SAT

Spring 2025

SAT WEEKEND

Understanding Scores

For Students and Families

SAT Score Resources

Congratulations to your student for taking the SAT® Weekend. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for students and their families.

What's Included

This document delves deeper into the meaning of your student's scores, including what the assessment measures, how it is scored, and how students and their families can use the data to monitor their progress. The document also provides a sample PDF score report walk-through so you can interpret your student's score reports.

Related Resources

Visit **our website** to find information about:

- Score release dates
- Managing access to online scores
- Resources for online score reports
- Downloadable Understanding Scores for Students and Families documents

Contacts for Students and Parents

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

sat.org/inquiry

866-756-7346

CUSTOMER SERVICE MAILING ADDRESS

College Board SAT Program
P.O. Box 025505
Miami, FL 33102

FOR EDUCATORS

sateducator@collegeboard.org
k12reports@info.collegeboard.org

866-502-6384
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–7 p.m. ET

About College Board

College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at **cb.org**.

The **SAT Suite** of Assessments

How the SAT Suite of Assessments Works

The SAT Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT® and the PSAT™ 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT™ 8/9 (for grades 8 and 9). The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in grade-appropriate ways. They work together to show college readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kind of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in middle school and high school courses taught today.

How the SAT is Organized

The digital SAT Suite uses multistage adaptive testing (MST). Relying on MST means we can fairly and accurately measure the same things with a shorter, more secure test while preserving test reliability. Both the Reading and Writing section and the Math section are divided into 2 equal length and separately timed stages, each composed of a module of questions. The first module contains a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Based on how a student performs on the first module, the second module of questions will either be more difficult or less difficult. By adapting to a student's performance level, the responsive test will provide students with a more efficient assessment of their academic strengths.

How the SAT Is Scored

The SAT Suite uses adaptive test design with item response theory (IRT) pattern scoring. Adaptive testing allows for fewer questions, in less time, than traditional paper tests. Pattern scoring allows for precise measurement of students' knowledge and skills. Students' scores are determined by whether they answer questions right or wrong, and by considering attributes of the questions, including difficulty level, the questions' ability to differentiate between students with various levels of content knowledge, and the probability that a student is guessing based on their pattern of responses. Every test includes a standardized set of question types and measures the same content domains, so all students have equitable opportunity to demonstrate their strengths. For most students who are trying their best on every question, it is better to guess than leave a question blank, especially if the student can eliminate 1 or 2 answer options before guessing.

SAT Scores

SAT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores (2)	Reading and Writing (RW)	200–800
	Math (M)	200–800
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	400–1600

Accessing Official Student Scores

A downloadable PDF called "Your Scores" is provided for every SAT test taker. Students can access this official report in one of two ways:

- Students aged 13 or older can use their College Board student account and go to **studentscores.collegeboard.org** to access their scores online as well as the PDF score report and additional SAT insights.
- Students can review the PDF score report with educators at their school. Schools have access to the downloadable PDFs for their students through the online K–12 score reporting portal.

Using SAT Scores to Understand Scores on Other Assessments

The SAT Suite—from the PSAT 8/9 through the SAT—uses a common score scale for the total and section scores. The ranges reported for each assessment reflect grade-level appropriateness within the common score scale.

This common score scale means that a student who took the SAT and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9 if they had taken any of those tests on that same day; a score of 500 represents the same level of academic achievement on all 4 assessments.

This also means that student growth across the SAT Suite is easy to determine. If a student took the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 last year and received a 500 Math section score, then took the SAT this year and earned a 550 Math section score, that student has shown a growth of 50 points, which likely resulted from hard work both in and out of school.

Overview of the Score Report PDF

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the 3 scores available from their SAT assessment—total score, Reading and Writing section score, and Math section score.

For each score, the official score report PDF also includes:

- The range of possible scores: 400–1600 for total score, and 200–800 for section scores.
- The All Tester Percentile (formally called the "User Percentile") of each score. For example, if a student's score is in the 70th percentile, 70% of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student's score.
- The total and section Average Score of all testers based on all SAT test takers across the last 3 years.

