

Table 258. SAT Scores and Characteristics of College-Bound Seniors: 1967 to 2006

[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	1967	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006
AVERAGE TEST SCORES ¹											
Verbal, total ²	Point. . . .	543	537	512	502	509	500	504	505	508	503
Male	Point. . . .	540	536	515	506	514	505	505	507	513	505
Female	Point. . . .	545	538	509	498	503	496	502	504	505	502
Math, total ²	Point. . . .	516	512	498	492	500	501	506	514	520	518
Male	Point. . . .	535	531	518	515	522	521	525	533	538	536
Female	Point. . . .	495	493	479	473	480	483	490	498	504	502
Writing	Point. . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	497
Male	Point. . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	491
Female	Point. . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	502
PARTICIPANTS											
Total ³	1,000 . . .	(NA)	(NA)	996	922	977	1,026	1,068	1,260	1,476	1,466
Male	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	49.9	48.2	48.3	47.8	46.4	46.2	46.5	46.4
White	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	86.0	82.1	81.0	73.0	69.2	66.4	62.3	62.1
Black	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	7.9	9.1	7.5	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.6	11.3
Obtaining scores ¹ of—											
600 or above:											
Verbal	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.3	21.9	21.1	22.5	21.4
Math	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.4	23.4	24.2	26.5	25.8
Writing	Percent . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	18.9
Below 400:											
Verbal	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	17.3	16.4	15.9	15.5	16.6
Math	Percent . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15.8	16.0	14.7	13.8	14.3
Writing	Percent . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	17.8

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 2006, critical reading based on 1,377,000 test takers. ³ 996 represents 996,000.

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