

Introduction to the SAT:

The SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) is a standardized exam administered by the College Board that is widely used for college admissions in the United States. It intends to measure a student's readiness for college by evaluating key academic skills in reading/writing and math. The SAT consists of multiple choice and free-response questions, and is an adaptive test. SAT tests are offered 7 times a year. Most schools do not offer school-day SAT testing, so registration must be done through the College Board. Registration for the SAT typically costs around \$60 dollars without a waiver.

Scoring the SAT:

- The SAT is scored on a scale of 400-1600.
- There are 2 sections: math and reading/writing—both with two modules each.
 - How well a student performs on the first module of both sections determines their module 2's difficulty. It's important to note that missing an easy question will result in a greater point deduction compared to missing a difficult question in module 2.
- After completing the 2 English modules, students will receive a 10 minute break.
- Both SAT Reading and Writing modules are 32 minutes each with 27 questions per module, while the Math modules are 35 minutes each with 22 questions per module.

Colleges and the SAT:

- Some colleges require you to send in all your SAT scores (e.g., Georgetown), so it's recommended to take the SAT a maximum of 3 times.
- Most public universities (e.g., the UCs and Cal States) are test blind, meaning they do not consider SAT scores
- Many colleges are test-optional, meaning you can choose to send in your SAT score or not
- A score above 1450 is competitive for many top universities and should be sent, unless you are applying to an IVY, then aim for and only send a score above 1500
- After the Pandemic, many colleges have begun to reinstate the SAT mandate

Topics Covered in the SAT:

Reading and writing:

- Focuses on **reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary in context, identifying main ideas, and interpreting data tables, evidence, and text structure.**
- Passages may come from **literature, history, social studies, or science.**

Math:

- Covers topics up to **Algebra II**, including **linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential functions, geometry, and basic trigonometry**.
- The test also includes the **Unit Circle** and fundamental **trigonometric relationships** (sine, cosine, tangent).
- Students are allowed to use a graphing calculator and Desmos on the exam. It is **HIGHLY** recommended to understand doing regressions on Desmos to save time.

Studying for the SAT:

- High schoolers should begin to study for the SAT during the summer before their junior year
- It is recommended students spend at least a month studying for the SAT before taking their first exam.
- College Board offers study materials through textbooks, workbooks, and Bluebook—where you can find practice tests.
- Sites such as onerep.xyz and easy1600.com have questions from previous tests, which are helpful while preparing for the exam