

REASONS TO TAKE IT

- If you want to apply to super competitive schools (like the Ivies), you definitely need to take it.
- If your GPA is on the low side, but you tend to do well on tests, the SAT can be your chance to showcase your academic ability in a way not reflected in your transcript.
- If you do well on it, you could qualify for various merit scholarships (e.g., the National Merit Scholarship, merit awards from individual colleges).
- It just got a bit easier: the College Board recently announced that they would be eliminating the essay portion on the SAT. One less thing to study for!
- A good way to build your vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, which will be useful in college classes.

REASONS TO NOT TAKE IT

- Honestly, it's irrelevant. It's a single test that measures one thing: how well you do on that specific test at a specific moment in time. It is NOT a measure of your general knowledge, ability, or academic potential.
- Many schools don't even require it. Fun fact: there are 900+ test-optional colleges and universities in the US (and this list is expected to grow, as many colleges who adopted test-optional policies due to COVID will most likely keep them moving forward).
- It reinforces financial barriers. Test prep books and classes can be expensive. Also, there's a limited number of fee waivers that qualifying students can get every year. This makes the test generally inaccessible to lower-income students.
- It creates unnecessary stress. Students put a lot of pressure on themselves to do well on the SAT, but the truth is it's not even a key element to getting into a good college.