

# An Overview of the Redesigned SAT<sup>®</sup> for Community Colleges







## A Partnership for Student Readiness and Success

At the College Board, we realize how pivotal community colleges are to propelling students into college and career success. The redesigned SAT® is a key component of our commitment to ensuring that all students have access to the opportunities they have earned. Focusing on the knowledge and skills that research shows are most essential for college and career readiness and success, the redesigned SAT will be an important and useful tool for community colleges.

**Our research shows** that, currently, one in five SAT takers enrolls in a community college within six months after high school graduation. Many community colleges already use SAT scores to indicate college readiness, and the redesigned SAT provides more robust information on incoming students' academic profiles. We expect that the redesigned SAT will continue to be a powerful connection between students and their academic futures.

**This brochure provides high-level information on the redesigned SAT** that is most relevant to community colleges. You can find additional information about the redesigned assessments at [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org).

# Change for a Reason: The Redesigned SAT<sup>®</sup>

When students take the SAT in spring 2016, they'll encounter an SAT that is more focused and useful than ever before. The full specifications of the exam along with extensive sample items for each section are available at [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org).

## A brief description of the eight key changes

The redesigned SAT will ask students to apply a deep understanding of the few things shown by current research to matter most for college readiness and success. They'll find questions modeled on the work of the best classroom teachers and perform tasks practiced in rigorous course work. The SAT redesign is centered on eight key changes.



### Words in context

Students will need to interpret meaning based on context; master relevant vocabulary; and engage in close reading.



### Essay analyzing a source

The redesigned SAT Essay will more closely mirror college writing assignments; cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing; and promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing an author's work.



### Problems grounded in real-world contexts

Students will engage with questions that directly relate to the work performed in college and career; include charts, graphs, and passages likely to be encountered in science, social science, and other majors and careers; and feature multistep applications to solve problems in real-life contexts.



### U.S. Founding documents and the great global conversation

The redesigned SAT will include either an excerpt from one of the U.S. founding documents or a text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.



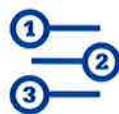
### Command of evidence

Students will be asked to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources; support the answers they choose; and integrate information conveyed through both reading passages and informational graphics.



### Math that matters most

The redesigned SAT will focus in depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis (quantitative literacy), Heart of Algebra (mastery of linear equations), and Passport to Advanced Math (familiarity with more complex equations).



### Analysis in science and in history/social studies

Students will need to solve problems in science and history/social studies and revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics.



