

PAPER AND PENCIL SAT

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# SAT<sup>®</sup>

# Understanding Scores




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# The SAT Suite of Assessments

The SAT® Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT® and the PSAT™ 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT™ 8/9 (for grades 8 and 9).

The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in grade-appropriate ways. They work together to show college and career readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kinds of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in middle school and high school courses taught today.

The SAT, the last test in the suite, is a globally recognized college admission test that's widely accepted at U.S. colleges.

The SAT is one of the most accessible, affordable, and fair ways for students from all backgrounds to show what they know and stand out to colleges.

This Understanding Scores brochure includes information for the paper and pencil version of the test—administered in U.S. centers and SAT School Day administrations through December 2023. More information about the digital version will be provided in a separate edition of this brochure.

## The Paper and Pencil SAT

Students taking the SAT in the U.S. through fall 2023 will take the paper and pencil version of the test. After that, students will take the digital SAT.

The paper and pencil SAT includes the following sections.

### EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING

This section is made up of a Reading Test and a Writing and Language Test, each composed of multiparagraph passages and multiple-choice questions.

The Reading Test measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. The Writing and Language Test measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation.

### MATH

This section includes multiple-choice and student-produced response questions, and is divided into two portions: one that allows calculator use and one that does not. It assesses skills in algebra, problem solving and data analysis, manipulation of complex equations, geometry, and trigonometry.

## Going Digital

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The transition to the digital SAT will bring a number of student- and educator-friendly changes, but many important features of the SAT Suite will stay the same. The SAT Suite will continue to measure the knowledge and skills that students are learning in school and that matter most for college and career readiness. The digital SAT Suite is easier to take, easier to give, more secure, and more relevant. We haven't simply created a digital version of the paper and pencil tests—we're taking full advantage of what digital testing makes possible.

## How the SAT Is Scored

Students receive a total score that is the sum of their scores on the two sections.

To calculate section scores, we first compute the student's raw score—the number of questions correctly answered—for each section. Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers or for unanswered questions.

Next, we convert each of the raw section scores to a scaled score of 200–800. This conversion process adjusts for slight differences in difficulty among versions of the test and provides a score that is consistent across different versions. The scaled scores are the scores provided on the downloadable score report PDF.

On the paper-based test, students receive additional scores beyond the total and section scores.

## How Schools May Use Score Reports

The student score report clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can go over score reports with students to help them understand what their scores mean.

For example, the score report includes an indicator showing if a student meets the college readiness benchmark. If the score report shows a student has met the benchmark, that means the student is on track to be ready for college when they graduate high school. If a student isn't meeting the benchmark for a section of the test, their teacher may make a plan with the student to work on their skills in that area.

The score report can also help students see their strengths, which can increase their confidence and show them subjects in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

The Sample Score Report on page 4 shows how the PDF version that students and their school counselors can download and print will look. Results will be summarized in the downloadable version. More detailed information and guidance is accessible in the online score report.

## Discontinued Tests

College Board discontinued offering SAT Subject Tests™. However, students who have taken one or more of these hour-long content-based tests will continue to see their SAT Subject Test scores on their score reports.

Additionally, some state-provided testing still includes the SAT Essay, which was discontinued for most administrations starting in August 2021. The Essay asks students to read a high-quality source text and write an effective analysis of that text using evidence drawn from the source. It measures a range of skills in reading, analysis, and writing. If a student took the SAT Essay, their score will continue to be listed separately.

# SAT Scores

## Total Scores

The total score is the sum of the two section scores; its range is 400–1600.

## Section Scores

Students receive scores in the range of 200–800 for each of two sections.

- For the paper-based version, the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score combines the scores for the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test.
- The Math section score is derived from the Math Test score, including the calculator and no-calculator portions.

## Additional Scores

### TEST SCORES

The range for the following test scores is 10–40:

- Reading
- Writing and Language
- Math

### CROSS-TEST SCORES

The range for cross-test scores is also 10–40. These scores represent performance on select questions across the three tests and show a student's strengths in the following domains:

- Analysis in History/Social Studies
- Analysis in Science

### SUBSCORES

Subscores in the range of 1–15 offer feedback on student performance in the following skill areas:

- Command of Evidence
- Words in Context
- Expression of Ideas
- Standard English Conventions
- Heart of Algebra
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis
- Passport to Advanced Math

## SAT ESSAY SCORES

The following three scores for the SAT Essay, if applicable, are on a 2–8 scale:

- Reading
- Analysis
- Writing

These scores aren't added together or combined with any other test scores. A student's online scores show the prompt the student responded to and the student's essay.

## Score Ranges

A student's ability is better represented by score ranges than points. Score ranges are derived from the standard error of measurement and show how much student scores would likely vary if the student took a different administration of the test under identical conditions.

