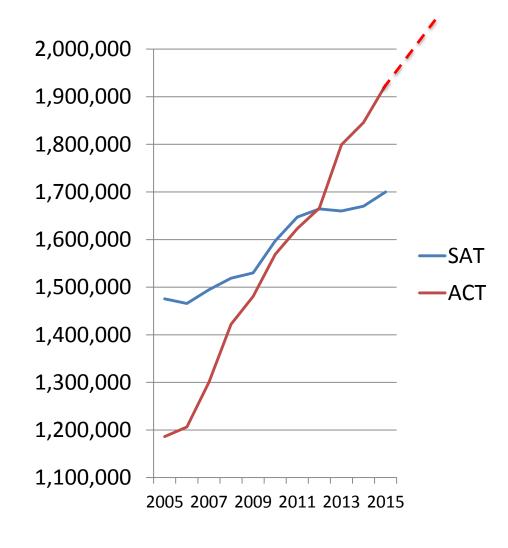
Navigating the Changes to College Admissions Testing

Jed Applerouth
Nationally Certified Counselor
PhD Educational Psychology



The ACT is dominant

	SAT	ACT	Gap
2005	1,475,623	1,186,251	289,372
2006	1,465,744	1,206,455	259,289
2007	1,494,531	1,300,599	193,932
2008	1,518,859	1,421,941	96,918
2009		1,480,469	49,659
2010		1,568,835	28,494
2011		1,623,112	24,011
2012		1,666,209	-1,730
2013	1,660,047	1,799,243	-139,196
2014	1,670,000	1,845,787	-175,787
2015	1,700,000	1,924,436	-224,436



Why has the ACT dominated?

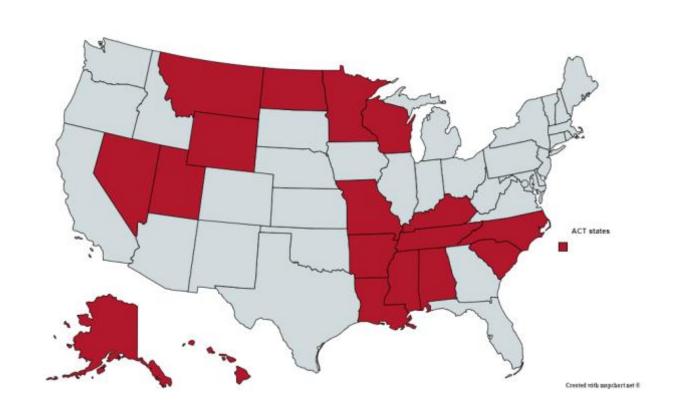
- Successful marketing
- Focus on achievement versus aptitude
- Superior Common Core alignment
- Securing statewide contracts
- Perception of the ACT as a multipurpose test, used to measure school performance

ACT dominated by securing state-wide contracts

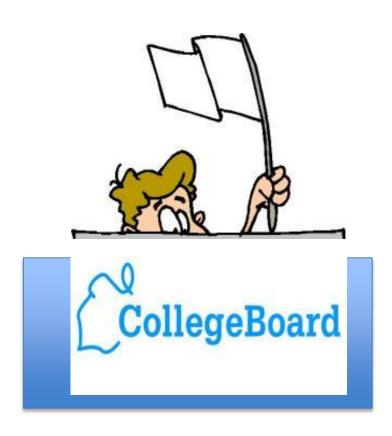
- 2001: *Illinois and Colorado
- 2007: Kentucky, *Michigan and Wyoming
- 2009: North Dakota and Tennessee
- 2012: North Carolina
- 2013: Hawaii, Louisiana and Montana
- 2014: Alabama and Utah
- 2015: Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada and Wisconsin.

*2015 Illinois shifted ACT funding towards the PARCC Common Core assessment; Michigan flipped to the SAT.

ACT Territory. Watch out GA!



To battle shrinking market share, College Board committed to major changes to its assessments



C.B. hired a Common Core Standards writer to run the shop and hired away top talent from the ACT, Inc.

- 2013, College Board opened an office 3 miles from ACT HQ in Iowa City
- SAT began using its \$70m annual "profits" to poach dozens of top ACT execs and developers



Common Core + ACT = revised SAT!

With the revised SAT announced, the College Board could finally compete

• 2006: Maine

• 2011: Delaware

2012: Idaho

Redesign

2015: April: Michigan (ACT Flip!)

July: New Hampshire, Connecticut

October: NYC

December: Colorado, Illinois (ACT Flips!!)

Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut are dropping the SBAC and using the SAT as their federally mandated high school test. Michigan, Illinois and Colorado dropped the ACT for the SAT

A note on the CT and NH decisions









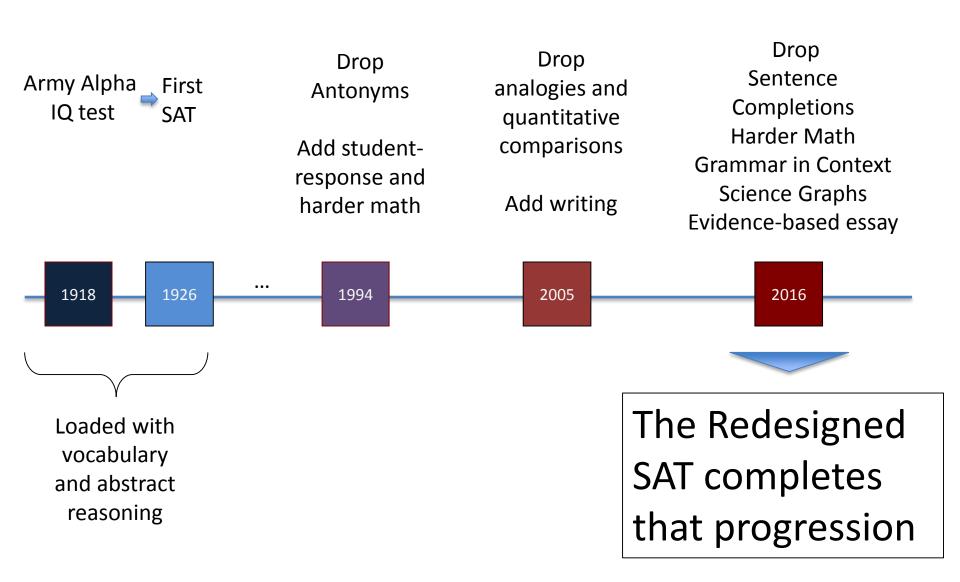
The SAT replacing the SBAC (Smarter Balance Test) as the NCLB Common Core achievement test is a major win for the College Board! We may see more of this with Obama's demand for fewer tests in our schools.