All Tester Percentiles are based on the actual scores of the past 3 cohorts of students who took the SAT in 12th grade for tests completed anywhere in the world.

Score Sends Held

If you see **Score Sends Held** at the top of your score report, it means College Board was unable to confirm a complete set of responses was available when the test was scored. Incomplete responses could negatively affect your scores, and we will not report them to colleges, universities, or scholarship programs unless you contact us to request otherwise.

Individual Score

A student's ability is better represented by score ranges than points. Score ranges are derived from the standard error of measurement and show how much a student's scores would likely vary if they took a different administration of the test under identical conditions.

Knowledge and Skills

Students can view a graphic showing their performance on each of the 8 content areas measured on the SAT. There are 4 content areas in Reading and Writing, and 4 in Math.

In each content area, students can view:

- The approximate number of questions in the content domain and what percentage of the section that represents (e.g., 12–14 Information and Ideas questions would be about 26% of the Reading and Writing section).
- A visual indication of how the student performed in each content domain and the associated score band.

Students can use this section to identify content domains they may want to focus on to practice and improve.

Additional Support

For students attending school in the U.S. and non-U.S. DoDEA schools, the score report includes a Career Insights Snapshot, a list of growing careers in a student's state that connect to their scores. These careers are examples, not recommendations, and can inspire career exploration earlier in high school.

The last section of the score report PDF focuses on next steps the student can take after reviewing their scores. A QR code or link will provide them more information on tools and services related to these next steps, which include reviewing additional insights on their scores, Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy®, and college and career exploration.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

For a detailed breakdown of the score report, see the case study on pages 8–9.

Benchmarks

What the Benchmarks Mean

The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the SAT predict a 75% likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARKS

Reading & Writing	Math
480	530

How to Use Scores

How Students May Send Their Scores

When students register for and take the SAT, they have the ability to designate up to 4 colleges, universities, or scholarship programs to receive their scores for free. If a student wants to change where their scores are sent, they have until 9 days after the SAT Weekend test date to alter their 4 free score reports at no charge.

Sending scores to additional colleges, universities, or scholarship programs can be requested online for a fee (unless the student is eligible for a fee waiver). We share the names of the organizations a student selects for their 4 free score sends with the student's school and district.

When a student requests that we send their scores to the colleges, universities, or scholarship programs they choose, we send their scores, certain demographic information about them, and other information they provide when taking the SAT to those organizations, in accordance with **sat.org/scores**. These organizations may use this information to send students information about admissions, educational, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities. Being contacted by these organizations does not mean a student has been admitted or is eligible for a scholarship or financial aid program. Students must submit an application to be considered for admission at a college or university, and complete any steps required by any scholarship programs to be considered for their opportunities.

In certain college and university systems, once a student submits their score to 1 school, other schools within that system will also have access to their score. Please note, however, that if they are applying to more than 1 school within a college or university system, it is still important for them to send their SAT scores to each individual school. If they are not sure whether the specific school they are applying to is part of such a system, they should contact the school's admissions office.

The scores the student receives and the score reports received by colleges and their high school contain total and section scores. Additional score sends include all their available scores unless they choose otherwise, as explained further in the **SAT Weekend Student Guide**. College Board doesn't use either their raw score or their reported scaled score by itself or in combination with any other information to predict their individual future academic performance at specific postsecondary institutions. However, College Board does help individual colleges and universities use and interpret SAT scores.

How Students and Families May Use Scores

Families can:

- Help your student think of ways to develop each of the skills they have identified for focus and improvement. Khan Academy can help supplement this work, and when your student is ready, they can take practice tests in Bluebook™ and review the results on **My Practice** to learn more about what their practice scores mean.
- Use the career examples to talk about career interests and options with your student.
- Compare your student's scores to the grade-level benchmarks together to understand what those scores mean.
  - If your student is meeting the benchmark for a section, remind them to continue to take rigorous courses and work hard to stay on track for college success.
  - If your student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, work with their teacher to connect them to classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement.

