



New SAT Scoring Advantage

How Much Better Can You
Expect to Do?

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INTRO

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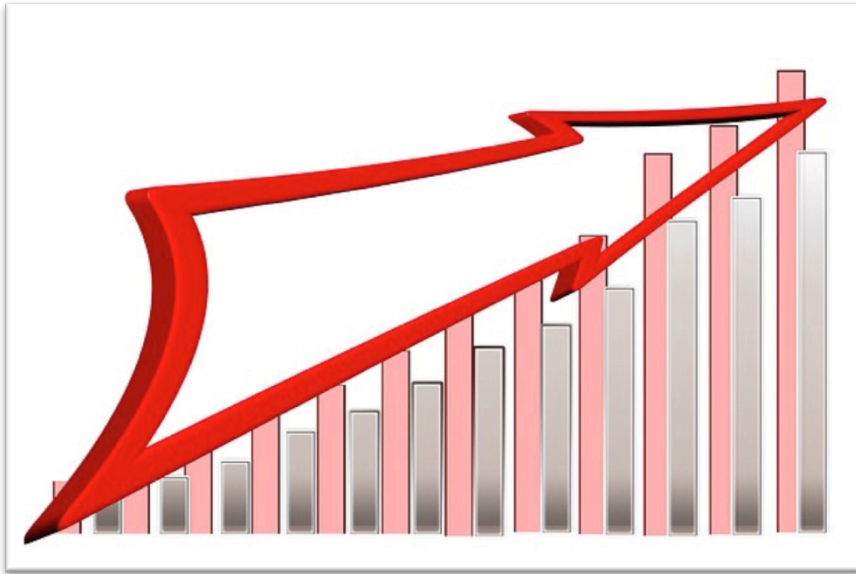


While the new SAT is out of 1600 and the old SAT is out of 2400, the two aren't directly proportional; you can't just multiply your old SAT score by $\frac{2}{3}$ and expect the result to be how you'd do on the new SAT.

The only way to know for sure how you'd do on the new test (besides taking the new SAT exam) is to use the College Board's data to convert your score from old to new SAT. To find out if you'd score higher on the new SAT and why that might be the case, read on!

1: What's Changed?

- > **Key Point:** It's now relatively easier to get a high numerical score on the SAT; how much higher depends on what you were scoring before.



College Board premiered the new SAT March 2016, with a new out-of-1600 scoring system that now gives one out-of-800 Math score and out-of-800 Reading score.

The increased importance of **Math** to the **overall SAT score** isn't all that's changed, however; the difficulty of the individual sections appears to have shifted as well.

Based on data released by the College Board, a 700 on the old SAT Math isn't the same as a 700 on the new SAT Math section. Similarly, a 700 on the old SAT Reading and 700 on SAT Writing isn't the same as a 700 on the new SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

Even after adjusting for the 1600/2400 change, **it's easier to get a higher score on the new SAT than it was on the old SAT, especially if you had an average score.** The amount by which you'd score higher varies with your scoring range.