Move from No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds Act



- Common Core State Standards may give way to individual statedriven standards.
- Most states desiring a change will likely tweak the CCSS rather than starting from scratch.
- The high school testing mandate is unchanged.

SAT had been moving gradually away from aptitude towards achievement



The New SAT appears to be a better test than the current SAT or ACT

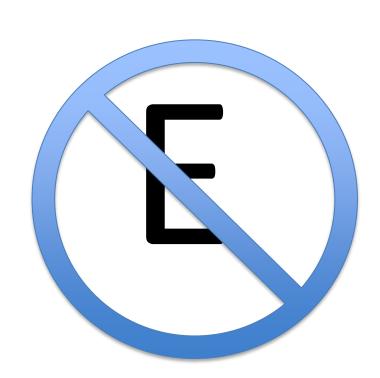
- We believe it will be a better predictor of college readiness than the current SAT or ACT, but we'll need to wait several years for the data to prove that hypothesis
- The New SAT will raise the bar for students, emphasize rigorous standards, and critical thinking
- In time, colleges may even come to prefer this test: Yale and U. Rochester have stated they prefer the revised SAT to the current SAT

A few basics about the new SAT



The SAT nixed the guessing penalty and the 5th answer choice



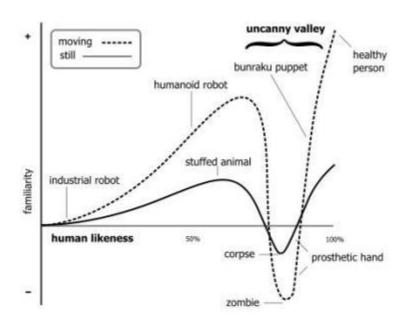


So students will never again have to worry about that pesky quarter point for a wrong answer, and will have fewer options to consider.

And added some Science



The new SAT incorporates tables, charts, and graphs.
SAT takers will need to find correlations, plot points, and manipulate data as on the ACT.



The new SAT incorporates science items throughout both the verbal and the math sections and asks students to understand complex passages and jargon more than the ACT.

Reduced its emphasis on vocabulary, but did not eliminate it entirely

How Important is Vocabulary?					
Test	% questions that test vocab	Source of Questions			
Old SAT	36% of Reading questions	19 SC's + 5 VIC (All Reading)			
New SAT	12.5 % of Reading/Writing	9 VIC in Reading 3 VIC in Writing			
ACT	8% of Reading 3% of English	3 VIC in Reading 2 VIC in English			

Vocabulary remains important on the SAT, but students do not need to drill vocabulary for this new test

The SAT also returned to the 1600 scale



Lumping Reading and Writing into a single section, though some colleges may pay more attention to particular subscores (i.e., Reading over Writing)

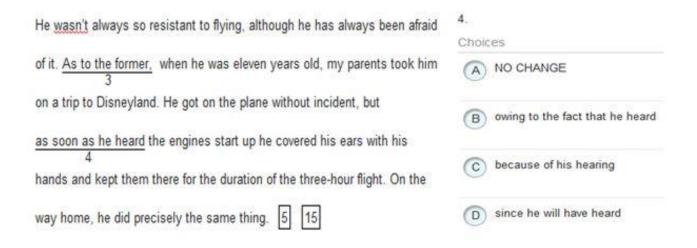
Combining Reading and Writing scores makes sense on the new SAT

Reading skills and comprehension more closely inform writing performance on the new SAT



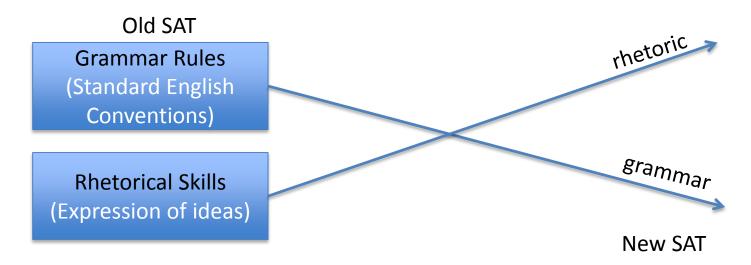
Writing is completely in context

Embracing the Common Core standards, like the ACT, the SAT is placing all of its writing items in the context of paragraphs



Where the current SAT has a mere 6 of 49 items in a paragraph form, the new SAT has every item in a long paragraph form

Rhetorical skills now trump grammar



	Old SAT	New SAT	ACT
Standard English Conventions	80%	45%	51%
Expression of Ideas/ Rhetorical Skills	20%	55%*	49%*

Far more tasks focus on subtle transitions, introductions, or supporting examples, mirroring the ACT

SAT Writing places a greater focus on reading comprehension

4

Which choice best connects the sentence with the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- All three sections of the mural were on display
- C) The community turned out in large numbers
- D) Siqueiros was informed of people's reactions

10

Which choice most effectively sets up the information that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) being cleaned and restored.
- C) at risk of destruction.
- D) awaiting its moment of appreciation.

11

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

When it was painted in 1932, Siqueiros's mural was considered offensive, but now it is acclaimed.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- Yes, because it provides historical context for the changes discussed in the passage.
- Yes, because it provides a useful reminder of how people once viewed Siqueiros's work.
- C) No, because it unnecessarily repeats information from earlier in the passage.
- No, because it makes a claim about Siqueiros's work that is not supported by the passage.

Reading



New SAT Reading borrows heavily from the ACT

- Like the ACT, the SAT Reading section consists of long passages from the domains of Science, Literature, and Humanities/Social Studies.
- SAT has added ACT Science-style charts, graphs, and figures into the science passages.
- Textual complexity varies by passage, with some passage as difficult as those found on the SAT Literature test or AP English test.

SAT Reading greatly reduced line references and added evidence pairs

- Roughly 32 of the 52 items on a CR test have no line references. Thus, students will need to read the entire passage first before moving to the questions.
- 9-10 items ask students to identify the "best evidence" for the answer to the previous question. Students will need to search the passage to find the right answer choice.

Reading strategies will change on the new SAT

Sample evidence item

12

In the passage, the author anticipates which of the following objections to criticizing the ethics of free markets?

