

TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



SAT REASONING & SAT SUBJECT TEST REPORT OCTOBER, 2008

SAT INFORMATION

The following changes took effect in the March 2005 SAT administration:

- ❖ A student-written essay was added
- ❖ Analogies were eliminated
- ❖ Shorter reading passages were added
- ❖ New content from third-year college preparatory math was included
- ❖ Quantitative Comparisons were eliminated

2008-09 SAT Fee Schedule

The 2008-09 SAT Reasoning Test fee is \$45.

The 2008-09 SAT Subject Test fee is \$20 (without the listening component for language tests) and \$40 (with the listening component for language tests).

Students from lower-income families, that meet fee-waiver eligibility guidelines and cannot afford test fees, can request fee waivers.

Test Duration

The total testing time for the SAT is 3 hours and 45 minutes, not including breaks, check-in time, and pre-administration activities. Test takers should plan on being at the test center for approximately five hours.

SAT Reasoning Test Scoring

The SAT Reasoning Test has three sections and each section is scored on a scale of 200 to 800. Therefore, one's total/composite score includes writing (W 200-800), mathematics (M 200-800), and critical reading (CR 200-800).

Two subscores are given for the writing section: a multiple-choice subscore on a scale of 20-80, and an essay subscore on a scale of 2-12.

Percentiles compare a student's scores to those of other students who took the test. Say, for example, one's critical reading score is 500. If the national percentile for a score of 500 is 47, then this means the student did better than 47 percent of the national group of college-bound seniors.

Percentiles are based on the most recent scores earned by students in the previous year's graduating class who took SAT tests anytime during high school. For the SAT Reasoning Test, percentiles are given both for the nation and for your state. One's percentile therefore changes depending on the group with which his/her scores are compared. Because the national group is larger and more diverse than the state group, one's national and state percentiles may differ.

SAT Subject Test Scoring

All currently administered Subject Test scores are reported on a scale from 200 to 800, with Subject Test subscores being reported on a scale from 20 to 80. Reading and listening subscores are reported for all Language Tests with Listening, and a usage

subscore is also reported for the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean tests. One's scores tell college admission staff how you did compared with other students who took the test.

Detailed Results

All test takers have access to a free, more detailed, online score report on collegeboard.com. The online report allows one to obtain a copy of his/her essay.

Beginning in fall 2007, the SAT online score report reveals more detailed information about one's performance on each section of the SAT Reasoning Test. Specifically, students can obtain the types of questions, level of difficulty, and how many in each group of questions they answered correctly, incorrectly, or omitted. Percentile information has also been enhanced to provide better comparisons with other groups of test takers.

For certain test dates, the Question-and-Answer Service (QAS) is available for a fee. The QAS allows one to see the actual questions and correct answers, as well as whether he/she answered correctly, incorrectly, or omitted the question. QAS includes information on question types and levels of difficulty.

For all other test dates, Student Answer Service (SAS) is available. SAS does not provide the actual questions, but it does send the test taker a list of question types and difficulty levels, along with a description of how he/she answered the questions.

SAT REASONING TEST

The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills one needs for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems.

The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. It is administered seven times a year.

Each section of the SAT Reasoning Test is scored on a scale of 200-800, with two writing subscores for multiple-choice and the essay.

The SAT includes several different question types, including: a student-produced essay, multiple-choice questions, and student-produced responses (grid-ins).

In addition to the three sections including critical reading, mathematics, and writing, there is one 25-minute section that is utilized to ensure that the SAT continues to be a fair and valid test. This may be a critical reading, mathematics, or writing multiple-choice section. This unscored section is used to try out new questions for future editions of the SAT. It also ensures that scores on new editions of the SAT are comparable to scores on earlier editions of the test.

I. The Critical Reading Section

Time	Content	Item Types	Score
70 min. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	Critical reading and sentence-level reading	Reading comprehension, sentence completions, and paragraph-length critical reading	200-800

The critical reading section, formerly known as the verbal section, includes short reading passages along with the existing long reading passages. Analogies have been eliminated, but sentence-completion questions and passage-based reading questions remain.

