

Table 258. SAT Scores and Characteristics of College-Bound Seniors: 1970 to 2007

[For school year ending in year shown. Data are for the SAT I: Reasoning Tests. SAT I: Reasoning Test replaced the SAT in March 1994. Scores between the two tests have been equated to the same 200-800 scale and are thus comparable. Scores for 1995 and prior years have been recentered and revised]

Type of test and characteristic	Unit	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007
AVERAGE TEST SCORES ¹											
Critical reading, total ²	Point.	537	512	502	509	500	504	505	508	503	502
Male	Point.	536	515	506	514	505	505	507	513	505	504
Female.	Point.	538	509	498	503	496	502	504	505	502	502
Math, total ²	Point.	512	498	492	500	501	506	514	520	518	515
Male	Point.	531	518	515	522	521	525	533	538	536	533
Female.	Point.	493	479	473	480	483	490	498	504	502	499
Writing	Point.	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	497	494
Male	Point.	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	491	489
Female.	Point.	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	502	500
PARTICIPANTS											
Total ³	1,000	(NA)	996	922	977	1,026	1,068	1,260	1,476	1,466	1,495
Male	Percent	(NA)	49.9	48.2	48.3	47.8	46.4	46.2	46.5	46.4	46.4
White	Percent	(NA)	86.0	82.1	81.0	73.0	69.2	66.4	62.3	62.1	60.8
Black	Percent	(NA)	7.9	9.1	7.5	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.6	11.3	11.7
Obtaining scores ¹ of—											
600 or above:											
Critical reading	Percent	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.3	21.9	21.1	22.5	21.4	21.2
Math	Percent	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.4	23.4	24.2	26.5	25.8	24.5
Writing.	Percent	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	18.9	18.4
Below 400:											
Critical reading	Percent	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	17.3	16.4	15.9	15.5	16.6	16.5
Math	Percent	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15.8	16.0	14.7	13.8	14.3	14.8
Writing.	Percent	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	17.8	18.4

NA Not available. X Not applicable. ¹ Minimum score 200; maximum score, 800. ² 1967 and 1970 are estimates based on total number of persons taking SAT. For 2007, based on 1,494,531 test takers. ³ 996 represents 996,000.

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