- A) Smith's association of free markets with ethical behavior still applies today.
- Free markets are the best way to generate high profits, so ethics are a secondary consideration.
- Free markets are ethical because they are made possible by devalued currency.
- D) Free markets are ethical because they enable individuals to make choices.

13

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

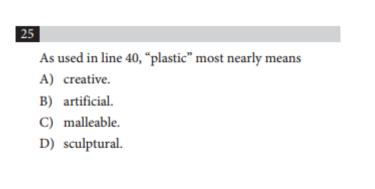
- A) Lines 4-5 ("Some . . . ethical")
- B) Lines 7-10 ("But . . . about")
- C) Lines 21-22 ("Smith . . . outcome")
- D) Lines 52-54 ("When . . . way")

Students will need to scour a fairly large section of the passage to find the necessary evidence. This will take more time per item, but students will have more time.

Vocabulary in context is remarkably easy on Critical Reading

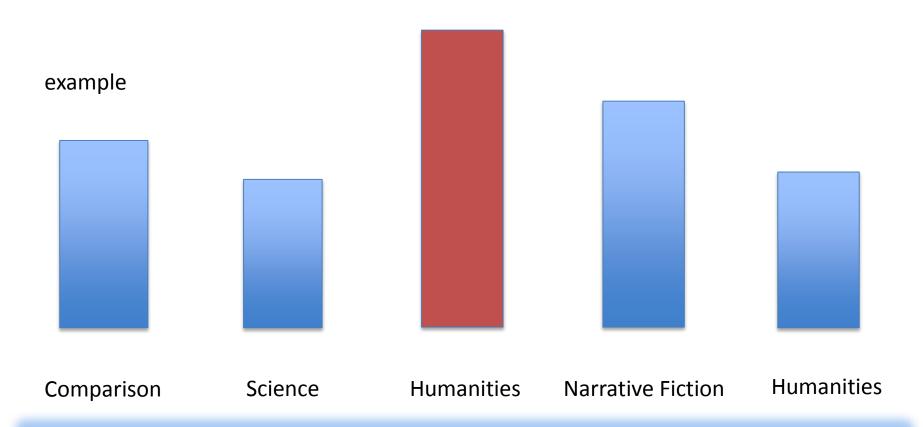
Common words with multiple meanings have replaced the most challenging words from sentence completions. Students must use context to discern the intended meaning.

bearing, flat, expert, directly, form, ambivalent, convey, hold, demands, embraced, clashes, plastic



Students will occasionally have to pull out a harder definition such as translating "plastic" into "malleable"

Expect an extremely hard passage on each test



Students need to be prepared for the spikes in difficulty. Certain student populations need to be coached not to abandon hope when they hit a really hard passage.

Spikes in difficulty

- Test 1: Implications of structure of DNA, Watson and Crick (1953) Scientific Paper: jargon, and complexity
- **Test 2**: Charlotte Bronte, *the Professor* (1857): levels of meaning, structure, archaic language, 40 words per sentence (compared to 26- rest of test)
- **Test 3**: Decline of the bees: scientific jargon, vocabulary and structure, 36 words per sentence (compared to 24-rest of test)
- **Test 4**: Edmund Burke, Reflections on the French Rev. (1790) and Thomas Paine, Rights of Man (1791): archaic language, complex sentence structure
- October PSAT: Frederick Douglass 1852 speech

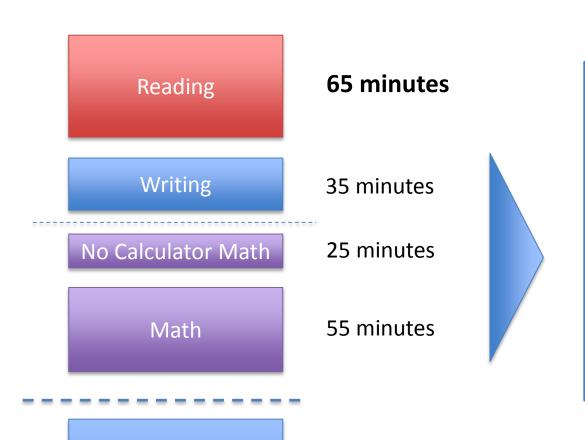
Tough Passage: Edmund Burke

Passage 1

To avoid . . . the evils of inconstancy and versatility, ten thousand times worse than those of obstinacy and the blindest prejudice, we have Line consecrated the state, that no man should approach 5 to look into its defects or corruptions but with due caution; that he should never dream of beginning its reformation by its subversion; that he should approach to the faults of the state as to the wounds of a father, with pious awe and trembling solicitude. By 10 this wise prejudice we are taught to look with horror on those children of their country who are prompt rashly to hack that aged parent in pieces, and put him into the kettle of magicians, in hopes that by their poisonous weeds, and wild incantations, they may 15 regenerate the paternal constitution, and renovate their father's life.

Pious and trembling solicitude: some students will be intimidated by this level of difficulty

Reading is also really long!

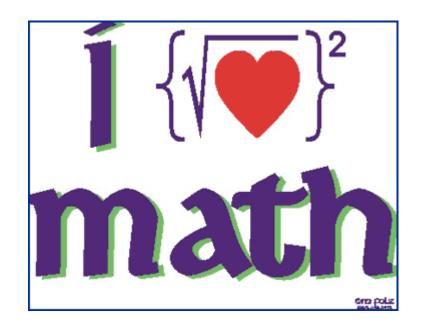


Some students have complained about the challenge of staying focused on a reading task for over an hour without a break: mental endurance now trumps speed.

Optional Essay

50 minutes

Math



The CB made a Common Core math test emphasizing conceptual understanding

- Interpreting trumps solving.
- Understanding how to build and manipulate functions and equations.
- It's more of an applied math test, gauging fluency and understanding, rather than systematic solving.
- No more immediate roadmap to an answer, students must be more discriminating and find a path to an answer.
- Overlapping content with fewer items assessing a solitary concept.

The SAT is now the king of testing math in the context of word problems, overtaking the ACT

Test	Contextual	Conceptual
Old SAT	27%	73%
ACT	36%	64%
New SAT	53%	47%

Solving is less important than being able to generate an equation or interpret a constant or variable

9

A worker uses a forklift to move boxes that weigh either 40 pounds or 65 pounds each. Let *x* be the number of 40-pound boxes and *y* be the number of 65-pound boxes. The forklift can carry up to either 45 boxes or a weight of 2,400 pounds. Which of the following systems of inequalities represents this relationship?