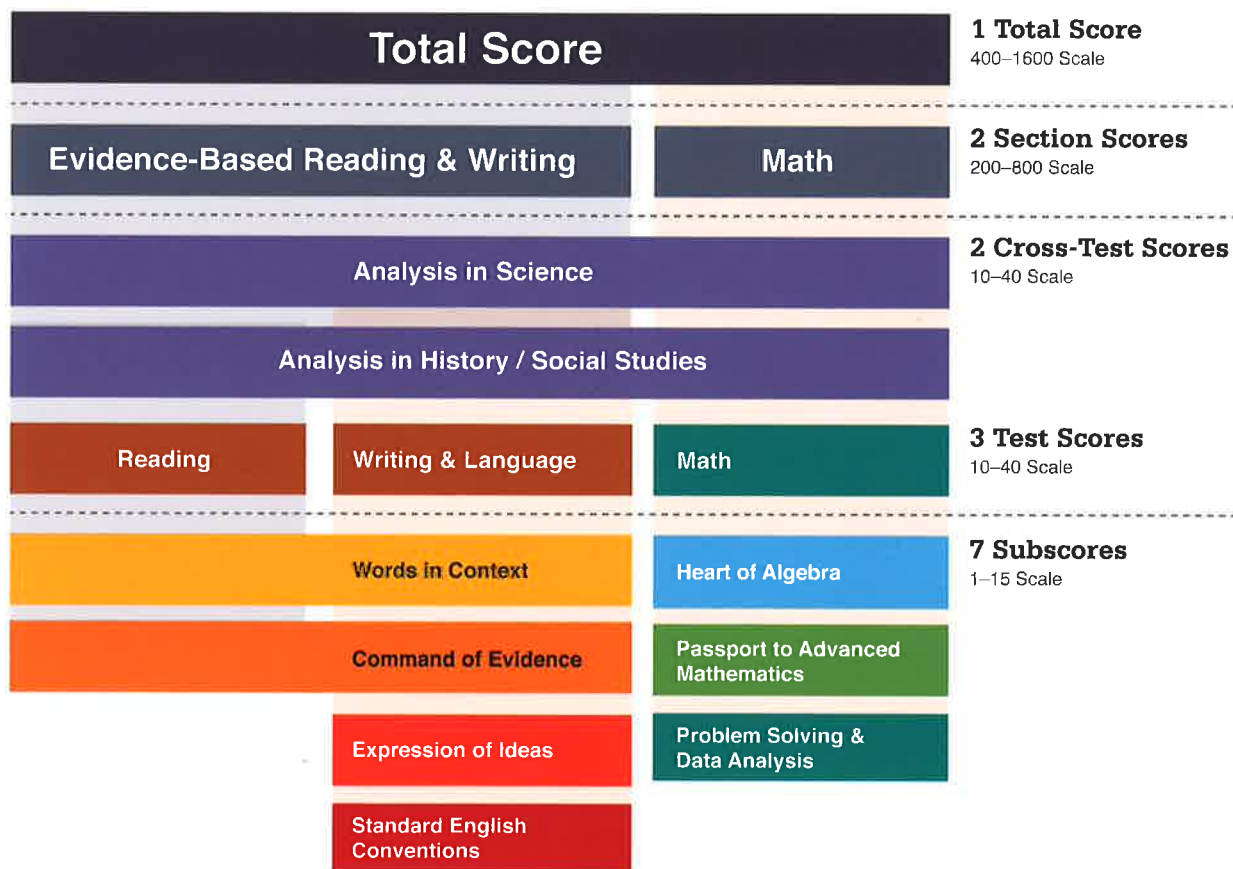
### No penalty for guessing

Students will earn one point for each correct answer, zero points for unanswered items, and zero points for wrong answers.

# The Redesigned SAT: Providing Greater Insight

The redesigned SAT will report a **total score**, **section scores**, **test scores**, **cross-test scores**, and **subscores**. These reported scores are intended to provide a more complete profile of students' academic readiness.

While colleges have expressed interest in researching how to use redesigned SAT subscores to gain more insight into students' academic strengths and areas for development, they report that they are unlikely to use redesigned SAT subscores for admission or placement purposes until research on the validity of using subscores for those purposes becomes available.



Please note: The redesigned assessment will report a total score that will be the sum of the two section scores. The Analysis in Science and Analysis in History/Social Studies scores are subject to ongoing research.



## Total Score

The redesigned assessment will report a total score that will be the **sum of two section scores**: (1) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; and (2) Math. On the redesigned SAT, the three scores reported for the redesigned SAT Essay will be reported separately and will not be factored into the total score.