Benchmarks shouldn't be used to assign academic tracks, to discourage students from pursuing college, or to keep students from participating in challenging courses. Rather, the benchmarks are intended to help all students better prepare for life after high school.

How Schools May Use Scores

Through our K–12 score reporting portal, educators can access the official downloadable score report PDF for printing and sharing with the student. Educators can also see additional interpretive insights about the student's results. The PDF, titled *Your Score Report*, (sample shown on page 8) clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can review the official score report PDFs with students to help them understand what their scores mean. Reviewing their scores can also help students see their strengths, which can increase their confidence and help them identify content domains in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

The **SAT** Score Report

A Case Study: Sample SAT Score Report

Take a look at the sample score report below and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret your student's SAT score report.

1 WHAT ARE SOPHIE'S SCORES?

Sophie's Reading and Writing score is 620, and her Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120.

Below her individual scores, she can see a score range, which shows the range of scores she might expect to get if she took the SAT multiple times. She can also see an average score of all testers in any grade who have taken the SAT in the last 3 years.

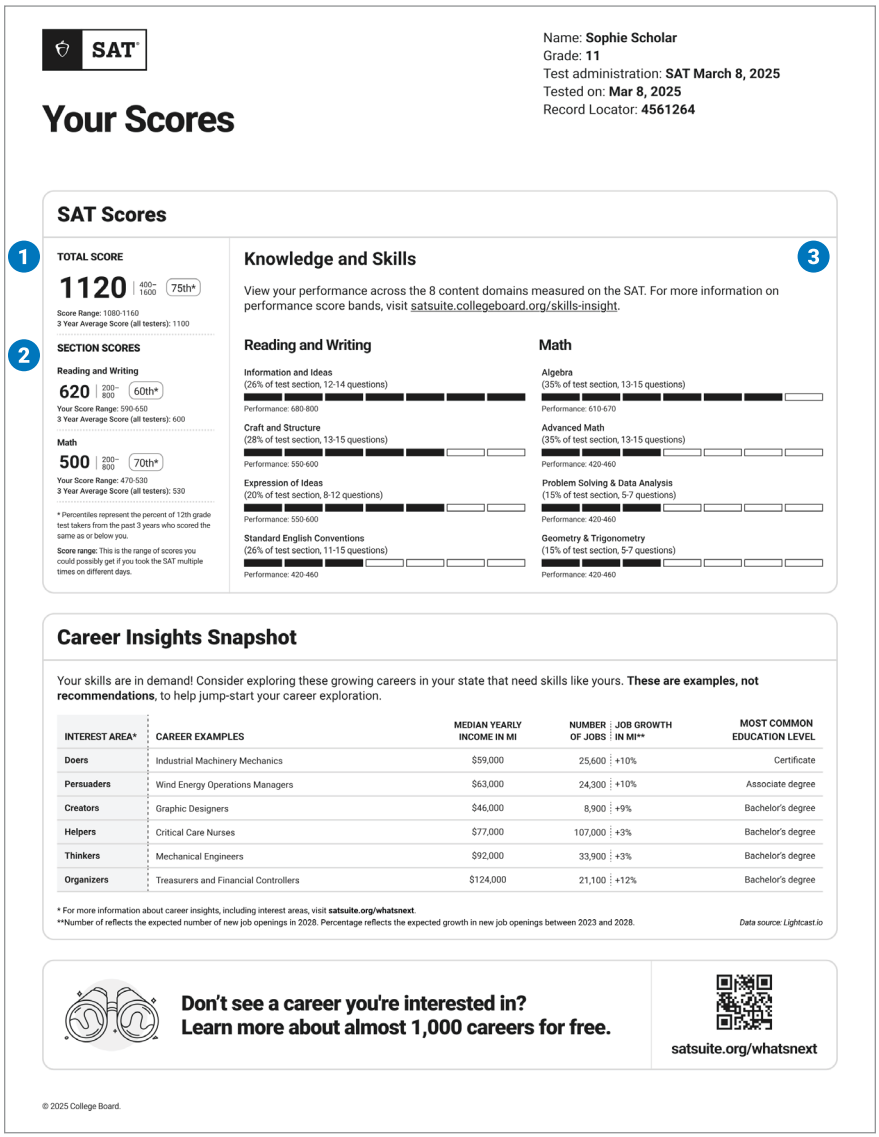
2 WHAT ARE SOPHIE'S SCORE PERCENTILES?

