The Digital SAT:
What You Need to Know
(Educator Edition)

Academic A Approach®

Contents

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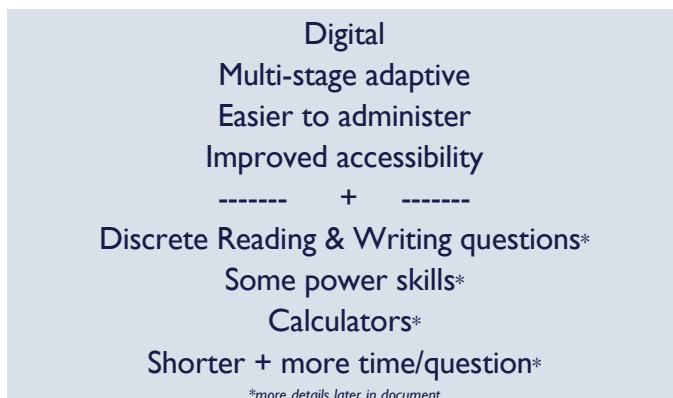(866) 498-9926   www.academicapproach.com/spdigitalSAT

DIGITAL SAT: WHAT IS THE SAME?

> Scoring
> Benchmarks
> Question format
> Accommodations
> Some skills and content

- **Scoring**
  - Score ranges remain the same for PSATs and SAT.
  - A score of 1200 on the previous SAT and a score of 1200 on the new SAT are the same.

- **Benchmarks**
  - Maintaining the same vertical scale between the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT keeps the college readiness benchmarks consistent.

- **Question format**
  - Four-option, multiple-choice format (with some student-produced response Math questions).

- **Accommodations**
  - The same accommodations will be available (50%, 100%, 150% additional time)
  - An accommodated paper-and-pencil version of the SAT will be available to students who qualify (though it will be linear—non-adaptive—and longer than the digital test).
  - Support for English Learners is also available, which may include translated test directions, use of bilingual word-to-word dictionaries, and 1.5x extended time testing.

- **Skills and content**
  - Reading: Using textual evidence, working with informational graphics, and inferences remain top power standard skills.
  - Writing: Transitional terms, rhetorical synthesis, and verb tense remain in the top 5 power skills.
  - Math: Various Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 skills are still the highest impact.

DIGITAL SAT: WHAT IS CHANGING?

> Digital
> Multi-stage adaptive
> Easier to administer
> Improved accessibility
> ------- + -------
> Discrete Reading & Writing questions*
> Some power skills*
> Calculators*
> Shorter + more time/question*
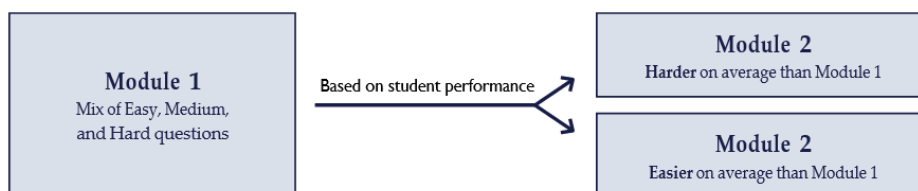> *more details later in document*

Digital

- Administered through College Board's custom testing platform and should be downloaded before test day.
- The platform is built to withstand internet, battery, or power disruptions; students' work will be saved, and time will not be lost.

Multi-Stage Adaptive

- For Reading & Writing and Math sections, performance on Module 1 will determine Module 2's set of questions and overall difficulty.

| Module 1 — Mix of Easy, Medium, and Hard questions | Based on student performance → | Module 2 — **Harder** on average than Module 1 |
| | | Module 2 — **Easier** on average than Module 1 |

- The test does NOT adapt on a question-by-question basis; rather, it adapts from one whole module to the next module.

Easier to Administer

- The role of the proctor is simplified, as timing is handled by the testing application itself.
- The elimination of physical testing materials means fewer logistics for schools to orchestrate.