A)
$$\begin{cases} 40x + 65y \le 2,400 \\ x + y \le 45 \end{cases}$$

B)
$$\begin{cases} \frac{x}{40} + \frac{y}{65} \le 2,400 \\ x + y \le 45 \end{cases}$$

C)
$$\begin{cases} 40x + 65y \le 45 \\ x + y \le 2,400 \end{cases}$$

D)
$$\begin{cases} x + y \le 2,400 \\ 40x + 65y \le 2,400 \end{cases}$$

3

A landscaping company estimates the price of a job, in dollars, using the expression 60 + 12nh, where n is the number of landscapers who will be working and h is the total number of hours the job will take using n landscapers. Which of the following is the best interpretation of the number 12 in the expression?

- A) The company charges \$12 per hour for each landscaper.
- B) A minimum of 12 landscapers will work on each job.
- C) The price of every job increases by \$12 every hour.
- D) Each landscaper works 12 hours a day.

The calculator section puts the greatest emphasis on word problems in a real-world context

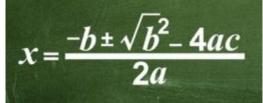
Section	Contextual	Conceptual
No Calculator	24%	76%
Calculator	69%	32%
Overall	53%	47%

Whereas the No Calc section primarily tests algebraic concepts in the abstract. **October PSAT-** the No Calc section demanded time-intensive hand calculations.

There are significant content changes

- Algebra is king of the redesigned SAT Math section
- Geometry takes a major backseat
- Deeper Algebra 2 content and some Trigonometry





How does the new SAT content compare?

Test	Algebra	Geometry	Arithmetic/D ata Analysis	Trigonometry
Old SAT	50%	24%	26%	0%
ACT	46%	23%	24%	7%
New SAT*	62%	6%	30%	2%

Algebra is up and Geometry is way down

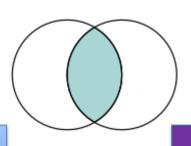
^{*}based on analysis of 4 released tests, using College Board's new categories, which reclassify some SAT topics we traditionally called "Geometry" as "Algebra"

New SAT added many concepts from Math 1 and Math 2 subject tests

- Math 1: trigonometry, complex numbers, irrational numbers, advanced geometry
- Math 2: inverse functions, radians, more trigonometry (secant, cosecant, cotangent, and laws of sines & cosines), more coordinate geometry and functions

Effectively catching up to the ACT in terms of content difficulty, and surpassing it in many areas. Do we still need Math 1?

New SAT Math is about the intersection and interconnectivity of ideas



Old SAT

New SAT

Question 13: Slope

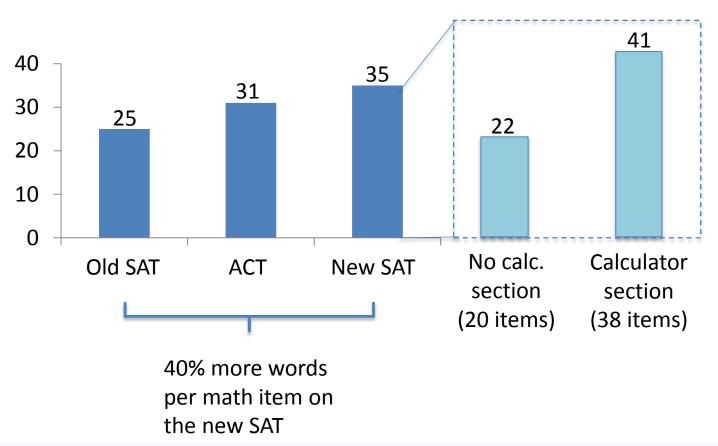
Question 14: Functions

Question 13: Slope + Functions
Question 14: Functions + Max/Min

A full **2/3** of math items simultaneously assess two discrete skills

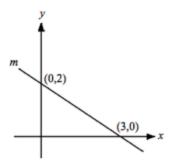
Reading is a much bigger deal on math





Reading comprehension becomes paramount on the new SAT math, as it is on the revised Reading and Writing sections.

The Old SAT tested slope in isolation as a singular concept



- 1. In the figure above, what is the slope of line m?
 - (A) $-\frac{3}{2}$
 - (B) $-\frac{2}{3}$
 - (C) $\frac{2}{3}$
 - (D) $\frac{3}{4}$
 - (E) $\frac{3}{2}$

5. Which of the following is an equation of the line in the xy-plane that passes through the point (4, 1) and is parallel to the line y = 3x - 4?

(A)
$$y = -\frac{1}{3}x$$

(B)
$$y = -3x - 4$$

(C)
$$y = 3x - 11$$

(D)
$$y = 3x + 4$$

(E)
$$y = 3x + 13$$

Slope is Rise/Run. I can memorize that!

The New SAT approaches slope from a very different perspective

7

While preparing to run a marathon, Amelia created a training schedule in which the distance of her longest run every week increased by a constant amount. If Amelia's training schedule requires that her longest run in week 4 is a distance of 8 miles and her longest run in week 16 is a distance of 26 miles, which of the following best describes how the distance Amelia runs changes between week 4 and week 16 of her training schedule?

- A) Amelia increases the distance of her longest run by 0.5 miles each week.
- B) Amelia increases the distance of her longest run by 2 miles each week.
- C) Amelia increases the distance of her longest run by 2 miles every 3 weeks.
- D) Amelia increases the distance of her longest run by 1.5 miles each week.

2

One of the requirements for becoming a court reporter is the ability to type 225 words per minute. Donald can currently type 180 words per minute, and believes that with practice he can increase his typing speed by 5 words per minute each month. Which of the following represents the number of words per minute that Donald believes he will be able to type m months from now?

- A) 5 + 180m
- B) 225 + 5m
- C) 180 + 5m
- D) 180 5m

Actually, slope is an idea: "rate of change". And we can test it from a bunch of different angles.

$$x^2 - \frac{k}{2}x = 2p$$

In the quadratic equation above, k and p are constants. What are the solutions for x?

