

GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW SAT Side-By-Side Comparison



Michigan Association of
Secondary School Principals

ACT

SAT

[2016 Redesign]

Test Length	3 hours, 25 min (with Writing Test)	3 hours, 50 min (with Essay)
Tested Subjects	English (45 min) Reading (35 min) Science (35 min) Math (60 min) Writing (30 min)	Writing and Language (35 min) Reading (65 min) Math (80 min) [One section with calculators and one without] Essay (optional) (50 min)
Scoring Scale	Composite of 1-36 Four scores of 1-36 for each test, averaged for composite Writing Test scored 0-12 with results reported separately	Scale of 400 to 1600 200-800: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing 200-800: Math 2-8 on each of three traits for Essay with results reported separately
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty.	No penalty.
Question Types	Reading, Writing, Math, Science 100% multiple choice Essay writing prompt	Reading, Writing 100% passage-based multiple choice Math 78% multiple choice, 22% produced response Essay writing prompt

CONTENT COMPARISON

English/Language	Usage/Mechanics punctuation, grammar and usage, sentence structure Rhetorical Skills strategy, organization, style	Four passages, 400-450 words per passage Questions on: expression of ideas, standard English, conventions, vocabulary in context, analysis
Reading	Four long passages Reading comprehension focus on showing understanding of: what is directly stated and statements with implied meanings Little emphasis on vocabulary	Four single passages and one paired passage Questions on: vocabulary in context, command of evidence, analysis in history/social studies and science Vocabulary de-emphasized
Science	Focus on scientific reasoning Analysis/interpretation/evaluation of scientific passages, charts, diagrams, etc.	No science section [questions built into math, reading, and writing sections]
Math	Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry	Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math, and Additional Topics in Math
Essay	Final Section - 30 min Topic of importance to high school students	Final Section - 50 min Written analysis of a provided source text