Improved Accessibility

- Desmos calculator incorporates accessibility features for vision-impaired and blind students and integrates seamlessly with assistive technologies, such as screen readers.
- The app will have screen reader, zoom, & text-to-speech functionality

Digital SAT: Quick Facts

|	Digital SAT	*Paper-and-Pencil SAT*
Timing	2 hours, 14 minutes	*3 hours*
Questions	98 questions	*154 questions*
Minutes Per Question	1.37	*1.17*
Test Type	Adaptive	*Linear*
Test Administration	Digital	*Paper-and-Pencil*
Test Structure	- Reading & Writing Module 1 - Reading & Writing Module 2 - Break - Math Module 1 (Calculator) - Math Module 2 (Calculator)	*Reading Section* *Break* *Writing & Language* *Math (No-Calculator)* *Break* *Math (Calculator)*
Subject-Specific Timing	**134 minutes total** **64 minutes for Reading & Writing** Module 1: 32 minutes Module 2: 32 minutes **70 minutes for Math** Module 1: 35 minutes Module 2: 35 minutes	***180 minutes total** **100 minutes for Reading and Writing & Language** Reading: 65 minutes Writing & Language: 35 minutes **80 minutes for Math** No-Calculator: 25 minutes Calculator: 55 minutes*
Subject-Specific Question Totals	**98 questions total*** **54 questions for Reading & Writing** Module 1: 25 operational questions, 2 pretest Module 2: 25 operational questions, 2 pretest **44 questions for Math** Module 1: 20 operational questions, 2 pretest Module 2: 20 operational questions, 2 pretest *All questions discrete*	***154 questions total** (all operational) **96 questions for Reading and Writing & Language*** Reading: 52 questions Writing & Language: 44 questions **58 questions for Math**** No-Calculator: 20 questions Calculator: 38 questions *All Reading and Writing & Language questions are passage-based **Math questions are set-based or discrete*
Reading & Writing Passages	54 passages, 1 question per passage All passages 25-150 words each	*9 passages, 10-11 questions per passage 5 Reading passages (500-750 words each) 4 W&L passages (400-450 words each)*

ADDITIONAL NOTEWORTHY TEST STRUCTURE CHANGES

- Reading and Writing & Language are combined into one Reading and Writing section.

- Within a section (Reading & Writing or Math), Module 1 and Module 2 will have the same timing and number of questions.

Reading and Writing: 64 minutes, 54 questions total	
Module 1 32 minutes 27 questions (includes 2 pretest questions)	Module 2 32 minutes 27 questions (includes 2 pretest questions)
Break: 10 minutes	
Math: 70 minutes, 44 questions total	
Module 1 35 minutes 22 questions (includes 2 pretest questions)	Module 2 35 minutes 22 questions (includes 2 pretest questions)

- Performance on Module 1 will determine Module 2's set of questions and overall difficulty:
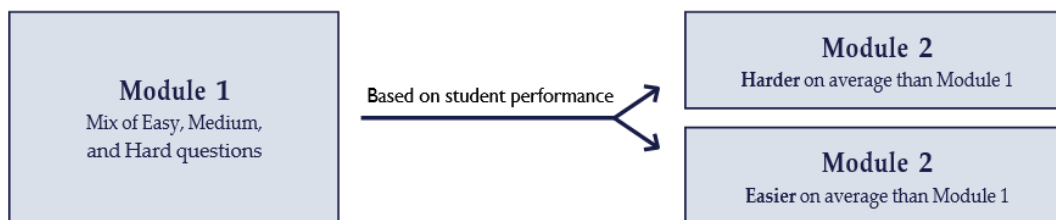

- Calculators will be allowed and are provided on the entire math section.

- The PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 will include the same timing and number of questions as the SAT. However, there are still a few notable differences:

  - Reading and Writing: The PSAT 8/9 will not include the highest-level text complexity band.

  - Math: The PSAT 10 and 8/9 will have slight variations in the skills that are included.

SCORING

Scoring for the digital SAT suite utilizes the same scoring system and vertical scale as the paper SAT suite.

