

## ABOUT THE SAT

### SAT I: Reasoning Test

The SAT measures developed verbal and mathematical reasoning skills important to college success. More than 2 million students take the SAT each year. Because courses and grading standards vary widely from school to school, scores on the SAT help colleges predict a student's ability to succeed along with other criteria like high-school GPA.

Score scale: 200-800

Format: 3 hours, primarily multiple choice.

Verbal: 78 questions, 75 minutes

- Two 30 minute sections, plus one 15-minute section
- Emphasis on critical reading
- Vocabulary tested in the context of reading passages
- Question types: Sentence completions, analogies, critical reading

Mathematical: 60 questions, 75 minutes

- Two 30-minute sections, plus one 15-minute sections
- Emphasis on data interpretation and applied math questions
- Calculator use permitted but not required
- Ten questions require students to produce their own responses and grid them on the answer sheet
- Question types: regular multiple choice, quantitative comparisons, and grid-ins

NOTE: An additional test section (30 minutes, either verbal or math) is used for equating or pre-testing and does not count toward a student's score.

### SATII: Subject Testing

The Subject Tests measure student's knowledge and skills in a particular subject and their ability to apply that knowledge (no student may take more than three tests on any date).

Format of each test: 1 hour, multiple choice (except the Writing Test, which will include a 20 minute writing sample).

#### Preparation

Students should:

- Take challenging courses
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT
- Read, read, read!
- Work hard academically
- Read Taking the SAT I: Reasoning Test and Taking the SAT II: Subject Tests
- Visit the SAT Prep Center at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## Changes to the SAT I

**The new SAT will be administered for the first time in March 2005, for the high school class of 2006**

The upcoming changes that are being made include...

- The former SAT Verbal section will become the SAT Critical Reading section. The SAT will no longer include analogies. Instead, short reading sections will be added to existing long reading passages. Sentence completion items will remain in this section.
- A new SAT Writing section will be added. This section will contain multiple choice grammar questions as well as a written essay.
- The SAT Math section will be expanded to cover three years of high school math. Instead of just covering concepts from Geometry and Algebra I, the new SAT Math section will

also contain concepts from Algebra II. In addition, quantitative comparisons will be eliminated.

These changes mark roughly the tenth time in its 76-year history that the SAT I exam has been modified. These latest changes are being made after several years of extensive considerations by educators and psychometricians at the College Board, in consultation with individual educators and groups of academics, guidance professionals, and enrollment and admission officers that regularly advise the association.

For more detailed information about changes to the SAT, visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

### **Contacts**

PSAT/NMSQT Program.... 609 771-7070, [psat@info.collegeboard.com](mailto:psat@info.collegeboard.com)

National Merit Scholarship Corporation.... 847 866-5100, [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

National Hispanic Recognition Program..... 202 822-5900