Sophie is in 11th grade, but the percentiles compare her scores with those of all SAT testers in 12th grade from the last 3 years, including all SAT Weekend and in-school administrations. Sophie scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than 60% of all 12th-grade students testing worldwide. In Math, she scored as well or better than 70% of a globally representative group of 12th-grade students testing worldwide. Putting both scores together, Sophie scored as well or better than 75% of students in her grade on the SAT as a whole.

3 WHAT CAN SOPHIE LEARN FROM THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SECTION?

This section shows Sophie a graphical progress bar in each of the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. The filled in part of each progress bar represents Sophie's level of mastery in that content domain, not her actual score. Under each content domain, Sophie can also see what percentage of the test and number of questions cover that domain.

The Performance range below each filled section shows Sophie's score band for that domain. For more information about content domains, visit **satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice/content-domains**.



SAT

Name: **Sophie Scholar**
Grade: **11**
Test administration: **SAT March 8, 2025**
Tested on: **Mar 8, 2025**
Record Locator: **4561264**

Your Scores

SAT Scores

1

TOTAL SCORE

1120 | 400–1600 | 75th*

Score Range: 1080-1160
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 1100

2

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing

620 | 200–800 | 60th*

Your Score Range: 590-650
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 600

Math

500 | 200–800 | 70th*

Your Score Range: 470-530
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 530

* Percentiles represent the percent of 12th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.

Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the SAT multiple times on different days.

Knowledge and Skills 3

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. For more information on performance score bands, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight.

Reading and Writing

- Information and Ideas (26% of test section, 12-14 questions) — Performance: 680-800
- Craft and Structure (28% of test section, 13-15 questions) — Performance: 550-600
- Expression of Ideas (20% of test section, 8-12 questions) — Performance: 550-600
- Standard English Conventions (26% of test section, 11-15 questions) — Performance: 420-460

Math

- Algebra (35% of test section, 13-15 questions) — Performance: 610-670
- Advanced Math (35% of test section, 13-15 questions) — Performance: 420-460
- Problem Solving & Data Analysis (15% of test section, 5-7 questions) — Performance: 420-460
- Geometry & Trigonometry (15% of test section, 5-7 questions) — Performance: 420-460

Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. **These are examples, not recommendations**, to help jump-start your career exploration.

INTEREST AREA*	CAREER EXAMPLES	MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI	NUMBER OF JOBS	JOB GROWTH IN MI**	MOST COMMON EDUCATION LEVEL
Doers	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	$59,000	25,600	+10%	Certificate
Persuaders	Wind Energy Operations Managers	$63,000	24,300	+10%	Associate degree
Creators	Graphic Designers	$46,000	8,900	+9%	Bachelor's degree
Helpers	Critical Care Nurses	$77,000	107,000	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	$92,000	33,900	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	$124,000	21,100	+12%	Bachelor's degree

* For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit **satsuite.org/whatsnext**.
**Number of reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2028. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2023 and 2028.

Data source: Lightcast.io

Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free.

satsuite.org/whatsnext

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Score Report

4 WHAT CAN SOPHIE LEARN FROM THIS CAREER SNAPSHOT?

Since she is based in the U.S., Sophie's score report includes Career Insight examples — helpful information about growing careers in her state that connect to her scores. Whether Sophie sees a career she's curious about or not, the examples can spark her interest in learning more about what careers are out there and key information like median yearly income, expected growth rate for new job openings in her state over the next 5 years, and the most common education level for people in that career. While these might be careers worth watching in Sophie's state, she can learn more about careers that reflect her interests at **satsuite.org/whatsnext**.