A)
$$x = \frac{k}{4} \pm \frac{\sqrt{k^2 + 2p}}{4}$$

B)
$$x = \frac{k}{4} \pm \frac{\sqrt{k^2 + 32p}}{4}$$

C)
$$x = \frac{k}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{k^2 + 2p}}{2}$$

D)
$$x = \frac{k}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{k^2 + 32p}}{4}$$

18

$$x^3 - 5x^2 + 2x - 10 = 0$$

For what real value of x is the equation above true?

Quadratic formula and polynomial factoring are staples of the new test

The integration of statistics and applied math

13

A researcher conducted a survey to determine whether people in a certain large town prefer watching sports on television to attending the sporting event. The researcher asked 117 people who visited a local restaurant on a Saturday, and 7 people refused to respond. Which of the following factors makes it least likely that a reliable conclusion can be drawn about the sports-watching preferences of all people in the town?

- A) Sample size
- B) Population size
- The number of people who refused to respond
- D) Where the survey was given

The New Essay: A document based question

As you read the passage below, consider how Jimmy Carter uses

- · evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

Write an essay in which you explain how Jimmy Carter builds an argument to persuade his audience that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should not be developed for industry. In your essay, analyze how Carter uses one or more of the features listed in the box above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage.

Your essay should not explain whether you agree with Carter's claims, but rather explain how Carter builds an argument to persuade his audience.

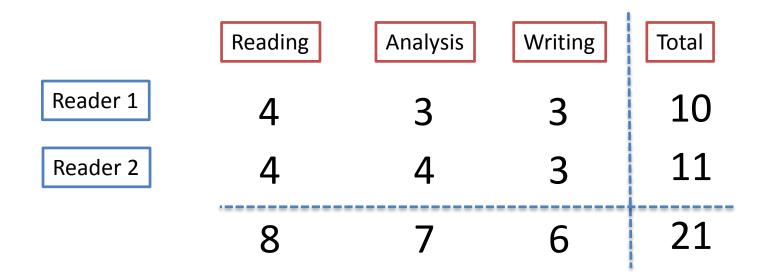
The Essay is "optional," is 50 minutes long, is at the end of the test, and is more analytical and challenging

"Your essay should not explain whether you agree with [the author's] claims, but rather explain how [the author] builds an argument to persuade his audience."

New scoring rubric grants a max of 4 points for reading, 4 points for analysis, 4 points for writing.



Essay Scoring conventions TBA



CB will provide 3 scores with a max of 8 points for Reading, Analysis and Writing. Will Colleges say, Sarah scored a 21? Or a 7? Or a 10.5? Or will they go into the weeds with her 8,7,6?

Not all schools will require the new SAT (or ACT) essay



Citing cost and validity issues as decision factors

CB allowed more time per question, backing off of processing speed

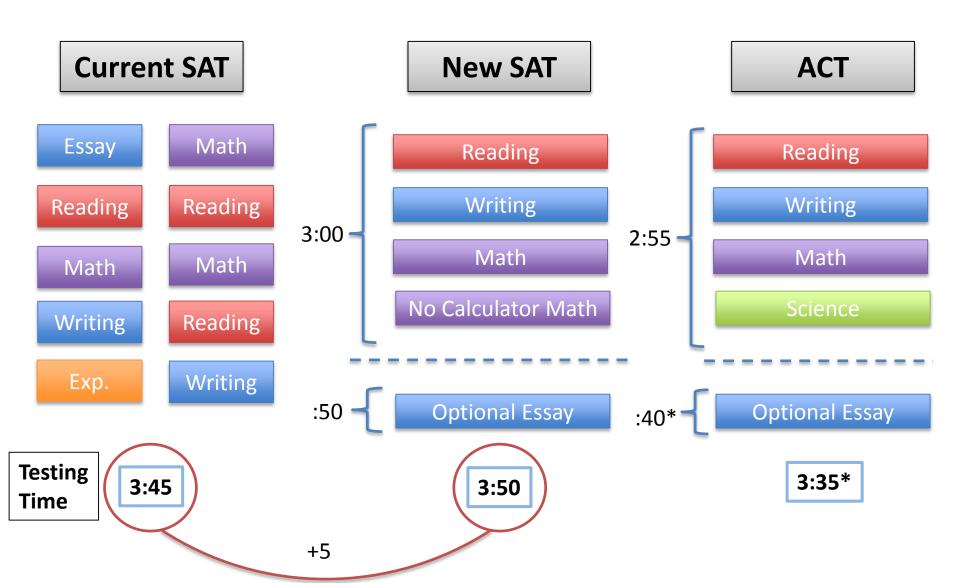


Seconds Per Question				
Section	ACT	Current SAT	New SAT	
Grammar	36.0	42.9	47.7	33 %
Reading	52.5	62.7	75.0	43 %
Math	60.0	77.8	84.2	40 %
Science	52.5	-	E,	vtandad

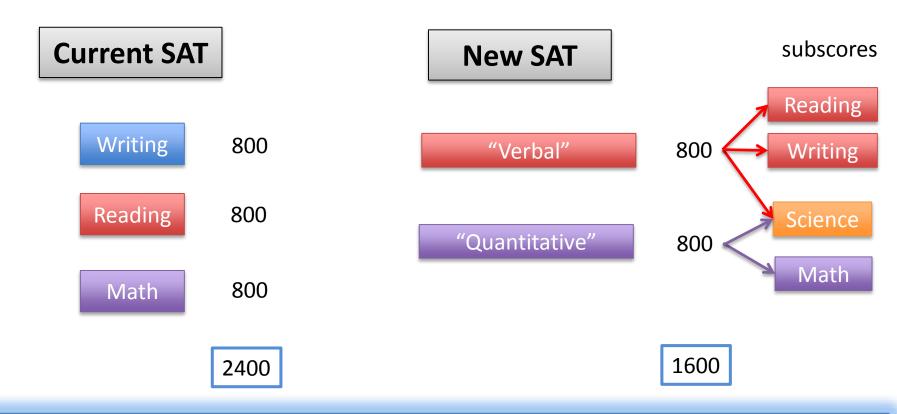
SAT over ACT!

Some of our ACT-oriented students are doing very well on the revised SAT practice tests. One student commented: "It's like the ACT, without the timing pressures and the challenging Science section."

CB adopted the ACT's format

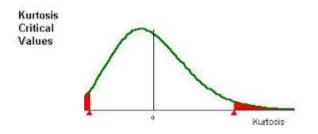


Returns to the 1600 Scale with subscores



Subscores will be meaningful for colleges and programs looking for students with particular skill sets; some colleges may focus exclusively on the Reading section scores (William and Mary hinted at this) and ignore the Writing.

