

SAT Scores Stay At Lowest Level In Nearly a Decade

Associated Press

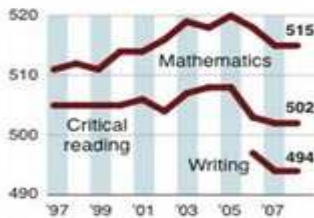
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COLUMBIA, MO. - For a second straight year, SAT scores for the most recent high school graduating class

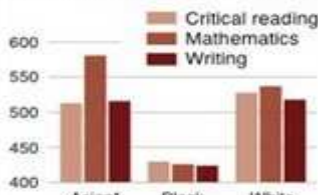
SAT results level

Critical reading, math and writing scores were unchanged from last year's SAT results.

Mean SAT scores



Mean score, by selected ethnicity



*Includes Asian-American and Pacific Islander

SOURCE: The College Board

AP

remained at the lowest level in nearly a decade, a trend attributed to a record number of students now taking the test. "More than ever, the SAT reflects the face of education in this country," said Gaston Caperton, President of the College Board, the not-for-profit educational association that sponsors the SAT and released the results.

The 1.52 million students who took the test is a slight increase from last year but a jump of nearly 30 percent over the past decade. Minority students accounted for 40 percent of test-takers, and 36 percent were the first in their families to attend college. Nearly one in seven had a low enough family income to take the test for free.

The class of 2008 scored an average of 515 out of a possible 800 points on the math section of the college entrance exam, a performance identical to graduating seniors in the previous year. Scores in the critical reading component among last spring's high school seniors also held steady at 502, but the decline over time has been more dramatic: the past two years represent the lowest reading average since 1994, when graduating seniors scored 499.

By comparison, the highest average reading score in recent decades was 530 by the class of 1972, although that score dropped dramatically within five years to near present levels. The latest math average is just five points below the 35-year high of 520, reached three years ago.

Males on average scored four points higher than females on the reading section (504 vs. 500) and 33 points higher in math (533 vs. 500), but females on average outscored their counterparts on the writing test, 501 to 488.

- In appropriate paragraph form, thoroughly summarize the data compiled by Gaston Caperton, President of the College Board, regarding student performance at a national level on the SAT. Compare and contrast the 2008 data with results provided for 1972 and 1994. Identify a series of logical and legitimate explanations for such a dramatic transition in student academic performance. Explain your reasoning and support your response. **(GPS – Grades 6 – 8: MRC a, d)**
- Numerically, approximately how many more students participated in the SAT compared to a decade prior? Amongst the overall SAT participants, identify the difference between the number of minority students and those who represent the first in their families to attend college. As a percentage, how many test-takers had a family income low enough to take the test at no cost? Determine the greatest common factor (GCF) as well as the least common multiple (LCM) between the percentage increase of test-takers since the last decade with minority participants. **(GPS - Grade 6: M6P1 – M6P5; MRC; M6N1a, c, f, g)**
- Given the statistics regarding gender-based performance on reading, math, and writing, translate the verbal phrases into an algebraic expression, define a variable(s), write and solve an equation, and interpret the solution. **(GPS Grade 7: M7P1 – M7P5; MRC; M7A1a; M7A2 a; M7D1g; M8A4a)**
- Using information obtained primarily from the graph above, what inferences may be made regarding the relationship between SAT scores in the content areas of mathematics, critical reading, and writing? Identify the patterns and relationships illustrated in the graph. Interpret and explain the rate of change in mathematics SAT scores. **(GPS Grade 8: M8P1 – M8P5; M8A2d; M8A3a, d, i; M8A5d)**
- Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2008-09 series of *The Daughtry Times*®? Express your answer interchangeably as a fraction, decimal, percentage, and circle graph. **(GPS – Grade 6: M6N1f, g; M6D1c; Grade 7: M7D1f)**
- Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *attributed*, *component*, *dramatically*, *counterparts*, and *entrenched* obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(GPS – Grades 6 –8: MRC a, c, d)**

Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) adapted from georgiastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with the curriculum map and annotated adjacent to the respective grade level inquiry.

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