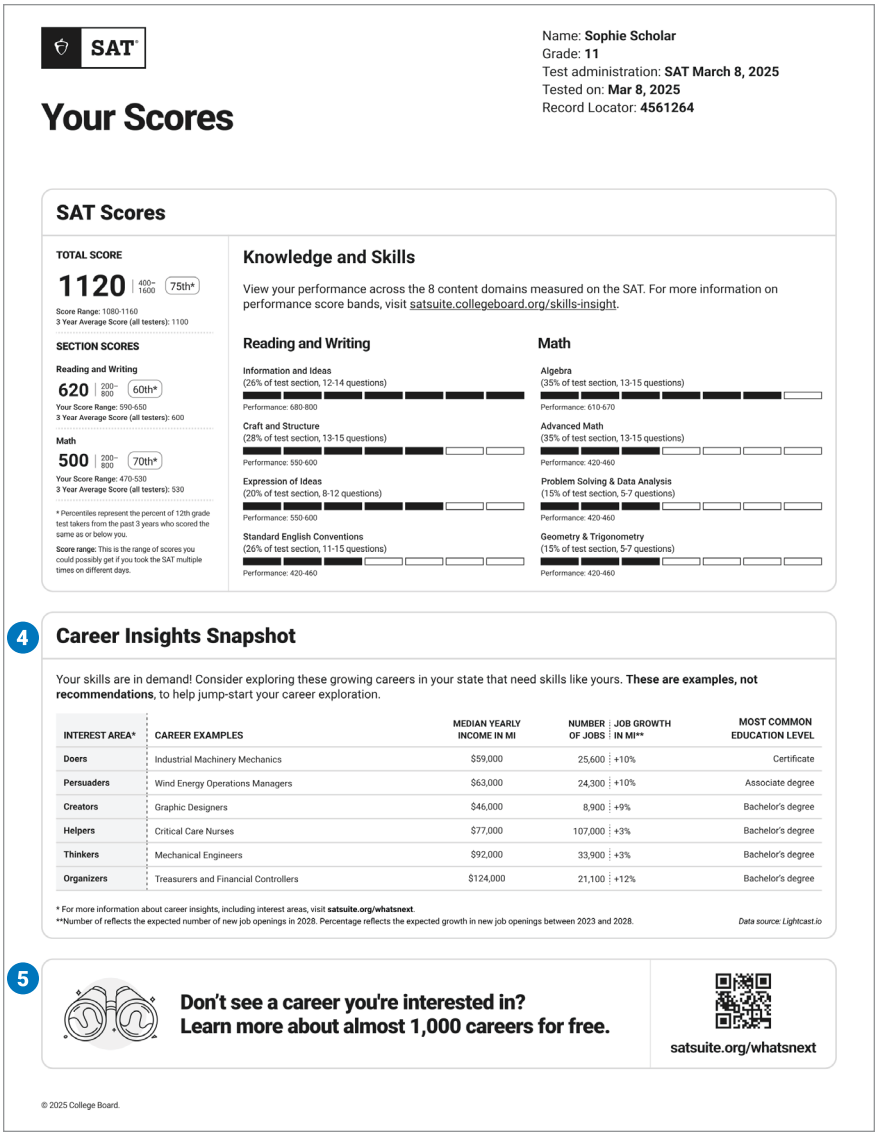
5 HOW CAN SOPHIE LEARN MORE ABOUT HER SCORES?

If she's under age 13, Sophie can talk to her school counselor to see her full score report and learn how to prepare for future assessments in the SAT Suite. If Sophie is age 13 or older, she can also choose to visit **sat.org/myscore** to personally find out this information.

HOW CAN SOPHIE MEASURE HER PROGRESS?

As a student in 11th grade, Sophie may choose to take the SAT again at her school or on another weekend test date if she wants to improve her score.

Sophie can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting **satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice**.