Score ranges:

- Total:  $\pm 40$  points
- Section:  $\pm 30$  points
- Test scores, subscores, and cross-test scores (for paper-based SAT only):  $\pm 2$  points

## Percentiles

A student's percentile rank represents the percentage of students whose score is equal to or lower than their score. For example, if a student's score is in the 75th percentile, 75% of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student's score. Two types of percentile ranks, comparing student scores to two different reference populations, are provided in this publication for both total and section scores.

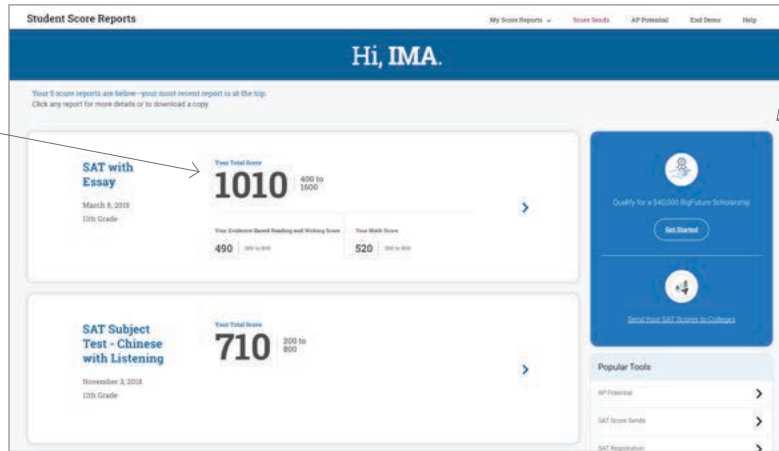
**Nationally Representative Sample Percentiles** are derived from a research study of U.S. students in grades 11 and 12 and are weighted to represent all U.S. students in those grades, regardless of whether they typically take the SAT.

**SAT User Percentiles** are based on the actual scores of students in the past three graduating classes who took the current SAT during high school. These user percentiles are reported on tests completed in August 2021 through June 2022.

# Sample Online Student Score Report

## Viewing the Score Report

Schools should download and share score report PDFs with their students. Students that have a College Board account can view their scores online.



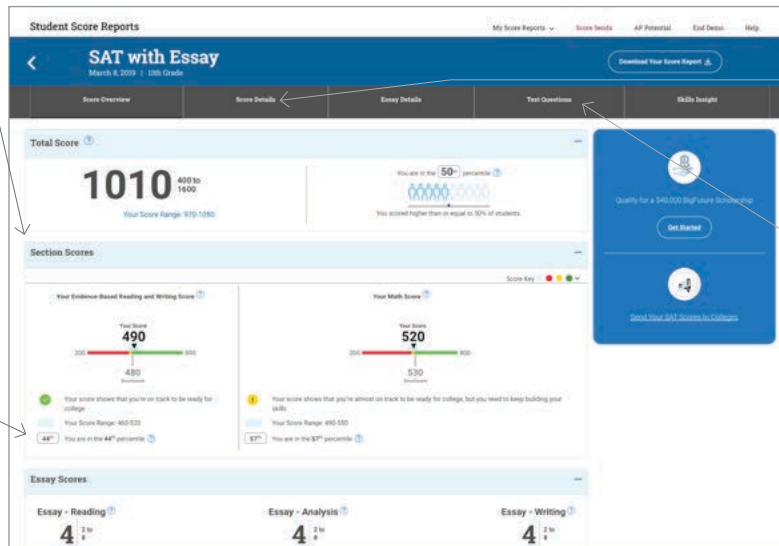
### Next Steps

The dashboard includes links to Popular Tools like Student Search Service™, AP Potential™, and SAT Registration.

### Total Score

Selecting the arrow next to the score leads to their detailed score breakdown.

Dashboard



### Score Details

Selecting Score Details takes the student to more information about test scores and subscores.

### Test Questions

For SAT administrations, students have the opportunity to access question content and answer explanations with their scores.

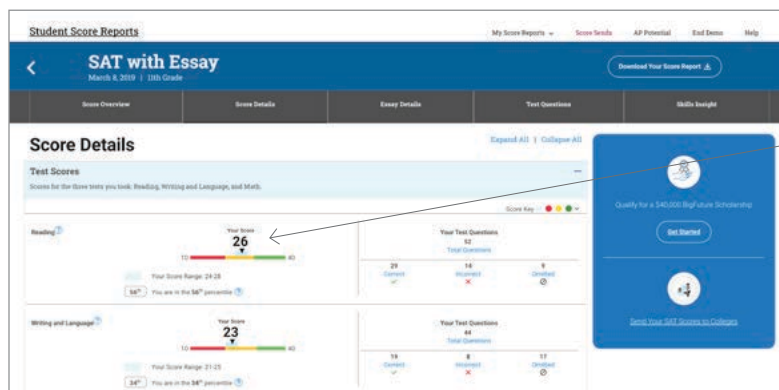
### Section Scores

This student's Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score is 490, and their Math score is 520. In Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, the student's score is exceeding the benchmark and they are on track for college readiness. In Math, however, the student's score is approaching the benchmark, but they are not quite on track.

