



May

Understanding Your SAT Scores

Once students receive their SAT scores from the April test administration (or any other SAT, for that matter), here is some helpful information for understanding those scores. Scores from the April test should be available to students in their College Board accounts by May 10, according to the College Board.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCORE REPORT

The SAT measures the skills and knowledge that are important for college/career readiness. The test is made up of the following sections:

- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing - passages and multiple choice questions measuring comprehension and reasoning skills, text revision/editing, grammar, usage, and punctuation
- Math - multiple-choice and student-produced response questions covering math in college-prep high school classes
- Essay (optional) - students read/analyze an argument and provide written response

A student's raw score is computed by the number of questions answered correctly (no guessing penalty). Raw scores are converted to scale scores between 200 and 800 for the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math sections. ***Thus, the total SAT score is reported on a 400-1600 scale.*** This is the score that colleges focus on. For students who take the Essay (all juniors take the Essay with the April test), three Essay scores will be reported on a scale of 2-8 for Reading, Analysis, and Writing. These scores are not combined. Some colleges analyze the Essay as a tool for admission. Most do not. Students would need to inquire with specific institutions to determine if this is the case.

Students are also given "test scores", "cross-test scores," and "subscores." Understanding these scores provide more information about student strengths and areas for improvement. Colleges focus on a student's TOTAL score (400-1600),

Percentiles show the percentage of students whose scores are equal to or below the student's total score. Two percentiles are given on the score report. One compares the total score to all 11th and 12th graders nationwide and the other to those students who typically take the SAT. For example, being in the 60th percentile of the nationally representative sample means that a student did better than or equal to 60% of all 11th and 12th graders taking the test. Benchmarks are also provided for each section score indicating a student's readiness for college-level work.

On the next two pages is a sample SAT score report for you to preview to become familiar with the format.

The SAT Sample Score Report



SAT[®]

Score Report

Imagood Student
100 Main Street
Apt 2
Anytown, MI 00000-0000

Your Total Score

1010 | 400 to 1600

50th

Nationally Representative
Sample Percentile

36th

SAT User Percentile —
National

Essay Scores

4 | 2 to 8

Reading

4 | 2 to 8

Analysis

4 | 2 to 8

Writing

Section Scores

490 | 200 to 800

Your Evidence-Based
Reading and Writing
Score

44th Nationally Representative
Sample Percentile

31st SAT User Percentile —
National



You've met
the benchmark!

520 | 200 to 800

Your Math Score

57th Nationally Representative
Sample Percentile

45th SAT User Percentile —
National



You scored below
the benchmark.

Test Scores

26 | 10 to 40

Reading

23 | 10 to 40

Writing and Language

26.0 | 10 to 40

Math

Cross-Test Scores | 10 to 40

26

Analysis in History/Social Studies

23

Analysis in Science

Subscores | 1 to 15

7

Command of
Evidence

10

Words in Context

7

Expression of Ideas

6

Standard English
Conventions

10

Heart of Algebra

9

Problem Solving
and Data Analysis

8

Passport to
Advanced Math

Test Date: **Mar. 5, 2016**

Registration Number: **0123456789**

Sex: **Female**

Date of Birth: **Feb. 12, 2000**

Test Center Number: **12345**

High School Code: **123456**

High School Name:

John F. Kennedy High School

Online Score Report

Go online to get more details about your performance, including areas of strength, and check out the action steps in Skills Insight to help you boost your college readiness.

How Did I Score Compared to Others?

A percentile is a number between 1 and 99 that shows how your score ranks compared to other students. It represents the percentage of students whose scores are equal to or below yours. For example, if your Math score percentile is 57, that means 57 percent of test-takers have Math scores equal to or below yours.

You'll see two percentiles:

The Nationally Representative Sample Percentile shows how your score compares to the scores of all U.S. students in your grade, including those who don't typically take the test.

SAT[®] User Percentile — National shows how your score compares to the scores of students who typically take the test.

Will My Scores Change and Why?

Tests are not exact measures, and many factors can affect your score. After all, no two days are the same, and if you took the SAT once a week for a month your scores would change.

That's why it helps to think of your true score as a range from a few points below to a few points above the score earned. Score ranges show how your score can change with repeated testing, assuming your skill level remains the same.

Usually, scores for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and for Math fall in a range of roughly 30 to 40 points above or below your reported score.

Total: Your score \pm 40 points.

Section: Your score \pm 30 points.

Test Scores and Cross-Test Scores:

Your score \pm 2 points.

Subscores: Your score \pm 2 points.

Am I on Track to Be Ready for College?

You'll see a benchmark score for each section of the SAT. Benchmarks show your college readiness. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing benchmark is 480 while the Math benchmark is 530. This means if you score at or above the benchmark, you're on track to be ready for college when you graduate high school. If you score below the benchmark, you can still get back on track by focusing on areas where you didn't perform well. Use the detailed feedback in your online score report to see which skills you need to work on most.

Get your full report online studentscores.collegeboard.org

The SAT Sample Score Report, cont.

