

# PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



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## Reviewing the new SAT

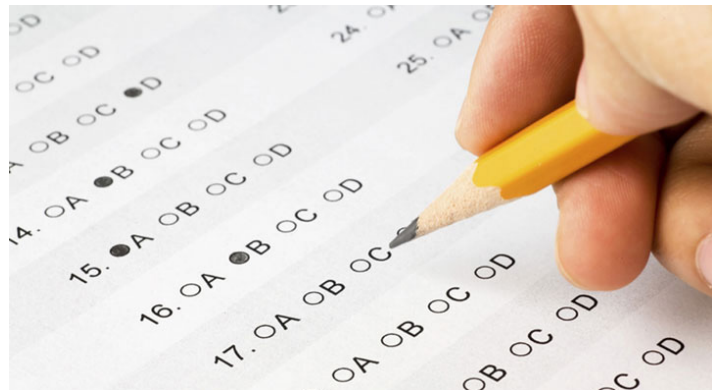
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In March of 2016, the College Board rolled out the new version of the SAT. The change was made after several years of seeing many high school students change from taking the SAT to the ACT. The SAT was originally designed as an aptitude test useful in predicting an individual's ability to learn. However, as colleges became more career-oriented, the SAT evolved into more of an achievement test used to ascertain a person's knowledge in the tested content areas. While the SAT was the preferred test for college admissions for many years, the ACT is also now accepted by colleges and universities and has risen in popularity among students. The success of the ACT caused the College Board to revamp the SAT with its new version and the initial reviews are mixed.

One of the primary changes to the SAT is that the questions are more direct, no longer masked by obscure vocabulary or sentence structure. Another marked change in the revamped SAT is that it will include a graph and chart section similar to the one featured on the ACT. This section allows students who perform well in science and math to showcase their abilities and hopefully attain a higher overall score. In addition to these changes, students may notice the new SAT is more reading-centric. After reading lengthy passages, students are asked questions regarding the passages and will be required to choose textual evidence to support their answers. This change allows students to demonstrate a greater understanding of the text. Similarly, vocabulary is no longer tested by analogies but within the context of a passage. Additionally, the SAT no longer penalizes students for wrong answers. This change should be familiar to students who have taken the ACT. Another significant change is in scoring. The new SAT returns to a score range of 400-1600 as most of us remember from years ago. In recent years, the test added a third, 800 point writing section where a student's overall score could range from 600-2400. The writing section is still optional but not included in the 400-1600 score and not used by most colleges and universities.

The early feedback on the new SAT is varied. While it appears the new version may be more beneficial to students in the long run, many students are hesitant to take the test during these early years, assuming it may take several administrations for flaws to be discovered and corrected. The College Board, however, reports that the class of 2017 was the largest

in history to take the SAT, and students preferred the new test to the old one by a six to one margin. Many students still prefer to take both the SAT and ACT at least once to see which they score better on, then focus on improving that one test score.



Many families seek private tutoring to improve their child's standardized test scores and see varying improvements. Khan Academy now offers free SAT preparations for students. Below you will find a link to Khan Academy and other articles which may provide additional information for students and parents as they decide which is best suited for their situation.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>  
<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>  
<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-changes>  
<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865652251/The-reviews-are-in-for-the-new-SAT--and-theyre-mixed.html>