Comparing the Redesigned SAT (rSAT) and ACT

| | | 0 1047 | 4.07 | D. L. L. LCATA | PSAT | | |
|----------|-------------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------|---|
| | | Current SAT | ACT | Redesigned SAT* | Current | PSAT 10* | Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT* |
| Scoring | Administration | Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Mar, May, Jun Last Administration: Jan 2016 | Sep, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun | Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Mar, May, Jun First Administration: Mar 2016 | Retired | March 2016 | October 2015 |
| | Length | 3 hours 45 minutes | 2 hours 55 minutes + 30 minute Essay (optional) | 3 hours + 50 minute Essay (optional) | 2 hrs 10 min | TBD | 2 hrs 45 min |
| | Total Range | 600-2400 | 1-36 (Composite) | 400-1600 | 60-240 | 320-1520 | 320-1520 |
| | Section Range | 200-800 | 1-36 | 200-800 | 20-80 | 160-760 | 160-760 |
| | Essay | 2-12 (1-6 from 2 readers) Incorporated into Writing score | 2-12 (1-6 from 2 readers) Combined as an English/Writing score | 2-8 (1-4 from 2 readers) Separated scores, and in 3 different categories | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Subscores | No | Yes | Yes | No | TBD | Yes |
| | Cross-Test Scores | No | No | Yes | No | TBD | Yes |
| | Answer Choices | 5 | 4 or 5 (math only) | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| | Incorrect Answers | 1/4 point deduction | No deduction | No deduction | 1/4 point deduction | No deduction | No deduction |
| Sections | Count | 10 | 4 | TBD | 5 | TBD | TBD |
| | Minutes | 25, 20, and 10 | 60, 45, and 35 | TBD | 30 and 25 | TBD | TBD |
| | Order | Variable | Fixed (English, Math, Reading, Science) | TBD | CR, M, CR M, W | TBD | TBD |
| | Math | 70 min 54 Q's 44 MC Q's, 10 Grid-Ins Calculator Allowed | 60 min 60 Q's 60 MC Q's Calculator Allowed (No Tl-89) | 80 min 57 Q's 45 MCs: 30 w/ and 15 w/o Calc 12 Grid-Ins: 7 w/ and 5 w/o Calc | 50 min 38 Q 28 MC 10 Grid-In Calculator OK | TBD | 70 min 47 Q |
| | Verbal | Critical Reading 70 min 67 Q's Writing 35 min 49 Q's | Reading 35 min 40 Q's English 45 min 75 Q's | Evidence Based Reading 65 min 52 Q's Evidence Based Writing 35 min 44 Q's | CR 50 min 48 Q W 30 min 39 Q | TBD | CR 60 min 47 Q W 35 min 44 Q |
| | Science | No | 35 minutes 40 questions | No | No | No | No |
| | Essay | Required 25 minutes First Section | Optional 30 minutes Last Section | Optional 50 minutes Last Section | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Experimental | Unscored: 1 Section, Critical Reading, Math, or Writing | No | Unscored: 1 Section or Intermixed Items | No | No | No |
| | Essay Prompt | General Prompt On-demand thesis-based response | Topical Prompt relevant to HS students; POV response Fall '15: evaluate multiple perspectives of complex issue | Source Document & Consistent Prompt Analysis of how an author uses evidence to build an argument | N/A | N/A | N/A |

* Provisional Specifications as of 12/2014