The curve has changed, reflecting a more challenging test









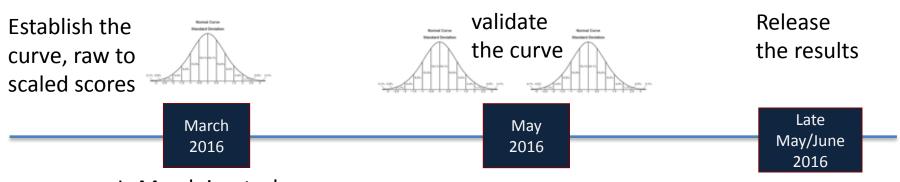
the new Math curve is much more forgiving

	Current SAT (54 items)		Redesigned SAT (58 items)	
Math Section Scaled Score	Incorrect Answers	Percent Accuracy	Incorrect Answers	Percent Accuracy
700	4	93%	8	84%
600	13	76%	20	66%
500	21	57%	32	45%
400	32	41%	43	26%

Students can miss twice as many problems (at a 700) on the new test and receive the same score. This is comparable to the Math 2 curve being much more forgiving than Math 1, an easier test



College Board is intentionally delaying the March and possibly May 2016 SAT score returns. CB psychometricians will use May scores to help validate the new scoring scale from the March norming group.



Is March is a truly representative sample?

Waive late fees for June

Changes to the PSAT

- PSAT is the "preliminary" SAT
- In 2015 the College Board released PSAT 8, PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT
- PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 are the same test, but PSAT 10 may be given in the spring. ONLY PSAT/NMSQT will be considered for National Merit scholarships.

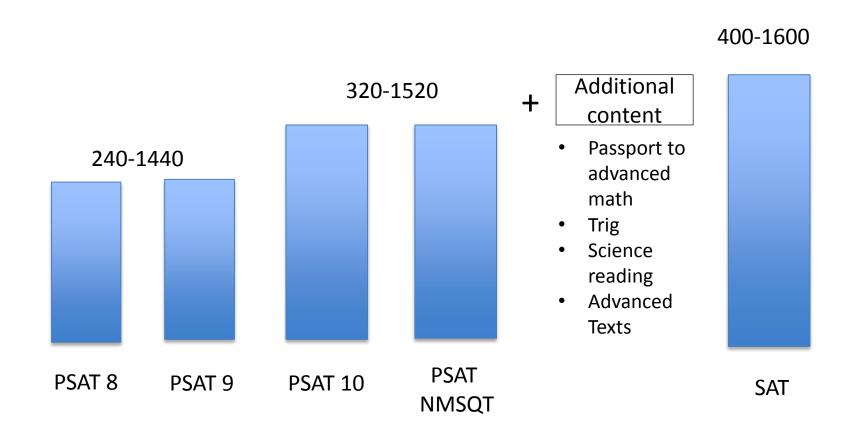
PSATs now on different scales

	Section Min	Section Max	Test Total	
PSAT/NMSQT	160	760	1520	Same structure
PSAT 10	160	760	1520	Same structure
PSAT 9	120	720	1440	Same structure
PSAT 8	120	720	1440	

"Vertical scaling" allows scores to build towards the 1600 as new skills are added, potentially facilitating tracking/growth

CB has plans to build assessments down to grade 6, and likely younger, in a play for Common Core assessment dominance. Expect a name change away from SAT/PSAT

Vertical Scaling

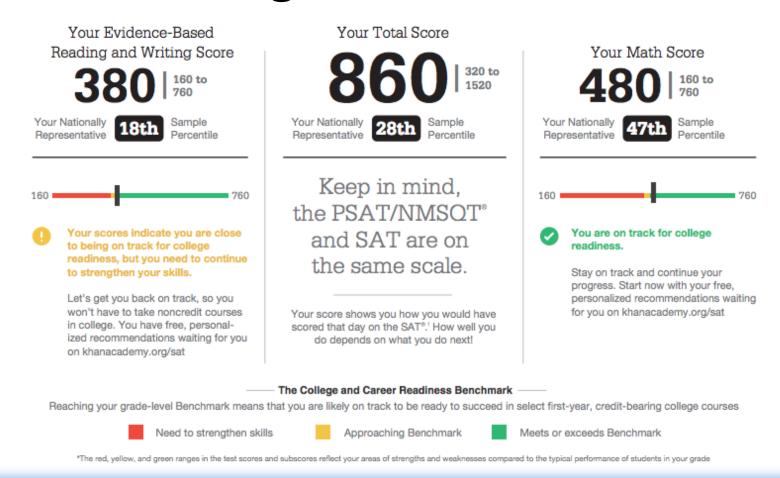


As content gets harder, the possible point total increases

New Test Structure

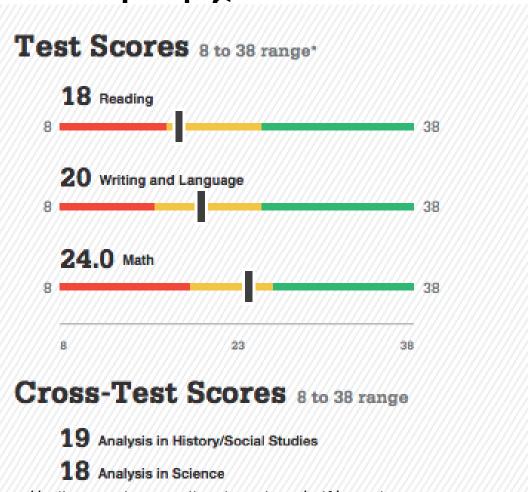
	"Old" PSAT	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT
Duration	2 hours and 10 minutes	2 hours and 45 minutes
Structure	 5 Sections 2 25-minute Reading sections 2 25-minute Math sections 1 30-minute Writing section 	 4 Sections 1 60-minute Reading section 1 35-minute Writing section 1 25-minute No Calculator Math section 1 45-minute Calculator Math section
Scoring	240 Total (20-80 each on Reading, Math, and Writing)	1520 Total (Reading/Writing combine to create a score 160-760; Math score 160-760)
Guessing Penalty	1/4 raw point per missed question	None.

