

Changes in the S.A.T.

1. **Essay Optional.** The new SAT will remove the mandatory essay portion, making the section optional for students. This will revert the exam to the previous 1600 score scale, with a separate score for students that choose to sit for the essay.

2. **Guess Away.** The old SAT discouraged guessing by docking a fraction of a point for each incorrect response. In the new version, there will no longer be a penalty for wrong answers.

3. **Focus on Everyday Vocabulary.** Traditional SAT words like “anachronistic” or “spurious” will be replaced with those that are used more widely in the classroom and work settings like “synthesis” and “empirical.” This aligns to Common Core standards, which state that students “acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases ... at the college and career readiness level.”

4. **Analog vs. Digital.** Students will have the option of taking the SAT in the traditional paper form or a new digital version.

5. **Evidence is Key.** Within every text section, students will be required to back up their answers with a specific part of the passage that supports their choice. This change will reflect an increased importance placed on citing evidence in the reading & writing portion.

6. **Fewer Math Topics.** Questions will be drawn from topics that evidence shows most contribute to college readiness and career training. The three categories of topics are Problem Solving & Data Analysis, the Heart of Algebra and Passport to Advanced Math. Test takers will need to be prepared to answer a range of questions that dig deeper into these topics, similar to today’s Common Core standards for math.

7. **Limited Use of Calculators.** Calculators will now only be allowed during certain portions of the exam.