	Section Scale Score	Total Scale Score
PSAT 8/9	120-720	240-1440
PSAT 10	160-760	320-1520
SAT	200-800	400-1600
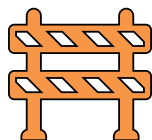
Currently, College Board has not released a sample of the digital SAT scale. Once the digital SAT scale is released, we will provide the relevant information. Since the digital SAT is a multistage adaptive test, more difficult questions will likely be weighted more heavily. This means that, depending on their Module 1 performance, students will be routed in certain score ranges, which will determine the difficulty of their Module 2 questions.

College Board will release fewer scores for the digital SAT than they did for the paper SAT suite:

Paper SAT Scores	Digital SAT Scores
• 1 Total Score *(Composite)* • 2 Section Scores *(EBRW & Math)* • 3 Test Scores *(Reading, Writing & Language, and Math)* • 7 Subscores *(Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Expression of Ideas, Standard English Conventions, Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving & Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math)* • 2 Cross-Test Scores *(History, Science)* **Total: 15 scores**	• 1 Total Score *(Composite)* • 2 Section Scores *(EBRW & Math)* **Total: 3 scores**

📖 DIGITAL SAT READING & WRITING: Top Takeaways

- o **Discrete questions:** Each Reading & Writing question will be accompanied by its own short passage.

- o **Passage Length:** Reading passages are significantly shorter (25-150 words) with the average being close to 60 words.

- o **Passage Difficulty:** Digital SAT Reading passages are slightly more difficult than the paper-and-pencil SAT Reading passages (+29 Lexile™), but Digital SAT Writing passages are easier than the paper-and-pencil SAT Writing & Language passages (-132 Lexile™).

- o **Passage Genres:** greater variety of genres including science, history, and literature with the addition of poetry, drama, and personal essays.

📖 DIGITAL SAT READING & WRITING: Power Standards

These seven skills account for over 80% of the Reading and Writing test*:

Rank	Genre	Skill	Digital SAT Standard Code	Average # of Questions	Average % of RW Test
#1	Reading	Words in Context	WIC.01^	16	19%
#2	Writing	Boundaries	BDR.01^	10	12%
	Writing	Form, Structure, & Sense	FSS.01^	10	12%
#3	Writing	Transitional Terms	OTRN.01	8	10%
#4	Writing	Rhetorical Synthesis	RSBP.01^	8	10%
#5	Reading	Textual Evidence	IITE.01	7	9%
#6	Reading	Details, Logical Completions	IIRC.02	7	9%

^indicates new Digital SAT standard/code

Notes

- A major change is the increased emphasis on Words in Context and Standard English Convention skills.
  - o **Words in Context** (WIC.01) questions will ask which of four possible words is best suited to the passage's context. These questions will be focused more on vocabulary and definitions and less on common words in varying contexts.
  - o **Boundaries** (BDR.01) questions test knowledge of proper ways to link phrases, clauses, and sentences.
  - o **Form, Structure, and Sense** (FSS.01) questions test knowledge of proper ways to use parts of speech such as pronouns and verbs.
- Another major change is the elimination of the concision (LCON.01) and precision (LPRE.01) skills not only from the power standards, but also from the digital SAT entirely.

Note: with a sample size of only four (4) College Board released practice SAT tests, standard frequency rankings may be variable as more frequency data is added in the future. The difference between being a top-ranking standard and not appearing on a table could be one extra question of a specific skill appearing in an additional practice test.

DIGITAL SAT READING & WRITING: Noteworthy Question Types

Genre: Reading

WIC.01 – Words in Context (always appear first in Reading)

In this scene from Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lena (listed as MAMA) and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, discuss Ruth's son Travis's morning habits.

> MAMA: Lord have mercy, look at that poor bed. Bless his heart—and he tries, don't he? (*She moves to the bed TRAVIS has sloppily made up*)
> RUTH: No—he don't half try at all 'cause he knows you going to come along behind him and fix everything. That's just how come he don't know how to do nothing right now— you done spoiled that boy so.
> MAMA: (*folding bedding*) Well—he's a little boy. Ain't supposed to know 'bout housekeeping. My baby, that's what he is. What you fix for his breakfast this morning?
> RUTH: (*angrily*) I feed my son, Lena!

