

The New SAT

- Amber Born

January 23 is your last chance to take the current SAT. So if you plan on doing that, go online to the College Board and register right away, though at this point the only remaining available test center is probably in Kansas.

The SAT is changing, with the redesigned version beginning in March. The scoring scale is different, with a maximum possible score now of 1600 instead of 2400. So if you got a 1600 on the current SAT, just tell everyone that you took the new SAT and they'll think you're a genius.

Unfortunately, the testing room restrictions are likely to be the same for the new SAT. Make sure you still bring snacks, a drink, every (SAT-approved) calculator you own, and at least six forms of identification on testing day. You're technically forbidden from bringing your phone into the testing room, but practically everyone breaks this rule, so your testing room will have a bin for confiscated phones. You'll look more suspicious if you don't bring a phone than if you do. And don't wear a hat. I don't think there's a rule against hats, but hat-wearers are eight times more likely to get in trouble for taking someone else's SAT than non-hat-wearers, according to a statistic that I made up but could easily be part of a math question on the new SAT. "If hat-wearers are eight times more likely to get in trouble for taking someone else's SAT than non-hat-wearers, how many paper cranes can Ayesha and Ishmael make in 1/2 the time it takes the ski team to drive to Atlanta at 30 mph?"

The new SAT has never been seen by the public before, so it won't necessarily be perfect (not that most people's SAT experiences are perfect anyway). PSAT scores from October only came back last Thursday, so I think the Scarily Awful Test administrators might have been working out some details. Like, why was it scored out of 1520? What kind of number is 1520? At least it wasn't 1517. There could be some similar issues with the new SAT. Maybe there will be a typo and they'll have to throw out a certain question, making the maximum score 1590 instead of 1600. Maybe a page that "has been intentionally left blank" will be unintentionally not left blank and everyone will have to take it again.

But don't worry about the new SAT yet. Worry about the current SAT on January 23rd. Actually, don't worry about that, worry about midterms, which are the week after. Speaking of which, could we possibly push midterms back a week so everyone can spend that week recovering from the SAT? Maybe we should all write the College Board and demand they move the January SAT to February. That might be easier than convincing the high school to change things.