to the redesigned SAT, which underscore how the College Board's redesigned assessments focus on the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career success.

Be Knowledgeable about the free, personalized, focused practiced resources for all students available on Khan Academy, which offers teachers a new partner in their hard work to prepare students for college. To access Khan Academy visit khanacademy.org/sat.

Learn about the College Board's commitment to breaking down barriers to college through expanded scholarships, fee waivers for all who need them, and AP® credit. For more information, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

Use helpful redesign resources and tips from the College Board site, deliveringopportunity.org, to support your efforts to welcome the redesigned PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT.

Stay informed by signing up for updates at deliveringopportunity.org; following us on Twitter [@CollegeBoard](https://twitter.com/CollegeBoard), [@OfficialSAT](https://twitter.com/OfficialSAT), [@SATQuestion](https://twitter.com/SATQuestion) and Instagram [@collegeboard](https://www.instagram.com/collegeboard); and visiting our Facebook page: facebook.com/thecollegeboard.

Discussion Topics About the Readiness and Success System

Students and families will likely have many questions about the redesign of the College Board assessments — the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT® — relative to the college admission process. Consider reviewing the information below to learn more about key points.

Why Students Should Take the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

Working together, our redesigned assessments provide students and parents with focused feedback to support student growth, practice resources to supplement classroom instruction, increased access to college opportunities, and expanded knowledge of career opportunities:

PSAT 8/9

Eighth- and ninth-graders — fall 2015

- ▶ Serves as a foundation for understanding the status of student readiness as he or she enters high school.

PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT

10th-graders, spring 2016; 11th-graders, fall 2015

- ▶ Offers a check-in on student progress and pinpoints areas for development.
- ▶ The PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT connect students with AP® courses and scholarship and recognition programs, as well as college planning resources.

SAT

11th-graders (spring) and 12th-graders (fall) — *The current SAT is offered regularly through January 2016; the redesigned SAT will first be offered in March 2016.*

- ▶ Reinforces the key skills and knowledge students are learning in the classroom. The SAT also provides direct access to college application fee waivers for income-eligible students.

Unmatched Benefits of the Redesigned Assessments

The College Board Readiness and Success System makes it easier for students to navigate a path through high school, college, and career through unmatched benefits to students, educators, and states/districts, including:

- ▶ Focused, clear, and useful assessments that reflect what students are already learning in their classrooms.

Discussion Topics About the Readiness and Success System

- ▶ Free, personalized, focused practice resources for all students, including interactive practice materials through Khan Academy.
- ▶ College opportunities through scholarships, fee waivers, and Advanced Placement® credit.
- ▶ Career opportunities through powerful career-planning partnerships and a focus on coding and STEM.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Will colleges accept both current and redesigned SAT scores?

A Yes. For a period of time, colleges will likely use scores from both the current and the redesigned assessments. We are working with them to understand and publish their specific acceptance policies.

Q How much will it cost to take the redesigned SAT?

A While not yet finalized, we anticipate the cost to students of the redesigned SAT with Essay will be similar to the current cost for the SAT, and that the price of the redesigned SAT without the SAT Essay will be less expensive than the current SAT.

Q Who can access Khan Academy?

A Khan Academy practice materials are free and available to everyone, including students, parents, teachers, and educational organizations.

Additional tools and resources will continue to be developed in the coming months. For updates and the latest resources, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

Discussion Topics About the Readiness and Success System

Teachers and other faculty members will likely have many questions about the redesign of the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®. Consider reviewing the information below to learn more about key points.

Why Students Should Take the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT®

Working together, our redesigned assessments provide students and parents with focused feedback to support student growth, practice resources to supplement classroom instruction, increased access to college opportunities, and expanded knowledge of career opportunities:

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Eighth- and ninth-graders — fall 2015

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PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT

10th-graders, spring 2016; 11th-graders, fall 2015

- ▶ Offers a check-in on student progress and pinpoints areas for development.
- ▶ The PSAT/NMSQT connects students with AP® courses and scholarship and recognition programs, as well as college planning resources.

SAT

11th-graders (spring) and 12th-graders (fall) — *The current SAT is offered regularly through January 2016; the redesigned SAT will first be offered in March 2016.*

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The College Board Readiness and Success System makes it easier for students to navigate a path through high school, college, and career through unmatched benefits to students, educators, and states/districts.

