

Digital SAT Overview

Complete Guide to the New Digital SAT Format

■ WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

The Digital SAT (launched 2024) is completely computer-based with major changes:

Feature	Paper SAT (Old)	Digital SAT (New)
Test Length	3 hours	2 hours 14 minutes
Number of Questions	154 questions	98 questions
Reading & Writing	Two 65-min & 35-min sections	Two 32-min adaptive modules
Math	Two sections (80 min total)	Two 35-min adaptive modules
Calculator	Only on one math section	Allowed on all math questions
Question Format	Same for all students	Adaptive - changes by performance
Passage Length	Long passages (500-750 words)	Shorter (25-150 words each)
Score Release	2-6 weeks	Days, not weeks

■ TEST STRUCTURE

Section	Module	Time	Questions
Reading & Writing	Module 1	32 minutes	27 questions
	Module 2 (Adaptive)	32 minutes	27 questions
Break	—	10 minutes	—
Math	Module 1	35 minutes	22 questions
	Module 2 (Adaptive)	35 minutes	22 questions
Total	—	2h 14min	98 questions

Scoring:

- **Total Score:** 400-1600 (same as paper SAT)
- **Reading & Writing:** 200-800
- **Math:** 200-800
- Scores are directly comparable to paper SAT scores

■ ADAPTIVE TESTING EXPLAINED

How It Works:

1. **Everyone starts with Module 1** (standard difficulty)
2. **Your performance determines Module 2**
 - Do well → Harder Module 2 → Higher score potential
 - Struggle → Easier Module 2 → More questions you can answer

What This Means for You:

- ✓ Focus on accuracy in Module 1 - it determines your second module
- ✓ Don't stress if Module 2 seems hard - that's a good sign!
- ✓ If Module 2 seems easier, don't panic - just answer accurately
- ✓ Every question still counts - both modules contribute equally to score

■ DIGITAL TOOLS AVAILABLE

Built-In Tools in Bluebook App:

1. Desmos Calculator (All Math Questions)

- Graphing functionality
- Table feature for testing values
- Basic and scientific operations

2. Reference Sheet (Math Section)

- Geometry formulas
- Accessible at any time

3. Annotation Tools

- Highlight important text
- Strikethrough wrong answers
- Add notes/scratch work

4. Mark for Review

- Flag questions to revisit
- Easy navigation back to flagged items

5. Timer

- Module time remaining always visible
- Can hide if you find it distracting

■ READING & WRITING QUESTION TYPES

The Digital SAT combines Reading and Writing into one section with these categories:

Category	Description	Approx. Questions
Craft and Structure	Author's purpose, word choice, text structure	28%
Information and Ideas	Main ideas, details, inferences, data	26%
Standard English Conventions	Grammar, punctuation, sentence structure	26%
Expression of Ideas	Transitions, word choice, rhetorical effectiveness	20%

■ MATH QUESTION TYPES

Domain	Topics Covered	Approx. Questions
Algebra	Linear equations, systems, inequalities	35%
Advanced Math	Quadratics, exponentials, functions	35%
Problem Solving & Data Analysis	Ratios, percentages, statistics	15%
Geometry & Trigonometry	Area, volume, angles, right triangles	15%

Math Question Formats:

- **Multiple Choice:** ~75% of math questions
- **Student-Produced Response (Grid-In):** ~25% of math questions
- Type your numerical answer
- No guessing penalty - but harder without choices!

■ HOW TO PREPARE

Official Practice Resources:

1. Bluebook App

- Download from College Board
- Take full-length practice tests
- Identical to real test experience

2. Khan Academy

- Free SAT prep partnership with College Board
- Personalized practice based on PSAT/practice test results
- Video lessons for every concept

Preparation Timeline:

- **3-4 months before:** Start consistent practice (1-2 hours daily)
- **2 months before:** Take first full-length practice test
- **1 month before:** Focus on weak areas, take 2nd practice test
- **2 weeks before:** Take 3rd practice test, review mistakes
- **1 week before:** Light review, rest your brain

■ TEST DAY LOGISTICS

What to Bring:

- ✓ **Admission ticket** (printed or on phone)
- ✓ **Valid photo ID** (school ID, driver's license, passport)
- ✓ **Testing device** (laptop, tablet, or school-provided)
- ✓ **Charger** for your device
- ✓ **Snack and water** for the 10-minute break

Device Requirements:

- Windows, Mac, iPad, or Chromebook
- Bluebook app installed and updated
- Fully charged before test
- Internet connection required to start test (then can work offline)

■ COMMON QUESTIONS

Q: Is the Digital SAT easier than the paper SAT?

A: It's different, not necessarily easier. Shorter passages and test length help, but adaptive format means questions get harder if you do well. Scoring is calibrated to be equivalent.

Q: Can I use my own calculator?

A: No need - Desmos graphing calculator is built into the test for all math questions. You cannot bring an external calculator.

Q: What if my computer dies during the test?

A: Test proctors have backup devices. Your progress is auto-saved. You can resume where you left off. Bring your charger to avoid this!

Q: How many times can I take the SAT?

A: As many as you want. Most students take it 2-3 times. Colleges typically consider your highest score or superscore (best section scores across all tests).

■ KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Digital SAT is shorter, faster-paced, with better tools
- ✓ Practice with Bluebook app to get comfortable with format

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- ✓ Master the digital tools - calculator, annotations, flagging
- ✓ Adaptive format means second module difficulty is a good indicator
- ✓ Scores are equivalent to paper SAT - colleges treat them the same
- ✓ Focus on accuracy over speed - especially in Module 1