Understanding the redesigned SAT

Why is the SAT redesigned?
Drawing on extensive input and advice from its members, its partner organizations (such as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which cosponsors the PSAT/NMSQT), and postsecondary and K–12 experts, the College Board determined that the SAT needed to be redesigned.

Will the redesigned SAT be more difficult than the current one?
The overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT will not vary significantly from the current SAT.

What is the redesign SAT based on?
The redesign is grounded in evidence that indicates the skills and knowledge that are essential for all students to be ready for and to succeed in college.

What are the changes?
- The SAT will have a 400- to 1600-point score scale.
- Scores for the SAT Essay section will be reported separately.
- The redesigned exam will give credit for every correct response but will not deduct points for incorrect answers (rights-only scoring).
- Score reports will provide a more detailed view of achievement in specific skills.

Students will be given two section scores: one in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and one in Math. Each will be reported on a 200- to 800-point scale. Students will also receive separate scores for the SAT Essay section.

What is the implementation timeline of the redesigned SAT?

I took both the “old” SAT and the redesigned SAT. Should I submit both scores?
Yes. Maryland requires that you submit each standardized exam score you received for your application file. However, we will only review your highest score received for admission.
Does Maryland superscore the SAT?
Yes, Maryland superscores SAT results from multiple exams, meaning we only view the highest section score across all dates you took the SAT. However, we will not superscore results across the “old” and redesigned SAT exams.

Is the College Application Fee-Waiver Program still available?
Yes. The College Board, along with its members, has launched a national effort to propel low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students into the opportunities they have earned. This initiative recognizes and builds on the long-standing policies of our partner colleges to ensure that application fees are not a barrier for low-income students.

How will the redesign SAT affect student athletes?
The College Board has already met with representatives from the NCAA and will continue to work with the NCAA to assure a smooth transition from the current to the redesigned SAT through the use of concordance tables that can be used to affirm student eligibility.

Is the redesigned SAT aligned with the Common Core?
The redesigned SAT measures the skills and knowledge that evidence shows are essential for college and career success. It is not aligned to any single set of standards.

(Source: College Board)