

| | Old SAT | New SAT |
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| Vocabulary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging, obscure Words. • Focus on memorizing hundreds of definitions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary more relevant to real life. • Learn how to pick up meaning from context. |
| Reading | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional reading comprehension questions from written texts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will also have graph analysis questions and questions where you must pick supporting quotations from the text. |
| Grammar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar is part of separate Writing section. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar included in Reading section. |
| Essay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 minute prompt in which you can use whatever examples you choose. • Essay is mandatory. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minute essay in which you analyze a given argument. • Essay is optional. |
| Math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse problems on algebra, geometry, number operations and data analysis. • Emphasis on abstract mathematical reasoning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More focused core of algebra and data analysis. Less geometry, a little trigonometry. • Emphasis on real-world problems solving. |
| What do you know ahead? | Don't know the reading material and essay prompts ahead of time. | Will always have some "great global documents"; the analytical essay prompt remains the same. |
| Guessing Penalty | There is a quarter point guessing penalty for incorrect answers. | There is no guessing penalty. |
| Scoring | Math, Reading and Writing are each scored from 200-800, making possible scores from 600-2400. | Just Math and Reading sections, making scoring from 400-1600 as in past years. Optional essay scored separately. |