Redesigned PSAT Scores:



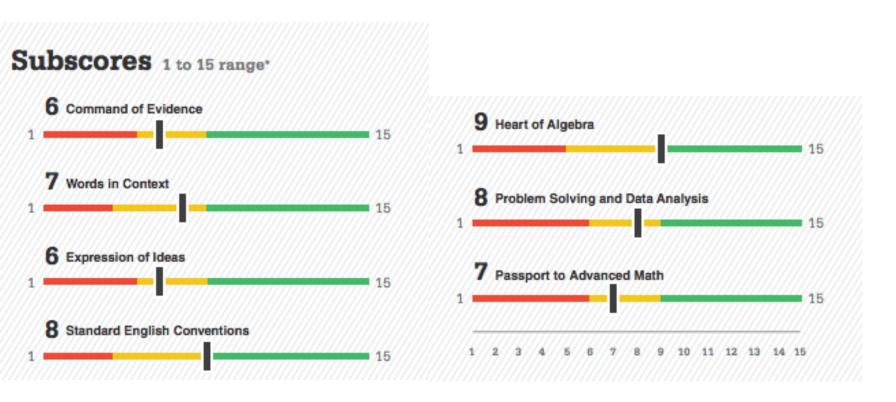
For now, ignore the PSAT percentiles, those are preliminary and will be revised after the March, May SATs

Redesigned PSAT Scores: Test and Cross-



Sample Score Report from https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/sample-psat-nmsqt-score-report.pdf

Redesigned PSAT Scores: Subscores



PSAT growth from grade 10 to 11

Early data from a small sample shows average gains of roughly 100 scaled SAT points from Sophomore year to Junior year, i.e., a score of 950 may rise to a score of 1050 given an additional year of study and growth

PSAT benchmarks are currently projections, rough estimates



College Board included academic benchmarks for proficiency levels on the PSAT scores: 390 for the reading, 410 for writing, 500/520 for math. What do these benchmarks mean? The College Board offers this explanation:

The college and career readiness benchmarks for the SAT predict a 75 percent likelihood of achieving at least a C in a set of first-year, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math.

ACT benchmarks are derived from data from actual college students

The Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing firstyear college courses. These college courses include English composition, college algebra, introductory social science courses, and biology. Based on a sample of 214 institutions and more than 230,000 students from across the United States, the Benchmarks are median course placement values for these institutions and as such represent a typical set of expectations.

For now, ignore the PSAT benchmarks

National Merit Selection Index

■ National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships. To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2017 competition, NMSC will consider the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores of some 1.5 million test-takers (usually high school juniors) who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit; www.nationalmerit.org.

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions (see right-hand column) are inaccurate or there has been a change in plans that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Attn: Scholarship Administration 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200 Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Include your name and home address along with your high school name, address, and six-digit code number.

Your NMSC Selection Index 124[†]

NMSC uses a Selection Index based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate your Selection Index, double the sum of of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

Eligibility Information

The asterisk () next to your Selection Index means you do not meet entry requirements for the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. See your responses to entry requirements to the right.

NOTE: Students leaving high school and entering college in 2018 or later must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in their 3rd year (junior year) of grades 9–12 to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Entry Requirements

(Information you provided on your answer sheet)

High school student:

YES

Year to complete high school and enroll full-time in college;

2018

Years to be spent in grades 9-12:

4

U.S. Citizenship:

NO, but I am a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and I intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

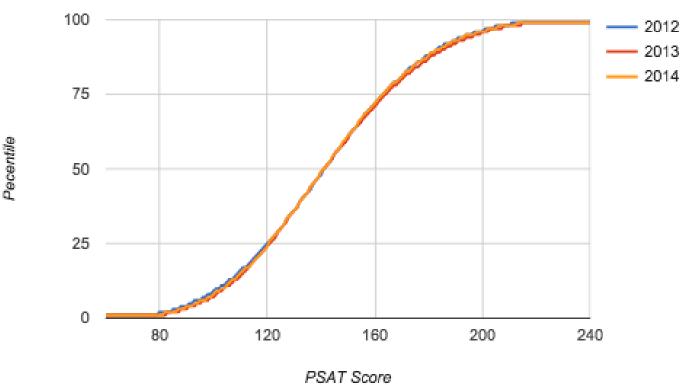
NM cutoffs by state will be released in September, 2016. Conservatively, any student scoring over 200 as a sophomore should prepare for the NMSQT

We're seeing an inflationary trend in 2015 PSAT scores



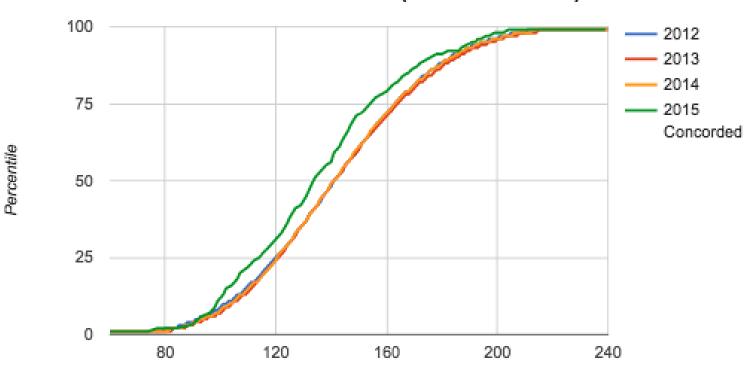
"Typical" PSAT Score to Percentile Curve





With Concordant 2015 Scores Superimposed

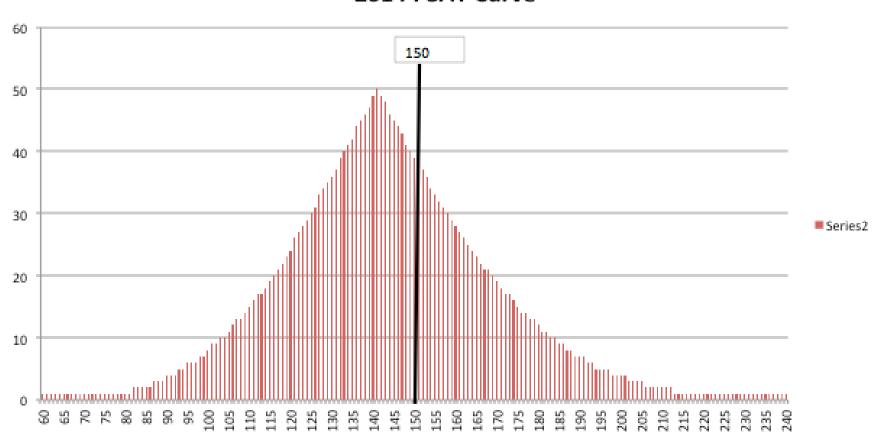
PSAT Scores vs Percentiles (2015 Concorded)



