

DIGITAL SAT FAQ

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

PARENTS

When does the new version of the test start?

The first sitting in the US is March 2024. The College Board has already started administering the new test internationally. Current sophomores who intend to take the test in the spring of their Junior year will prepare for the Digital SAT.

When should we start preparing?

Students should start thinking about the test in the spring of their sophomore year by taking practice tests to learn their baseline scores and identify which test they prefer, and to make a test prep plan.

Since this test is so new, should my student bother taking it?

Although the digital SAT is new, much of the content of the older test is preserved. In addition, the score a student receives on the digital SAT is equivalent to the score on the old SAT, and colleges will view the two as the same. There is still value in testing.

Will colleges look at the DSAT differently than the ACT?

No. The College Board is working hard to make sure that performance and scoring mean the same things on the new test as they did on the old one.

How will mock testing work?

Bespoke Education will offer an online mock testing service that replicates the actual test. The College Board offers limited free practice tests through the Bluebook app.

How will testing accommodations work on the new test?

The test will allow for the same accommodations that the current test does. Some accommodations (such as extra time, additional breaks, and larger fonts) will be handled through the College Board Blue Book app. A few accommodations will allow students to take a non-adaptive version of the test on paper.

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What is the Digital SAT?

The Digital SAT is the newest version of the College Board's college admissions test, now taken on an iPad or other device via the Bluebook app. Students still test at testing centers - not at home. It is adaptive and contains four modules: two Reading and Writing and then two math. The test is approximately 2 hours long instead of more than 3.

What does "adaptive" mean?

"Adaptive" means that the student's performance on the first module of each section determines the difficulty level of the second module they receive.

What does my student need to know to succeed on the test?

Just like the old SAT, the new SAT focuses on the fundamentals of math, reading comprehension, and grammar.

How is the test scored?

The test is still scored out of 1600: 800 points for Reading & Writing and 800 points for Math. If students get the easier second module, their maximum score will be capped at a lower number.

How different is the Reading & Writing content on the new test?

For Reading & Writing, the most significant difference is that the passages are much shorter. Each brief passage has one corresponding question (rather than a long passage followed by many questions). For Math, the content remains focused on algebra and graphs on the coordinate plane, as well as geometry and statistics. However, word problems are shorter and less reading is required.

What is Desmos and should I use it?

Desmos is a graphing calculator available on the Math modules of the test. It is extremely helpful: not only can you use it to graph coordinate geometry questions, but you can also use it to solve algebra and statistics questions. It is available for free online as well.

Can I have scratch paper?

Scratch paper will be provided (3 sheets). There are also tools within the app to annotate reading passages and cross out answer choices.

What if my device crashes or I run out of battery?

The Bluebook app will save your progress and allow you to restart where you left off.

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Should I take the ACT or the Digital SAT?

It depends! Take full-length practice tests to see which one you prefer and call us to help make your decision. The ACT will require you to work more quickly, and the SAT will require you to work more precisely.

How do I find study material?

We are hard at work preparing study materials that will be available via our website this summer.

What is happening to the PSAT?

The PSAT will be digital starting in the fall of 2023. Students can use that experience to help them decide which test they will pursue going forward.