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Data source: Lightcast.io

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satsuite.org/whatsnext

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Score Report

Additional **SAT** Insights

Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the SAT in the online student scores portal at **studentscores.collegeboard.org**.

Putting Scores in Context

SCORE COMPARISONS

Students can gain additional insights into their scores by meeting with their school counselor to review their score report. They can also see more contextual comparisons of their scores in the student scores portal. Students can compare their total and section scores to the average scores of all testers across the last 3 years in their:

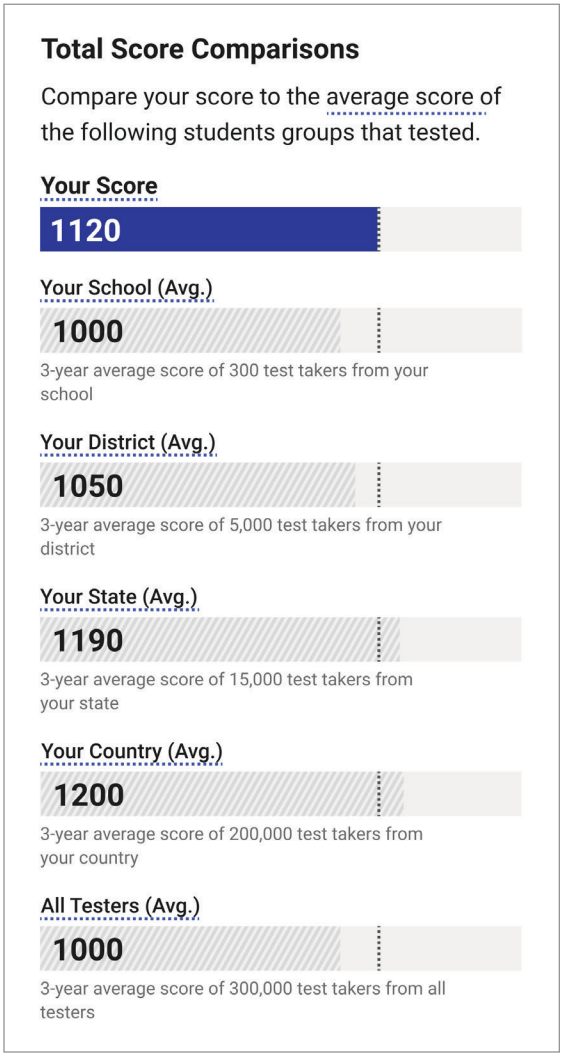
- School (as applicable)
- District (public schools, as applicable)
- State (U.S.-based and territories)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

PERCENTILES

The additional insights provided online include percentiles not provided in the downloadable score report PDF. The percentile ranks include:

- Country (all testers in the student's country)
- State (all testers in the student's state, available for U.S. and U.S. territories only)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

For the percentiles above, the student's score is ranked among SAT testers in the last 3 years, including all weekend and in-school administrations.

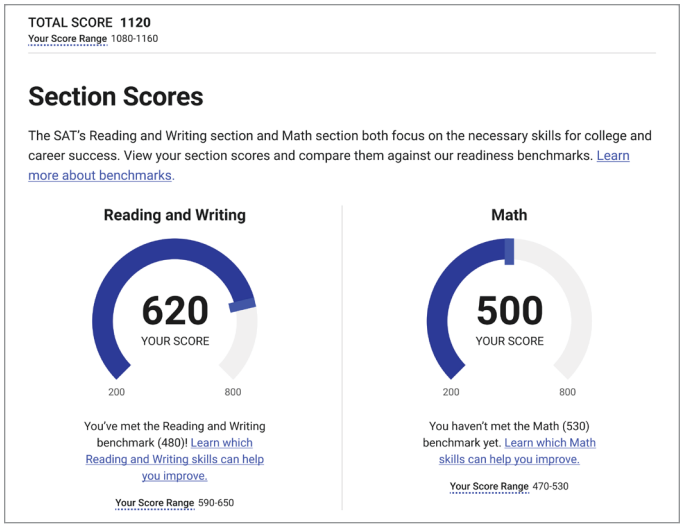


Online score insights

Section Benchmarks

Another set of insights students can view in the online scores portal are the section-level readiness benchmarks. We will indicate if the student has met the section benchmark or not, providing links to resources to help them analyze what skills to focus on for improvement.

