

**Table 258. SAT Scores and Characteristics of College-Bound Seniors: 1970 to 2008**

[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	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>AVERAGE TEST SCORES <sup>1</sup></b>											
Critical reading, total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Point. . . . .	537	502	509	500	504	505	508	503	502	502
Male . . . . .	Point. . . . .	536	506	514	505	505	507	513	505	504	504
Female. . . . .	Point. . . . .	538	498	503	496	502	504	505	502	502	500
Math, total <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Point. . . . .	512	492	500	501	506	514	520	518	515	515
Male . . . . .	Point. . . . .	531	515	522	521	525	533	538	536	533	533
Female. . . . .	Point. . . . .	493	473	480	483	490	498	504	502	499	500
Writing . . . . .	Point. . . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	497	494	494
Male . . . . .	Point. . . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	491	489	488
Female. . . . .	Point. . . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	502	500	501
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>											
<b>Total <sup>3</sup> . . . . .</b>	<b>1,000 . . . . .</b>	<b>(NA)</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>1,519</b>
Male . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	48.2	48.3	47.8	46.4	46.2	46.5	46.4	46.4	46.4
White . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	82.1	81.0	73.0	69.2	66.4	62.3	62.1	60.8	59.8
Black . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	9.1	7.5	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.6	11.3	11.7	12.1
Obtaining scores <sup>1</sup> of—											
600 or above:											
Critical reading . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.3	21.9	21.1	22.5	21.4	21.2	21.0
Math . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20.4	23.4	24.2	26.5	25.8	24.5	25.0
Writing. . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	18.9	18.4	18.3
Below 400:											
Critical reading . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	17.3	16.4	15.9	15.5	16.6	16.5	17.0
Math . . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15.8	16.0	14.7	13.8	14.3	14.8	15.0
Writing. . . . .	Percent . . . . .	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	17.8	18.4	18.5

NA Not available. X Not applicable. <sup>1</sup> Minimum score, 200; maximum score, 800. <sup>2</sup> 1970 estimates based on total number of persons taking SAT. For 2008, based on 1,518,859 test takers. <sup>3</sup> 922 represents 922,000.

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