The critical reading section measures:

- ✓ Sentence Completions
- ✓ Passage-Based Reading

II. The Mathematics Section

Time	Content	Item Types	Score
70 min. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, and data analysis	Five-choice multiple-choice questions and student-produced responses	200-800

The SAT includes mathematics topics from up through a third-year college preparatory course, such as exponential growth, absolute value, and functional notation. It also places emphasis on such topics as linear functions, manipulations with exponents, and properties of tangent lines. Important skills such as estimation and number sense are measured through the multiple-choice and student response (grid-in) questions (formerly measured in the quantitative comparison format).

Students can use a four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator. The College Board recommends that students use at least a scientific calculator for the SAT, although it's still possible to solve every question without a calculator.

The math section has two types of questions:

- ✓ Multiple Choice
- ✓ Student-Produced Response Questions

III. The Writing Section

Time	Content	Item Types	Score
60 min.	Grammar, usage, and word choice	Multiple choice questions (35 min.) and student-written essay (25 min.)	200-800

The writing section includes both multiple-choice questions and a direct writing measure in the form of a short essay.

Short Essay: The short essay measures one's ability to:

- ✓ Organize and express ideas clearly
- ✓ Develop and support the main idea
- ✓ Use appropriate word choice and sentence structure

Test takers are asked to develop a point of a view on an issue, using reasoning and evidence based on his/her own experiences, readings, or observations to support ideas.

The essay is scored by trained high school and college teachers. Each reader gives the essay a score from 1 to 6 (6 is the highest score) based on the overall quality of the essay and the demonstrated writing competence.

Multiple-Choice: The multiple-choice writing questions measure one's ability to:

- ✓ Improve sentences and paragraphs
- ✓ Identify errors (such as diction, grammar, sentence construction, subject-verb agreement, proper word usage, and wordiness)

Five-Year Trend Analysis of SAT Reasoning Test Results

(scores reported below are mean scores)

SAT RESULTS 2008				
	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
TRSHS	516	505	541	201
State	514	513	525	61,295
Nation	502	494	515	1,518,859

SAT Score Distribution 2008			
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
700-800	9	14	7
600-699	36	51	29
500-599	67	64	63
400-499	69	56	77
300-399	19	14	25
200-299	1	2	0

SAT Results 2008: Tantasqua Versus Area Schools				
School	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
Tantasqua	516	505	541	201
State	514	513	525	61,295
Nation	502	494	515	1,518,859
Auburn				
Bartlett				
David Prouty				
Grafton				
Leicester				
Millbury				
Northbridge				
Oxford				
Quaboag				
Shepherd Hill				
Southbridge				
Uxbridge				
Quabbin				
Wachusett				

SAT RESULTS 2007				
	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
TRSHS	516	508	534	200
State	513	511	522	60,962
Nation	502	494	515	1,494,531

SAT Score Distribution 2007			
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
700-800	9	11	4
600-699	28	45	31
500-599	80	75	73
400-499	60	49	67
300-399	21	17	23
200-299	2	3	2

SAT Results 2007: Tantasqua Versus Area Schools				
School	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
Tantasqua	516	508	534	200
State	513	511	522	60,962
Nation	502	494	515	1,494,531
Auburn	499	489	516	138
Bartlett	462	453	463	91
David Prouty	494	470	500	113
Grafton	505	508	519	156
Leicester	487	482	481	107
Millbury	498	490	507	116
Northbridge	490	488	493	115
Oxford	492	485	478	92
Quaboag	501	488	502	65
Shepherd Hill	501	506	507	218
Southbridge	440	445	470	47
Uxbridge	490	490	500	103
Quabbin	515	498	515	189
Wachusett	534	530	545	403

SAT RESULTS 2006				
	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
TRSHS	515	505	534	157
State	513	510	524	59,529
Nation	503	497	518	1,465,744

SAT Score Distribution 2006			
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
700-800	2	2	2
600-699	29	45	24
500-599	59	58	60
400-499	52	41	54
300-399	12	10	11
200-299	3	1	5

