# Side-by-side comparison of the Current SAT and the New Digital SAT

| | Current Paper SAT | New Digital SAT |
|---|---|---|
| Test Medium | On Paper | On one's own laptop or test-center administrated laptop |
| Test Duration | 3 hours | 2 hours 14 minutes |
| Test Format | One reading section **(65 min)**<br>One writing section (35 min)<br>One **non-calculator** math section (25 min)<br>One *calculator* math section (55 min) | Two reading/writing sections (27 min each)<br>Two *calculator* math sections (35 min each) |
| Test Navigation | One can skip questions and go back to previous questions within the *current* section. | One can skip questions, **mark\*** questions, and go back to previous questions within the *current* section. |
| Test Scoring | 200-800 on reading/writing<br>200-800 on mathematics<br><br>Scoring is simply based upon the number of questions correct in each section | 200-800 on reading/writing<br>200-800 on mathematics<br><br>Scoring is **adaptive\*\*** |
| Score wait time | About 2 weeks | Within the week |

\*Marking a question as opposed to merely skipping it can help one stay organized. For example, a 'mark' may be used to indicate a skipped question a student feels they *may* be able to tackle later, while a non-marked question may indicate a skipped question that felt very inaccessible to the student.

\*\*Adaptive scoring means that section 1 (of either reading/writing or of math) determines a broad assessment and Section 2 'fine tunes' according to this scheme:
- Answering fewer than 50% of Section 1 questions correctly will initiate an *easier* Section 2 that allows a final score in the range of approximately 200 to 570.
- Answering more than 50% of Section 1 questions correctly will initiate a *harder* Section 2 that allows a final score in the range of approximately 450 to 800.