A student writes the following sentence about this scene: "Lena and Ruth's conversation shows that Ruth feels _____ her mother-in-law."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

(A) suffocated by

(B) appreciative of

(C) indebted to

(D) vengeful towards

IITE.01 – Citing Textual Evidence

"After the Winter" is a 1922 poem by Jamaican-American writer Claude McKay. The poem conveys McKay's dream of building a home with his partner in a place of beauty, writing, _____

Which quotation from "After the Winter" most effectively illustrates the claim?

(A) "And we will seek the quiet hill / Where towers the cotton tree, And leaps the laughing crystal rill, / And works the droning bee."

(B) "We'll turn our faces southward, love, / Toward the summer isle / Where bamboos spire the shafted grove / And wide-mouthed orchids smile."

(C) "And we will build a cottage there / Beside an open glade, / With black-ribbed blue-bells blowing near, / And ferns that never fade."

(D) "Some day, when trees have shed their leaves / And against the morning's white / The shivering birds beneath the eaves / Have sheltered for the night."

IIRC.02 – Details, Logical Completions (always appear last in Reading)

When Santa Fe's Loretto Chapel was completed in 1878, there was no way to access the choir loft and no room for a traditional staircase. According to legend, an unknown carpenter offered to build a staircase. When he was done, the man disappeared. His staircase has two 360 degree turns and no visible means of support. There are no nails in the staircase, only wooden pegs. Some believe the carpenter was St. Joseph himself. Whoever the mysterious carpenter was, his staircase _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

(A) has remained a source of wonder for hundreds of years.

(B) has attracted thousands of religious and non-religious visitors alike.

(C) is seen by many as a feat of carpentry only made possible by a unique combination of science and divine intervention.

(D) is hailed as a feat of engineering that would be difficult to accomplish even with modern tools.

Genre: Writing

FSS.01 – Form, Structure, and Sense

The vaquita, a kind of porpoise, is currently the most critically endangered cetacean. Illegal fishing operations in the Gulf of California, the location to which the vaquita is endemic, have decimated the vaquita population. The current Californian population of around 10 individuals _____ the only remaining group of vaquitas in the world.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

Ⓐ is

Ⓑ are

Ⓒ were

Ⓓ was being

OTRN.01 – Transitional Terms

Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime," started as a traveling musician in the American South, though he quickly found that there were limited opportunities for Black pianists. When he traveled to Chicago for the 1893 World's Fair, he found that opportunities were similarly limited, as the World's Fair minimized the involvement of Black people. _____ Joplin pressed on, performing at locations around the fair. His music was popular with visitors, and his time in Chicago contributed greatly to increasing ragtime's popularity.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

Ⓐ Regardless,

Ⓑ Therefore,

Ⓒ In addition,

Ⓓ Actually,

RSBP.01 – Rhetorical Synthesis (will always appear last in Writing)

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Neutrinos are tiny, essentially massless, particles that are essential to all matter in the universe.
- Antineutrinos, which are related to antimatter, are neutrinos with an opposite charge.
- Understanding more about neutrinos may help scientists understand how the universe came to be filled with matter rather than antimatter.
- Some theories indicate an asymmetry between neutrinos and antineutrinos may have led to the predominance of matter.
- In Japan, a project called Hyper-Kamiokande, named for its subterranean location near the town of Kamioka, aims to detect and study neutrinos fired from a particle accelerator 295 km away.
- The scientists will fire neutrinos and antineutrinos at the accelerator, measuring whether one is more frequently detected than the other.

The student wants to emphasize the value of the Japanese project's data. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Ⓐ Hyper-Kamiokande is a project measuring neutrinos and antineutrinos to understand asymmetry between the two.

Ⓑ Matter and antimatter are related to the relationship between neutrinos and antineutrinos, and their relationship led to the universe being filled with matter.

