



WCPS PSAT/SAT Family Information

Agenda

- Why the changes?
- What are the key changes?
- How does this impact the students' path to college?
- How should students prepare?
 - PSAT
 - SAT
- What does WCPS offer?

The image features a horizontal banner with a light blue background and a darker blue ribbon-like shape in the center. The ribbon contains the CollegeBoard logo (a white acorn) on the left, followed by the text "CollegeBoard" in white. To the right of "CollegeBoard" is a white plus sign, followed by a small green leaf icon and the text "KHANACADEMY" in white. The banner is decorated with scattered confetti in shades of blue, green, and orange. The ribbon has a folded end on the right side.

CollegeBoard + KHANACADEMY

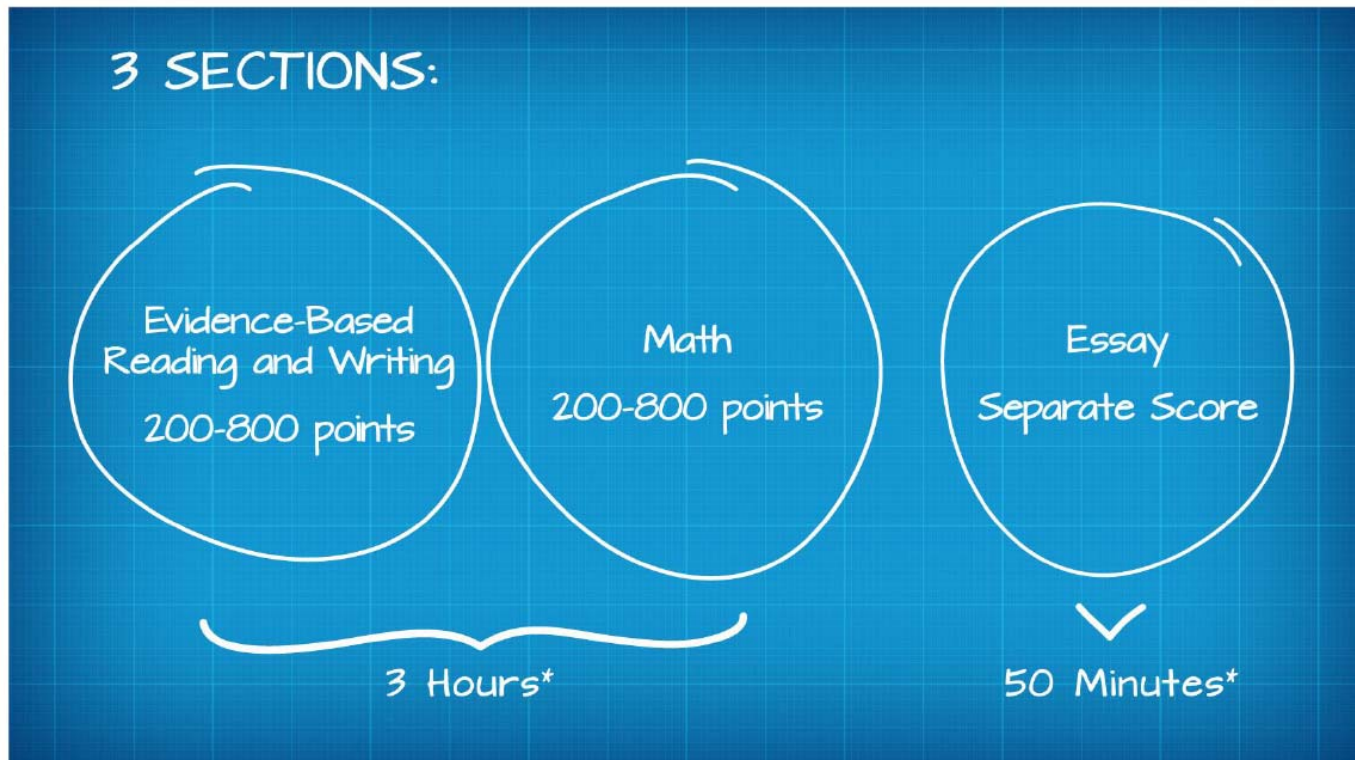
Why?

Aligned with

- Skills to be successful in college
- Common Core Instruction
- PARCC

Key Changes

About the Redesigned SAT



**Please note: All time limits are tentative and subject to research.*

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8 Key Changes to the SAT



**Relevant words
in context**



**Command of
evidence**



**Essay analyzing a
source**



**Math focused on
three key areas**



**Problems grounded in
real-world contexts**



**Analysis in science
and social studies**



**Founding documents
and great global
conversation**



**No penalty for
wrong answers**

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8 Key Changes to the SAT



Relevant words in context

Students will need to:

- ▶ Interpret meaning based on context
- ▶ Master relevant vocabulary
- ▶ Engage in close reading

8 Key Changes to the SAT



Command of evidence

Students will be asked to:

- ▶ Interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources
- ▶ Support the answers they choose
- ▶ Integrate information conveyed through both reading passages and informational graphics

8 Key Changes to the SAT

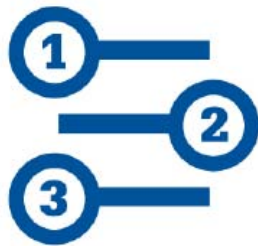


Essay analyzing a source

The redesigned essay will:

- ▶ More closely mirror college writing assignments
- ▶ Cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing
- ▶ Promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing an author's work

8 Key Changes to the SAT



**Math focused on
three key areas**

Current research shows that three key areas most contribute to readiness for college and career training:

- ▶ Problem Solving and Data Analysis (quantitative literacy)
- ▶ Heart of Algebra (mastery of linear equations)
- ▶ Passport to Advanced Math (familiarity with more complex equations)

Math Quick Facts

- ▶ Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
- ▶ Calculators will be allowed on one of the two math sections.
- ▶ Some parts of the test present students with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

8 Key Changes to the SAT



Problems grounded in real-world contexts

Students will engage with questions that:

- ▶ Directly relate to the work performed in college and career
- ▶ Include charts, graphs, and passages likely to be encountered in science, social science, and other majors and careers
- ▶ Feature multistep applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life contexts

SAT

8 Key Changes to the SAT



Analysis in science and social studies

Students will apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts.

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8 Key Changes to the SAT



**No penalty for
wrong answers**

- ▶ One point for each correct answer
- ▶ Zero points for unanswered items
- ▶ Zero points for wrong answers

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The redesigned **PSAT/NMSQT** will mirror the knowledge and skill areas tested by the redesigned SAT.

The 7 key changes of the redesigned **PSAT/NMSQT** are:



Relevant words
in context



Command of
evidence



Math focused on
three key areas



Problems
grounded in
real-world
contexts



Analysis in
Science and
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Founding
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How does this impact the students' path to college?

For admissions and scholarships, colleges look at:

- Academics / Rigor
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Class rank
- SAT / ACT scores
- Extra-curricular activities
- Recommendations
- SAT Subject Tests

How should students prepare?

www.YourFutureStartsNowWCPS.com

- Know your college's requirements
- Access and utilize your score reports
- Attend the WCPS College Fair
 - 10/14/15
 - HCC / ARCC
 - 6:00 pm

Timeline

PSAT / NMSQT – October 14, 2015 (at all schools)

Redesigned SAT – March 2016

(also offered in May and June)

What does WCPS offer?

Equal access for all students

- Quality classroom instruction
- Individualized College and Career Coaching
- Free PSAT administration and score feedback
- After school support
- College Prep Elective
- After school / Saturday SAT Prep
- College Visits

NOTE: See your counselor for a fee waiver if eligible.

Contacts

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