SAT Summary of Scores

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|
| Date | Mar. 5, 2016 | | | | |
| Grade | 11 | | | | |
| SAT | | | | | |
| Total | 1010 | | | | |
| Evidence-Based Reading and Writing | 490 | | | | |
| Math | 520 | | | | |
| Essay | Reading | 4 | | | |
| | Analysis | 4 | | | |
| | Writing | 4 | | | |
| Old SAT | | | | | |
| Critical Reading | | | | | |
| Mathematics | | | | | |
| Writing | | | | | |

SAT Subject Test Scores

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----|--|--|--|
| Date | Dec. 5, 2015 | | | | |
| Grade | 11 | | | | |
| Subject Test | | | | | |
| | Japanese with Listening | | | | |
| Test Score | 780 | | | | |
| Language Subscores | Reading | 75 | | | |
| | Listening | 75 | | | |
| | Usage | 80 | | | |
| Subject Test | | | | | |
| | Chemistry | | | | |
| Test Score | 670 | | | | |
| Subject Test | | | | | |
| | Literature | | | | |
| Test Score | 650 | | | | |

*Scores from the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics are not comparable to Math section, test, and related subscores on the SAT.
 *Not all SAT Subject Tests have subscores.

How Should I Send My Scores to Colleges?

This student score report is for your use only. Most colleges require you to have the College Board send them official score reports — they don't accept copies of student score reports, online score reports, or score report labels on transcripts. With Score Choice™, you decide which scores you send to colleges. Choose by test date for the SAT and individual test for SAT Subject Tests™ — in agreement with an institution's stated score-use practice. Visit studentscores.collegeboard.org for detailed analysis of your scores and more information on sending scores to colleges.



College Plan

There are a lot of great possibilities to explore in choosing a college. Get a step-by-step road map and advice on what to do when. Access your online score report for details.



SAT Practice

Keep improving your college readiness skills by connecting to FREE, world-class personalized practice recommendations online on khanacademy.org/sat.



AP® and SAT Subject Tests™

Get ahead by challenging yourself. You may still be able to take AP® courses and SAT Subject Tests aligned with majors you're interested in. Some colleges may use those scores to place you out of introductory-level college courses.

WHY IS THE SAT AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COLLEGES?

Colleges use SAT results to:

- Identify applicants for admission (among other factors such as high school classes taken, GPA, extra-curricular activities, essay, etc.)
- Place students in first year college courses.
- Help students develop an appropriate program of study.
- Help scholarship/loan agencies identify qualified applicants.

HOW TO SEND SCORES TO COLLEGES

Many colleges require students to send “official” SAT scores directly from the College Board. When a student registers for the SAT, he/she has the opportunity to select up to four colleges to receive his/her score results. This is free of charge, as long as the student makes these requests up to 9 days after the test. Otherwise, there is a fee of \$12 per college (fee waivers are available for students who qualify). Students must log into their College Board account to request scores be sent. College-bound athletes must also send official scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center in order to determine college athletic eligibility.

SHOULD A STUDENT RETAKE THE SAT?

Upon examining scores, students and parents will need to decide whether or not it is in the students’ best interests to sign up and pay to take the test again. This is not a requirement, but a number of students elect to retest in order to increase their overall score and improve their chances for college admission and scholarship consideration. How does a student know whether to retake the test?

He/she should consider retesting if:

- He/she had any problems during the test, such as misunderstanding the directions, running out of time, or not feeling well.
- He/she isn’t satisfied that his/her scores accurately represent his/her abilities.
- He/she has completed coursework or an intensive review in subject areas included in the SAT since tested.
- His/her scores fall below the average scores for admission to colleges of interest. Colleges publish their “average” GPA and test score data on their websites for students to research.
- A higher SAT score will qualify you for additional scholarship money. Colleges also publish their merit-based scholarship information on their websites so students can see what GPAs and SAT scores qualify for these scholarships. Bumping a test score up by a few points could mean an opportunity for thousands of more dollars in financial assistance.

Research shows that just over half of students who retest, do indeed improve their score the second time around. Given the fact that colleges will typically accept the highest SAT score a student receives, serious consideration should be given to taking the test again.

Students wishing to retest can register at College Board’s website – <http://www.collegeboard.org>. It is up to each student to decide, but typically, one does not have to take the optional Essay portion of the test again unless he/she is extremely disappointed in his/her score and the colleges he/she intends to apply to factor that score into an admissions decision. Many do not. Check with the colleges your student is considering if you are unsure of their admissions requirements. The SAT without Essay costs \$45. The SAT with Essay is \$57. The next test date that students can sign up for is **June 3**. The registration deadline is **May 9**.

For those who are unsure if they want to register for the June test, without having the results from their April school day test, there are also options for retesting in the fall, too. Students can typically take the SAT up until November of the fall of the senior year and use those results for college admission decisions.

(Please note: Students who received accommodated testing due to a disability will want to speak with their special education teacher for information about signing up.)

HOW DOES A STUDENT PREPARE TO RETAKE THE SAT?

The College Board offers a very detailed and FREE service to help students prepare for the SAT through its partnership with the Khan Academy. Students can import their scores into the Khan Academy and receive personalized suggestions for skill practice. Khan also offers thousands of questions, video lessons, as well as full length practice tests. The College Board also offers the option for students to download a daily practice app. For students who want to simulate test day, a paper practice test is available on their website, and students can scan their answer sheet and send it to the College Board for instant scoring and feedback.

CAN I TAKE THE ACT?

The ACT is another college entrance exam widely accepted by colleges. All Zeeland students are required to take the SAT, because it is a component of state-mandated Michigan Merit Exam; however, students can also take the ACT for college admission if desired. More information about the ACT can be found at <http://www.actstudent.org>. The next ACT will be held on June 10 at Zeeland West HS. The registration deadline is May 5. The ACT will also have fall administration dates.

**Some information adapted from www.collegeboard.org*