Ⓒ Hyper-Kamiokande, by measuring neutrinos fired from a distant particle accelerator, will differentiate neutrinos and antineutrinos.

Ⓓ Hyper-Kamiokande aims to measure asymmetry between neutrinos and antineutrinos, which may show how the universe came to be filled with matter.

🖥 DIGITAL SAT MATH: Top Takeaways

- **Calculators:** Calculators are allowed on the each math section. Students can use the on-screen Desmos calculator or can bring their own.
- **Formulas:** A reference sheet with formulas will still be provided.
- **Discrete math questions:** multiple-choice and student-produced response questions will all be discrete.
- **Mixed-in SPR:** SPR questions are mixed with multiple-choice questions in both modules.
  - ○ ~25% of the math questions will be student-produced response (a few more than on paper SAT)
- **Lower word count:** fewer "in context" questions.
- **Domain representation:**

Digital SAT	Paper SAT
Algebra 35%	Heart of Algebra 29%
Advanced Math 35%	Passport to Advanced Math 45%
Problem Solving and Data Analysis 15%	Problem Solving & Data Analysis 18%
Geometry & Trigonometry 15%	Additional Topics in Math 8%

🖥 DIGITAL SAT MATH: Power Skills

These eight skills account for over 70% of the Math test*:

Rank	Skill	SAT	Average # of Questions	Average % of Math Test
#1	Nonlinear Functions	AM.NLF	10.5	15.9%
#2	Linear Equations in Two Variables	A.LE2	8.75	13.3%
#3	Nonlinear Equations	AM.NLE	7.25	11%
#4	Linear Functions	A.LF	5	7.6%
#5	Linear Equations in One Variable	A.LE1	4.75	7.2%
#6	Equivalent Expressions & Equations	AM.EQE	4	6.1%
#7	One-Variable Data	PSDA.1VD	3.5	5.3%
#8	Lines, Angles, and Triangles	GT.LAT	3	4.6%

- ▪ Algebra 1 (A) and Algebra 2 (AM) skills are even more important than before.
- ▪ Ratios (PSDA.RRU) are no longer within the top 10 skills featured.
- ▪ More focus on one-variable data and statistics (PSDA.1VD).
- ▪ Increase in geometry (GT) skills.

*Note: with a sample size of only four (4) College Board released practice SAT tests, standard frequency rankings may be variable as more frequency data is added in the future. The difference between being a top-ranking standard and not appearing on a table could be one extra question of a specific skill appearing in an additional practice test.

Digital SAT: Math

🖥️ DIGITAL SAT MATH: Noteworthy Question Types

The total price, in dollars, of renting a vacation home is modeled by the function $f(x) = 2x^2 + 550$, where x is the number of days spent in the home. If a person spends \$600 on the vacation rental, how many days will that person stay in the rental?

Ⓐ 25

Ⓑ 24

Ⓒ 6

Ⓓ 5

What is the minimum value of the following function?

$$f(x) = x^2 - 17$$

A.LE2 – Linear Equations in Two Variables

The graph of $y = 3x - 21$ has a y–intercept at $(0, y)$. What is the value of y?

Ⓐ −3

Ⓑ −21

Ⓒ 21

Ⓓ 7

Line A contains the points $(4, 7)$ and $(−2, 12)$. Which of the following represents the equation of a line that is perpendicular to Line A?

Ⓐ $y = -\frac{5}{6}x + \frac{31}{3}$

Ⓑ $y = -\frac{6}{5}x - 13$

Ⓒ $y = \frac{6}{5}x - 2$

Ⓓ $y = \frac{5}{6}x$

AM.NLE – Nonlinear Equations

How many distinct real solutions does the following equation have?

$$(3x - 1)^2 = -4$$

Ⓐ Zero

Ⓑ Exactly one

Ⓒ Exactly two

Ⓓ Infinitely many

In the equation $16x^2 + bx + 49 = 0$, where b is a constant, which of the following values will result in the equation having more than one real solution?

Ⓐ 56

Ⓑ 24

Ⓒ −56

Ⓓ −60