SAT Results 2006: Tantasqua Versus Area Schools				
School	Critical Reading	Writing	Math	Test Takers
Tantasqua	515	505	534	157
State	513	510	524	59,529
Nation	503	497	518	1,465,744
Auburn	479	484	494	112
Bartlett	463	456	483	63
David Prouty	507	484	533	99
Grafton	542	535	564	78
Leicester	487	482	485	85
Millbury	503	502	518	81
Nothbridge	516	503	519	103
Oxford	471	463	466	94
Quaboag	501	487	485	67
Shepherd Hill	511	510	525	236
Southbridge	465	466	475	68
Uxbridge	504	490	510	98
Quabbin	508	495	517	152
Wachusett	534	533	554	344

SAT RESULTS 2005				
	Verbal	Writing	Math	Test Takers
TRSHS	530	N/A	545	153
State	520	N/A	527	61,847
Nation	508	N/A	520	1,575,979

SAT RESULTS 2004				
	Verbal	Writing	Math	Test Takers
TRSHS	530	N/A	547	165
State	518	N/A	523	56,487
Nation	508	N/A	518	1,419,007

Summary/Action Plan:

- ✓ Years 2005-2008 witnessed a growing number of TRHS students participating in the SAT administration, indicating that an increasing number of students have post-secondary intentions.
- ✓ TRHS student test takers continue to outperform the national mean scores in the verbal (critical reading), writing, and mathematics sections of the SAT Reasoning Test, despite the fact that a greater number of students are taking the SAT.
- ✓ A greater number of TRHS students take the SAT, which may be attributable to the fact that we administer the PSAT to all 10th and 11th grade students and have done so for the past three years.
- ✓ While TRHS student test takers outperform the national mean score in the writing section of the SAT Reasoning Test, but do not exceed the state mean writing score.
- ✓ TRHS students are taught the writing process focusing on reviewing, editing, and rewriting, which does not assimilate to the writing component featured on the SAT. The writing section of the SAT features a 25-minute block of time allocated for offering a response.
- ✓ TRHS student test takers outperform the state in the critical reading and mathematics sections of the SAT.
- ✓ Based on the mean scores, it is evident that the mathematics curriculum reflects the standards tested.

- ✓ **Of all the 296 juniors enrolled in math courses during the 2007-08 school year, 30 were enrolled in math courses at the standard, non-college prep level. Two years prior, the same student cohort had 109 students taking courses at the standard, non-college prep level. This reflects a 70% increase in student migration from standard, non-college prep courses to college prep courses. The 79 students represented in the migration position themselves as college-bound and therefore take the SATs.**

- ✓ The data confirms that the Mathematics Department continues to prepare students for success in the post-secondary arena.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

What's the difference between the SAT and Subject Tests?

The SAT measures the critical thinking skills one needs for academic success in college. It assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems. SAT scores are used for college admission purposes because the test predicts college success.

SAT Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are one-hour, multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. Subject Tests measure knowledge or skills in a particular subject and serve as an indicator of one's ability to apply that knowledge. Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language.

The tests are independent of any particular textbook or method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year.

Many colleges use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Used in combination with other background information (i.e., high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations), they provide a dependable measure of a student's academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance.

Subject tests, which are all one-hour in length and are in multiple-choice format, fall into five general subject areas:

- ✓ English: Literature
- ✓ History & Social Studies: U.S. History; World History
- ✓ Mathematics: Level 1 (formerly IC covering Algebra I & II and Geometry); Level 2 (formerly IIC covering greater than 3 years of college prep math coursework)
- ✓ Science: Biology E/M; Chemistry; Physics
- ✓ Languages: Chinese with Listening; French; French with Listening; German; German with Listening; Spanish; Spanish with Listening; Modern Hebrew; Italian; Latin; Japanese with Listening; Korean with Listening

