

A widely used standardized test is the **SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)**, primarily for college admissions in the United States. The SAT is administered under strict, uniform conditions to ensure fairness, and it measures skills in **Reading and Writing** and **Math** through multiple-choice and adaptive modules. The digital SAT uses a **multistage adaptive design**, meaning the difficulty of the second module depends on performance in the first. Scores range from **400 to 1600**, combining two section scores (200–800 each). Raw scores (number of correct answers) are converted into scaled scores using **equating**, which ensures fairness across different test versions and dates. There is no penalty for wrong answers, encouraging students to attempt all questions.

Strengths:

- Provides a **consistent benchmark** for comparing students across schools and regions.
- Efficient for large-scale assessment and widely recognized by colleges.
- Skills tested (reading, reasoning, math) align with college readiness

Weaknesses:

- May **favor students with access to test prep**, creating equity concerns.
- Can induce **high-stakes stress** and narrow learning to “teaching to the test.”
- Does not fully measure creativity, practical skills, or long-term academic success.