Additionally, we show students their score range and provide a link to information about how a score range more accurately reflects their level of knowledge and skills than a single score.



Online score insights

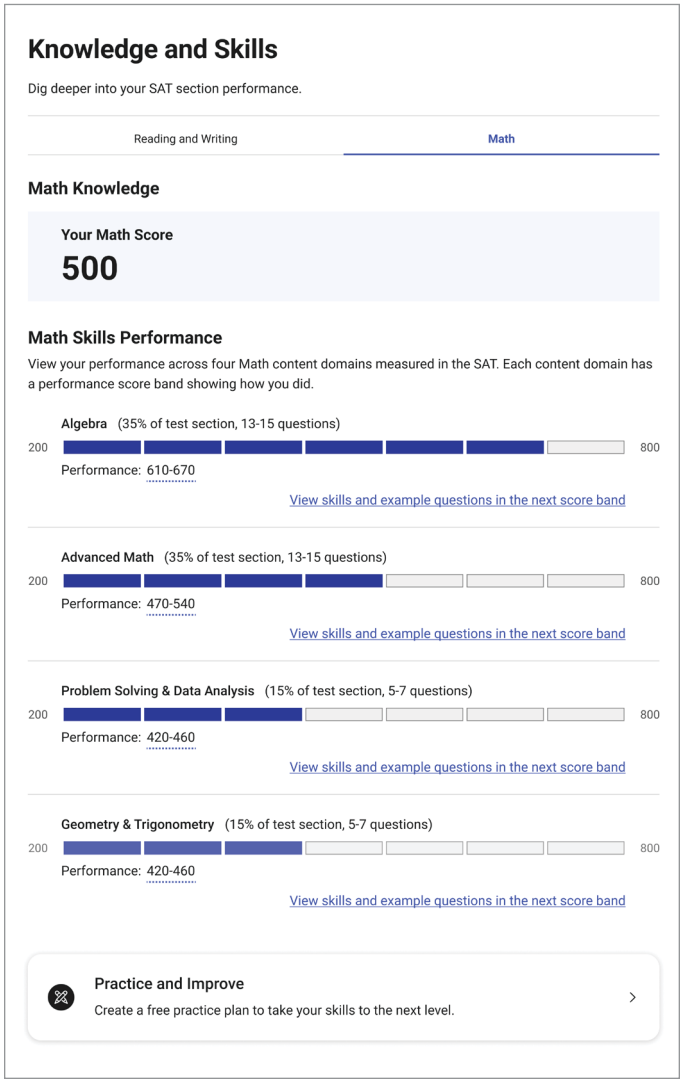
More About Knowledge and Skills

Based on our Skills Insight™ tool, we provide students with a deeper dive into the knowledge and skills measured by the SAT. Students may view a breakdown of their knowledge and skills across 4 content domains in Reading and Writing and 4 content domains in Math.