Eight-Year Trend Analysis of SAT Subject Test Results

English Literature

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	614	602	594	192	9	5%
2002	577	604	591	209	6	3%
2003	588	602	591	207	13	6%
2004	597	609	590	199	16	8%
2005	614	608	589	198	12	6%
2006	593	607	583	217	13	6%
2007	649	608	581	231	13	6%
2008	610	610	580	228	21	9%

U.S. History

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	536	584	587	192	9	5%
2002	582	592	590	209	12	6%
2003	603	590	589	207	15	7%
2004	567	618	603	199	10	5%
2005	629	613	599	198	17	9%
2006	581	622	601	217	21	10%
2007	575	613	588	231	13	6%
2008	606	627	597	228	14	6%

World History

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001						
2002	568					
2003						
2004						
2005		610	590	198	1	1%
2006		606	585	217	1	1%
2007		612	589		3	
2008						

Mathematics Level 1

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	617	589	586	192	22	11%
2002	635	595	588	209	30	14%
2003	640	600	590	207	22	11%
2004	633	602	586	199	31	16%
2005	643	602	586	198	28	14%
2006	606	602	593	217	25	12%
2007	654	607	596	231	14	6%
2008	649	609	599	228	23	10%

Mathematics Level 2

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	695	658	660	192	12	6%
2002	630	651	659	209	11	5%
2003	727	657	662	207	7	3%
2004	677	670	669	199	14	7%
2005		673	670	198		
2006		670	644	217	4	2%
2007	668	670	639	231	10	4%
2008	679	677	644	228	16	7%

Biology – Ecological

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001		573	586	192		
2002	524	602	619	209	5	3%
2003		582	588	207		
2004	484	586	584	199	5	3%
2005		591	595	198		
2006		604	591	217	4	2%
2007		607	589	231	4	2%
2008	622	617	593	228	5	2%

Biology – Molecular

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	573	601	623	192	7	4%
2002	538	602	619	209	19	9%
2003	581	602	621	207	26	13%
2004	568	598	617	199	43	22%
2005	572	614	627	198	29	15%
2006	581	625	630	217	22	10%
2007	606	634	630	231	15	7%
2008	615	638	630	228	15	7%

Chemistry

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	628	590	609	192	12	6%
2002	593	592	610	209	12	6%
2003	567	593	610	207	14	7%
2004	576	602	612	199	11	6%
2005	591	622	628	198	9	5%
2006	574	626	629	217	12	6%
2007	588	632	630	231	8	4%
2008	619	636	635	228	14	6%

Spanish

	TRHS	MA	NATION	ACADEMIC DIVISION	TRHS # PARTICIPANTS	TRHS % PARTICIPANTS
2001	523	570	595	192	6	4%
2002		574	608			
2003	532	581	616	207	6	3%
2004		593	622			
2005		602	636			
2006		616	634	217	2	1%
2007				231	2	1%
2008						

Summary/Action Plan:

- ✓ As opposed to the skill-based English and math SAT subject tests, the U.S. History SAT subject test is more fact-based and many students opt to take skill-based tests instead.
- ✓ Students earning an 85% or higher in Honors Biology should be encouraged to take the Biology SAT subject test.

- ✓ TRHS students fell short of the state and national means in the Biology subject test because they're competing with students who have taken two or more years of Biology.
- ✓ Review of individual students' test scores on the Chemistry subject test reveal that AP and honors level students did, in fact, exceed both the state and national mean. CP level students who took the Chemistry subject test fell short of the state and national mean.
- ✓ Some students enrolled in a science course during the first semester wait approximately five months before taking the corresponding SAT subject test(s) in June. Some students do take the corresponding subject test(s) in January, however.
- ✓ Students should be encouraged to retake exams after completing Anatomy & Physiology, AP Biology, and/or Environmental Studies.
- ✓ Based on participation analysis, students taking the U.S. History subject test are not particularly strong math or English students and most likely take the U.S. History subject test for admissions purposes without a particular interest of aptitude for the subject.
- ✓ TRHS consistently scores above the national mean in English Literature.
- ✓ TRHS has historically fallen short of the state mean on the English Literature subject test; however, TRSHS English Literature SAT subject test takers scored well above the state mean in 2007.