SAT Specifics

1. Evidence based reading & writing = worth 200-800 points
2. Math = worth 200-800 points
3. Essay = optional = 50 minutes

Reading/Writing/Math is 3 hours long

No penalty for wrong answers

**Reading**

* 53 multiple choice
* 3 kinds of passages. One of which is a “paired passage” (technically two texts) that asks questions which compare two passages
  + 1 World or USA **literature** passage: 500-750 words, 10 questions, and 20% of test
  + 2 passages from **social studies** (one of which might be a “paired passage”): 500-750 words each, 10-11 questions (20-22 questions total), 1-2 graphics, and 40% of the test
  + 2 passages **science** (one of which might be a “paired passage”): 500-750 words each, 10-11 questions (20-22 questions total), 1-2 graphics, and 40% of the test
* Questions ask about
  + Vocabulary **in context**: At least 2 questions per passage = can you figure a word out based on the words around it. “As is used in line 55, the word **intense** most nearly means…” and the word “dedicate” in the Gettysburg Address has multiple meanings.
  + Command of evidence: At least 2 questions per passage = interpret and synthesize evidence in a text from words and pictures. There will be at least one question per passage that asks **“Which answer provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?”**
  + Literal reading comprehension
  + Rhetorical Analysis: how does the author’s choice of words, structure, point of view, and arguments effect the text as a whole
  + Inferring: “The graph shows the fish swim to the southwest because of magnetic pull. If the magnetic field was reversed, it can be most likely inferred that the fish would swim…” Northeast
  + Use information (evidence) that you just read, in a new way.
* Not just texts, but graphs and charts as well
* At least one of the social studies passage will be a founding document, like the bill of rights, that also asks students about how it applies to the great global conversation about freedom, civil rights, human dignity, etc.

**Writing and Language**

Purpose is to see the kids’ ability to revise and edit texts. Questions ask which of the three alternatives, or the original, is the best revision of the text.

44 multiple choice questions, 200-800 point score

4 passages that are 450-500 words each, some passages which include passages

Passage topics:

* 1 passage about Careers with 11 questions: health care, engineering, etc.
* 1 passage about Social Studies with 11 questions: law, education, history, economics, government, etc.
* 1 passage about Humanities with 11 questions: art, culture, etc.
* 1 passage about Science with 11 questions: biology, chemistry, physics, etc.

Passage types:

* Argumentative
* Informative
* Narrative
* Nonfiction

Types of questions:

* Topic development: replace a sentence with one that states the main idea more clearly, add evidence that would help prove the argument, remove an example that is not relevant, correct the writer’s interpretation of information from a graph,
* Organization: logical sequence, transitions, etc.
* Language use: sentence structure, parallelism, grammar, choose most concise word choice, combine sentences effectively, choose words that are most consistent with author’s style, fix punctuation/incomplete sentences/run-ons/comma splices, pronoun agreement, commonly confused words, subject-verb agreement, colons/semi-colons/dashes, possession, appositives, unnecessary punctuation, etc.

**Essay**

* Read a passage and explain how the author used writing tricks to make an argument. ANALYSIS not persuasive
* Use author’s use of evidence, reasoning, stylistic, persuasive elements.
* The thoughts is that this is more the kind of writing kids will do in college.
* 50 minutes to write the essay.
* Use evidence from the passage to explain the analysis-literally quote the text.
* Two graders will score the student’s essay. Each will give three scores on a 4.0 scale for reading comprehension, strength of analysis and writing mechanics/style. These two sets of scores will be combined to earn a score of 2-8 points in each of the three scoring categories.
* “Formal style and objective tone” implies third person is best choice. Needs an intro/conclusion.
* It is basically an AP “HOW” essay where kids have to identify author’s craft and literary & rhetorical devices to explain HOW the author made his/her claim clear.
* Sample prompt and 8 students essays (and their scores) are at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions/essay>