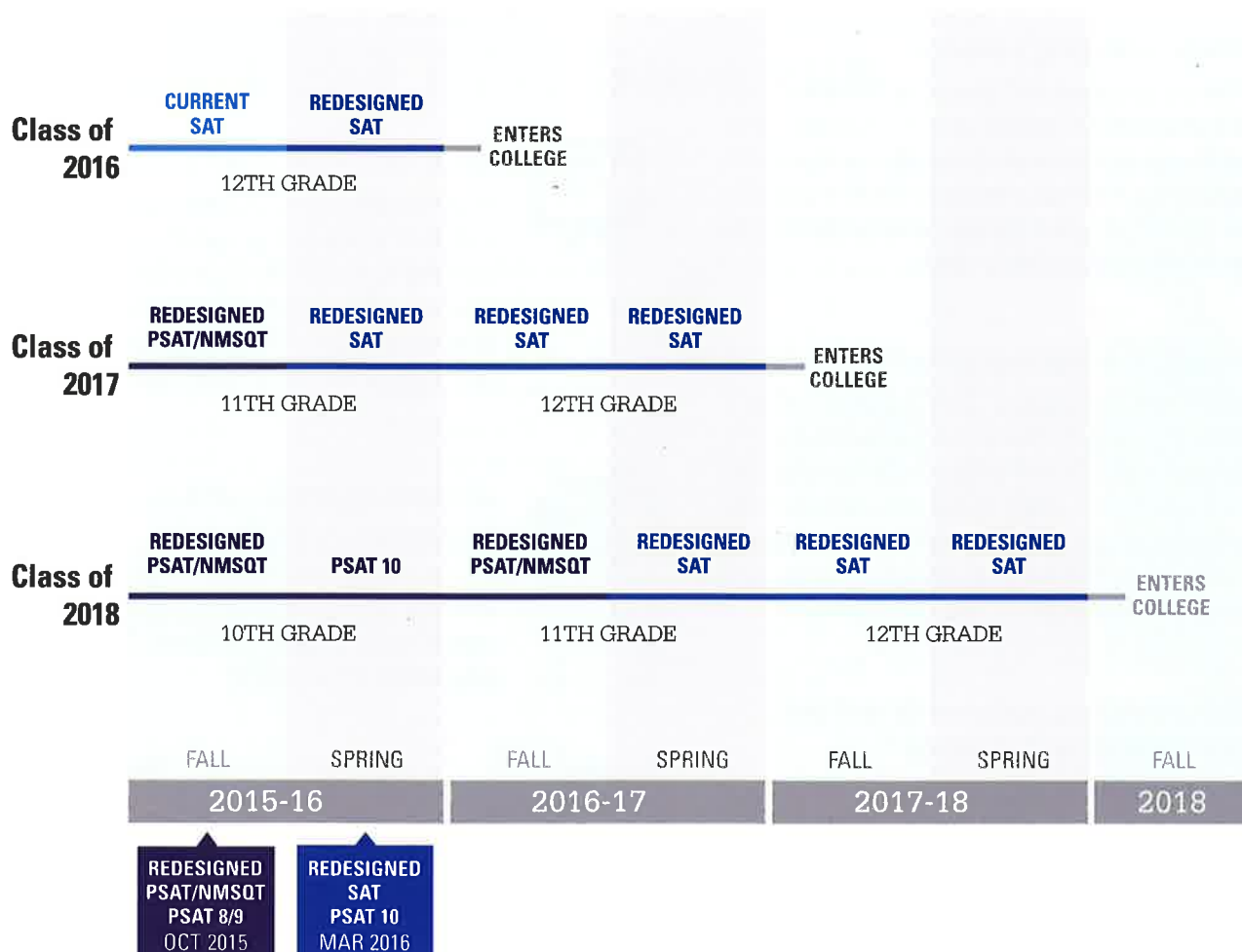
## Cross-Test Scores

The redesigned SAT will also report **two cross-test scores**: (1) Analysis in History/Social Studies; and (2) Analysis in Science. These scores are based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests and will reflect the application of reading, writing, language, and math skills in history/ social studies and in science contexts. These scores will be reported on a 10–40 scale.

## Subscores

The redesigned SAT will report **multiple subscores** for Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. The Reading and Writing and Language Tests will contribute questions to two subscores: (1) Command of Evidence; and (2) Words in Context. The Writing and Language Test will also report two additional subscores: (1) Expression of Ideas; and (2) Standard English Conventions. The Math Test will report three subscores: (1) Heart of Algebra; (2) Problem Solving and Data Analysis; and (3) Passport to Advanced Math. These scores will be reported on a 1–15 scale.

## Testing Options for the Classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018



# Important Dates for Higher Education

As part of our ongoing commitment, we will continue to provide updated resources and materials so that all students can do their best work on the SAT Suite of Assessments: SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9. We will also provide educators with access to the right tools and information to support their students effectively.

- Spring 2015** ● Ongoing concordance and validity research
  - Fall 2015** ● All SAT Score Reports delivered in the updated Electronic Score Report file format  
Concordance tables available for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT
  - Spring 2016** ● Concordance tables available for the existing and redesigned SAT, and also for the redesigned SAT and the ACT\*  
First administrations of the redesigned SAT  
First redesigned SAT scores received on campus  
Student Search Service® student data from the redesigned SAT available  
First administrations of the redesigned PSAT 10
- \*Please note: The concordance to ACT will be derived by matching the redesigned SAT to the current SAT, and then the current SAT to the ACT using validated concordance tables*

Get in-depth information and sign up for updates at **[collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org)**

Follow @OfficialSAT on Twitter and join the conversation.

# SAT

© 2015 The College Board. College Board, SAT, Student Search Service, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Board. PSAT is a trademark owned by the College Board. PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark of the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. All other products and services may be trademarks of their respective owners. Visit the College Board on the Web: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). 15b-10432 150017094