Discussion Topics About the Readiness and Success System

The assessments will:

- ▶ Reflect the best of instruction in mathematics, English language arts, science, history, and social studies, making clear what students need to know to prepare for the tests. Increase student access to college opportunities through scholarships, fee waivers, and AP credit.
- ▶ Align with free, personalized practice resources that are supplemental to the best way to prepare for the SAT: through great classroom instruction.
- ▶ Increase student access to college opportunities through scholarships, fee waivers, and AP credit.
- ▶ Expand students' career opportunities through powerful career-planning partnerships and a focus on coding and STEM areas.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q What will be on the redesigned SAT?

A The College Board is committed to transparency: Full test specifications (including scoring rubrics) and extensive sample items for the redesigned SAT are available online.

Q How is the redesigned SAT different from the ACT?

A One primary difference is that the ACT test measures skills across a large domain while the redesigned SAT will measure fewer things much more deeply.

Q Will colleges accept both current and redesigned SAT scores?

A Yes. For a period of time, colleges will likely use scores from both the current and the redesigned assessments. We are working with colleges to understand and publish their specific acceptance policies.

Additional tools and resources will continue to be developed in the coming months. For updates and the latest resources, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

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.

Introducing the Redesigned SAT®

Introducing the Redesigned SAT®

The redesigned SAT® will be the anchor of the SAT Suite of Assessments, which is designed to monitor student growth across grades annually, beginning in middle school. This level of feedback will help both students and educators engage in the best possible practice for future tests: strong classroom work and instruction. Working together, the College Board assessments provide benchmarks and consistent feedback for measuring student progress over time — allowing teachers to accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

The redesigned PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT will feature the key changes below that will make the test clearer for test-takers, more closely connected to K–12 course work, and more useful for college admission officers. Learn more about the key changes at deliveringopportunity.org/sat/redesign.



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Introducing the Redesigned SAT



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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.

Learn More

For more information on the redesigned SAT, including sample questions and test specifications, visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org; to access additional resources to help you share information about the College Board's redesigned assessments with students, families, and colleagues, visit deliveringopportunity.org.

Students Taking the Current SAT®: Timing and Key Facts

Students taking the SAT® through January 2016 can visit the current SAT site at sat.collegeboard.org for information on test dates, registration, scores, and more.

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT® Timeline

2014	
December 2014	Launch of the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT practice site (visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org to learn more)
2015	
March 2015	First full-length practice test for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT released on collegeboard.org
June 2015	Full Khan Academy resources for redesigned assessments launch
October 2015	First administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)
November 2015	SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)
December 2015	PSAT/NMSQT scores returned SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (current)
2016	
January 2016	SAT and SAT Subject Test administration (final administration of the current SAT) Practice resources for the current SAT will be retired following the January administration
March 2016	First administration of the redesigned SAT

The SAT[®] by Graduation Year

The last administration of the current SAT[®] will be January 2016. The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be March 2016.

Class of 2015

Students graduating in spring 2015 will take the current SAT. These students should continue to visit the SAT website (sat.org) to register for the test and to get and send their scores.

Class of 2016

Most students in the class of 2016 will take the current SAT in order to meet college application deadlines in December 2015 and January 2016. These students should continue to visit the SAT website to register for the test and to get and send their scores.

For a small group of students who plan to take the SAT in the spring of their graduating year, the redesigned SAT will be the test they take.

Class of 2017

These students 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 spring 2016.

Students in this class will be the first to take the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT[®] (October 2015) as juniors. To take advantage of the preparation provided by the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, we recommend that students take the redesigned SAT in the spring. This will leave plenty of time to take the test again, if desired, in the fall of their senior year before applications are due.

Getting Ready

Students can access free College Board resources to get to know the test and start practicing:

- ▶ For current SAT practice resources, visit sat.org/practice.
- ▶ For a more in-depth look at the kinds of questions that will be on the redesigned SAT, visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.
- ▶ For test day tips and policies — including what to bring and what to expect — visit sat.collegeboard.org.

For more details on the redesigned SAT and to sign up for updates, please visit deliveringopportunity.org.



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