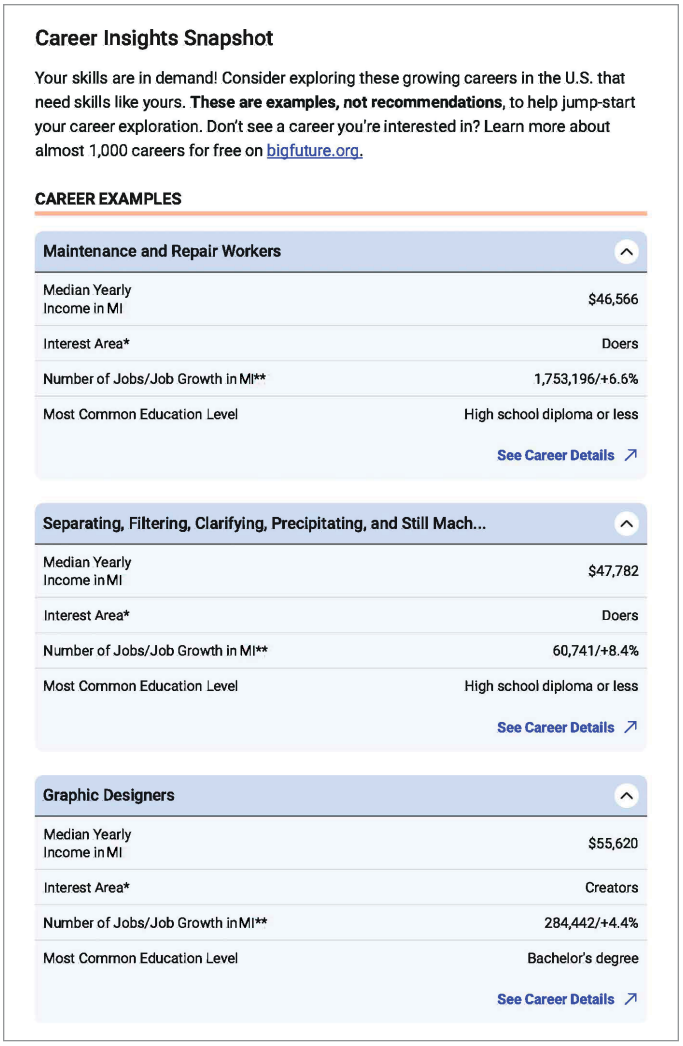
The online insights go further by helping students view their performance across 7 defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each domain.

Students can click **View skills and example questions in the next score band** to access the Skills Insight tool and see skills and example questions that students in the next performance score band are typically able to demonstrate, as well as examples of the kinds of questions that these students are likely able to answer correctly.

Students can navigate to any other performance score band in the Skills Insight tool, including their current performance score band.



Online score insights

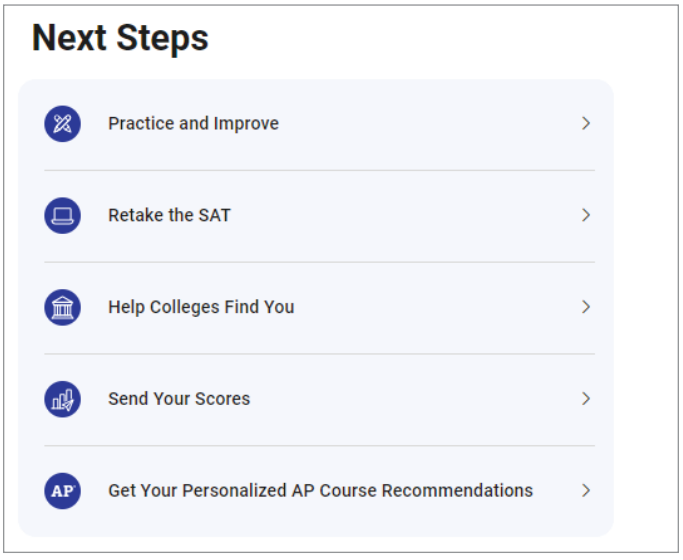


Online score insights

Career Exploration

Available to students attending school in the U.S. and non-U.S. DoDEA schools, the Career Insights Snapshot shows a list of growing careers in a student's state (or nationally for non-U.S. DoDEA schools) that connect to their scores. Students can:

- View even more potential careers online at **bigfuture.org**.
- Explore careers tailored to their interests with Career Quiz.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps on their career path.



Online score insights

Further Guidance

Students can view next steps with linked resources to do more with their score, including:

- Finding practice resources to improve their score.
- Learning more about the SAT Suite of Assessments.
- Planning for their future using their SAT score on BigFuture®.

Next Steps for Students and Parents

View a video walk-through of the score report: **satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores**

Learn more about understanding and using scores: **sat.org/scores**

Connect to scholarships: **collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships**

Practice for the SAT: **satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice**

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