### Percentiles

This student scored as well as or better in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing than 44% of a nationally representative group of juniors. In Math, they scored as well as or better than 57% of a nationally representative group of juniors.

Score Overview



### Test Scores

Test scores range from 10 to 40. This student scored a 26 and is in the yellow on the Reading Test, indicating they are below the average student performance of those who met the benchmark by one year or less.

Score Details

## Percentiles for Total Scores

Total Score	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User
1600	99+	99+
1590	99+	99+
1580	99+	99+
1570	99+	99+
1560	99+	99
1550	99+	99
1540	99+	99
1530	99+	99
1520	99+	98
1510	99	98
1500	99	98
1490	99	97
1480	99	97
1470	99	96
1460	99	96
1450	99	96
1440	98	95
1430	98	95
1420	98	94
1410	97	94
1400	97	93
1390	97	92
1380	96	92
1370	96	91
1360	95	90
1350	94	90
1340	94	89
1330	93	88
1320	93	87
1310	92	87
1300	91	86
1290	90	85
1280	89	84
1270	88	83
1260	87	82
1250	86	81
1240	85	80
1230	84	79
1220	83	78
1210	82	76
1200	81	75
1190	80	74

Total Score	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User
1180	78	73
1170	77	71
1160	76	70
1150	74	69
1140	73	67
1130	71	66
1120	70	64
1110	69	63
1100	67	61
1090	65	60
1080	63	58
1070	61	56
1060	60	55
1050	58	53
1040	56	52
1030	54	50
1020	52	48
1010	50	47
1000	48	45
990	46	43
980	44	42
970	42	40
960	40	39
950	38	37
940	36	36
930	35	34
920	33	32
910	31	31
900	29	29
890	27	28
880	26	26
870	24	25
860	23	23
850	21	22
840	20	20
830	18	19
820	17	17
810	16	16
800	14	14
790	13	13
780	11	12
770	10	10

Total Score	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User
760	9	9
750	8	8
740	7	7
730	6	6
720	5	5
710	4	4
700	4	3
690	3	3
680	2	2
670	2	2
660	1	1
650	1	1
640	1	1
630	1	1
620	1-	1
610	1-	1-
600	1-	1-
590	1-	1-
580	1-	1-
570	1-	1-
560	1-	1-
550	1-	1-
540	1-	1-
530	1-	1-
520	1-	1-
510	1-	1-
500	1-	1-
490	1-	1-
480	1-	1-
470	1-	1-
460	1-	1-
450	1-	1-
440	1-	1-
430	1-	1-
420	1-	1-
410	1-	1-
400	1-	1-

## Percentiles for Section Scores

Total Score	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Math	
	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User
800	99+	99+	99+	99+
790	99+	99+	99+	99
780	99+	99+	99	98
770	99+	99	99	97
760	99+	99	99	96
750	99	98	98	95
740	99	97	98	94
730	99	96	97	94
720	98	95	97	93
710	97	94	96	92
700	97	93	95	91
690	96	92	94	90
680	95	90	93	89
670	93	89	92	87
660	92	87	91	86
650	90	85	90	85
640	88	83	89	83
630	86	81	87	82
620	84	78	85	80
610	81	76	83	78
600	79	73	81	76
590	76	71	79	73
580	74	68	76	71
570	71	65	73	68
560	68	62	71	66
550	65	59	68	63
540	62	56	65	60
530	58	53	61	57
520	55	50	57	53
510	51	47	52	49
500	48	43	47	46
490	44	40	44	44
480	41	37	40	41
470	38	33	36	38
460	34	30	32	35
450	31	27	29	33
440	28	24	25	30
430	24	21	23	27
420	22	18	20	24
410	19	15	17	22

Total Score	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Math	
	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User	Nationally Representative Sample	SAT User
400	16	13	15	19
390	13	10	13	16
380	11	8	10	13
370	9	6	9	11
360	7	5	7	8
350	5	3	5	6
340	3	2	4	4
330	2	2	3	3
320	2	1	2	2
310	1	1	1	2
300	1	1	1	1
290	1-	1-	1-	1
280	1-	1-	1-	1
270	1-	1-	1-	1
260	1-	1-	1-	1-
250	1-	1-	1-	1-
240	1-	1-	1-	1-
230	1-	1-	1-	1-
220	1-	1-	1-	1-
210	1-	1-	1-	1-
200	1-	1-	1-	1-