PSAT 2014 and Earlier Score

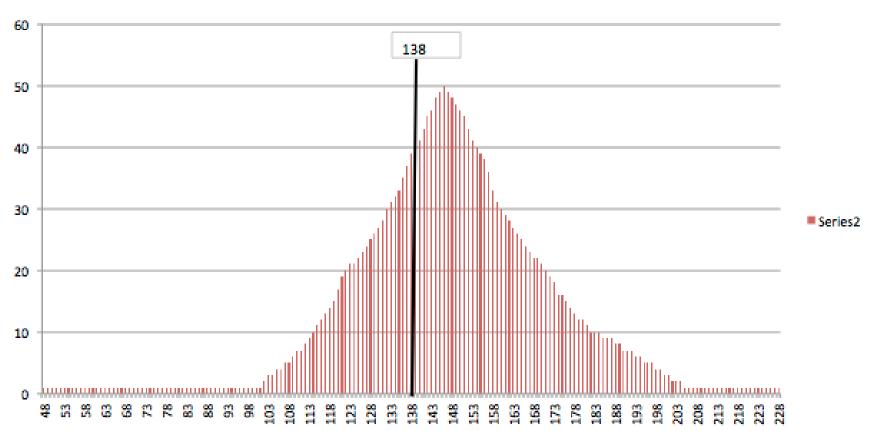
Test Changes Altered the Score Distribution

2014 PSAT Curve



Test Changes Altered the Score Distribution

2015 PSAT Curve



PSAT to New SAT conversion

College Board indicates the score you received on the PSAT would have been identical to a score on the SAT. So a student who scored a 1350 PSAT on October 14, 2015 would have scored a 1350 SAT on that same day. A student would have gained no extra points with the additional items. We're not certain about that. Vertical scaling falls apart for kids at the very highest scores, so if you're an ultrahigh-scorer, you may expect your SAT score to be a bit higher than your PSAT score.

PSAT Score to ACT Conversion

- This is more speculative, because final SAT and PSAT score/percentile tables won't be released until May.
- Until final scores are released, you can use the preliminary concordance tables to convert your 2015 PSAT score to an "old" SAT score, and then concord that to an ACT score. Take a little math gymnastics, but doable.

See the College Board's Understanding Your Scores PDF for more: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/2015-psat-nmsqt-understanding-scores.pdf

The ACT shifts, albeit more subtly

- Essay Changes
- Extra Scores/Reporting
- Digital Assessments
- Reading Changes
- Optional Constructed Response subject tests



ACT is getting itself more Common-Core aligned, gradually and without fanfare

ACT Reading has been changing gradually since October 2013

New ACT reading sections have **compare and contrast** dual passages! Taking a note directly from the SAT playbook

How is Author 1's tone distinct from that of Author 2?



VS



Much harder ACT essay

- Evaluates 4 areas: ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use. 48 total points scaled to a 36 point score.
- 40 minutes long
- Students are provided several perspectives and asked to create their own analysis of a <u>complex</u> issue
- Some issues with delays in the grading of the first essays

Old Essay

Should students who have C averages in high school be allowed to get driving permits?



New Essay

Conservative

Author 3



Rhetorical Device Questions in Reading: students must now know the following terms

- Alliteration
- Allusion
- Anecdote
- Figurative language
- Idiomatic expressions
- Metaphor
- Personification
- Rhetorical question
- Simile



ACT math composition is shifting

Pre-algebra: 14 items (23%)

Elementary algebra: 10 items (17%)

Intermediate algebra: 9 items (15%)

Planar geometry*: 14 items (23%)

Coordinate geometry*: 9 items (15%)

Elementary Trigonometry: 4 items (6.7%)

More advanced math coming to the ACT as a response to the harder SAT math

^{*} Defined differently from New SAT standards

Harder ACT math examples

- Expanding use of matrices (e.g., multiplication)
- Adding more conic sections (e.g., working with ellipses and parabolic equations)
- Understanding the domain of a function
- Vertical and horizontal asymptotes
- Trig: Using Radians, Terminal Sides and Coterminal Angles (e.g., 30°, -330° and 390°)

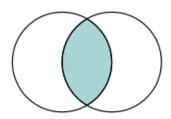
The great Convergence

SAT moves towards ACT

- Eliminates guessing penalty and E) answer choice
- Drops advanced vocabulary
- Uses exclusively long form passages for Writing and Reading from various contexts
- Focuses on rhetorical skills over grammar
- Adds science-type charts, tables, graphs
- Adds higher level math (e.g., trig) and puts more math in context
- Moves from 10 to 4 sections and drops experimental section
- Makes the essay optional at the end of the test

ACT moves towards SAT

- Adds comparison reading passages
- Adds more critical thinking, analysis and time to optional essay



Overlap of roughly 90%. Scores should correlate more highly than ever.

How will colleges perceive the new SAT compared to the old?

- The vast majority of feedback we have received from colleges pertaining to the new test has been positive,
- Changes to SAT subject test policies may be coming: Yale announced they were dropping the requirement for subject tests, partially in response to the more rigorous SAT.
- The new SAT may correlate more closely with freshman and 4-year GPA. Colleges will have early data by Summer of 2018.

Some responses from colleges on the New SAT: https://www.applerouth.com/blog/2015/02/16/how-will-top-colleges-use-the-redesigned-sat/

Yale and Rochester weigh in

"The redesigned SAT does look to be an improvement over the last exam, in terms of clearness and connection to our curriculum."



-Jeremiah Quinlan Yale Dean of Undergraduate Admission

"We will prefer the new test over the old at Rochester because it's a better test of the skills we value.... So for those students who submit both new and old SAT scores, I believe that during review and Committee we are likely going to rely on those new scores more."



-Jonathan Burdick VP & Dean of College Admission U. Rochester

Virginia Tech: the Hokie Pokey



The Hokies are the first and currently only school in the country who will require current juniors to submit either a new SAT score or an ACT score

Will many schools follow? Unlikely, from all the feedback we've received. A small number of schools will take this position, but the overwhelming majority will not.

Questions?



Helping prepare students and schools for the SAT and ACT since 2001