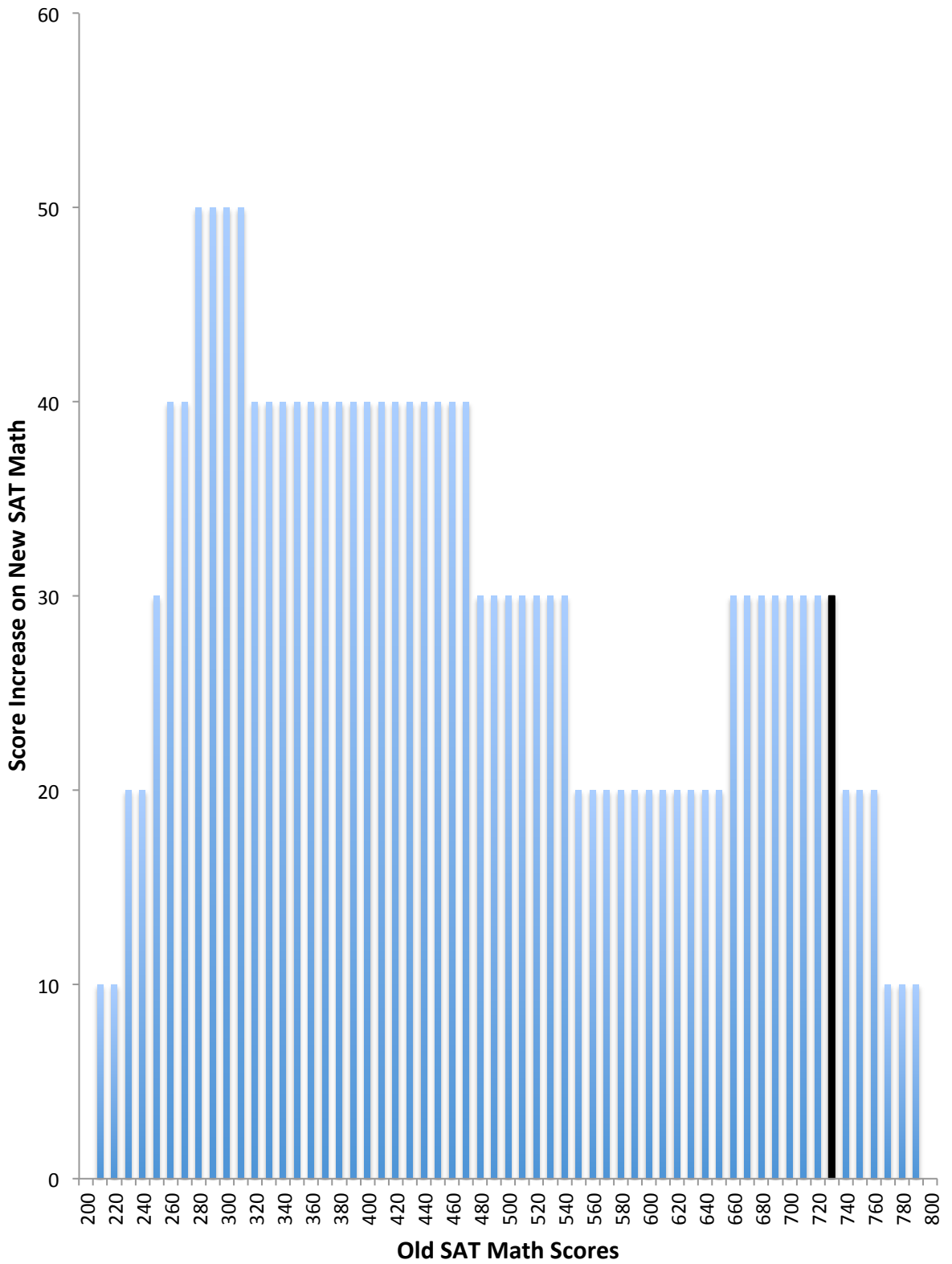
2: Old vs. New SAT Math



The comparison for this section is pretty straightforward: based on the [concordance tables](#) released this spring by the College Board, there's an average **29 point increase on the new SAT Math section** compared to scores on the old version.

This average does not take into account number of people who score at each score point, however; you can't expect score 30 points better no matter what your old SAT score was. The graph on the next page sheds a little more light on the matter.

Old SAT vs. New SAT Math Scores



Here's an example of how the score difference between the old and new SAT Math sections works out: If you got a **730/800 on the old SAT Math section** (shown as a black vertical bar in the graph on the previous page) and took the **new SAT** with exactly the same preparation and skills, you'd likely score a **760/800**. If you scored around the [national average](#) of **510 on the old SAT Math section**, you'd similarly expect to see a **new SAT Math score of 540**.

> Conclusion: Except for those scoring at the very extremes of the range, most students can expect to see at least a 20 point increase from their old SAT Math scores on the new SAT Math section.

3: Old vs. New SAT Reading/Writing

- > **Key Point:** Harder to compare because of change from 1600 to 800 score range; still, new SAT scores on these sections are relatively higher.



Comparing old SAT Reading & Writing and new SAT Reading and Writing is a little trickier because Reading and Writing have been smushed into one score on the new SAT (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or EBRW).

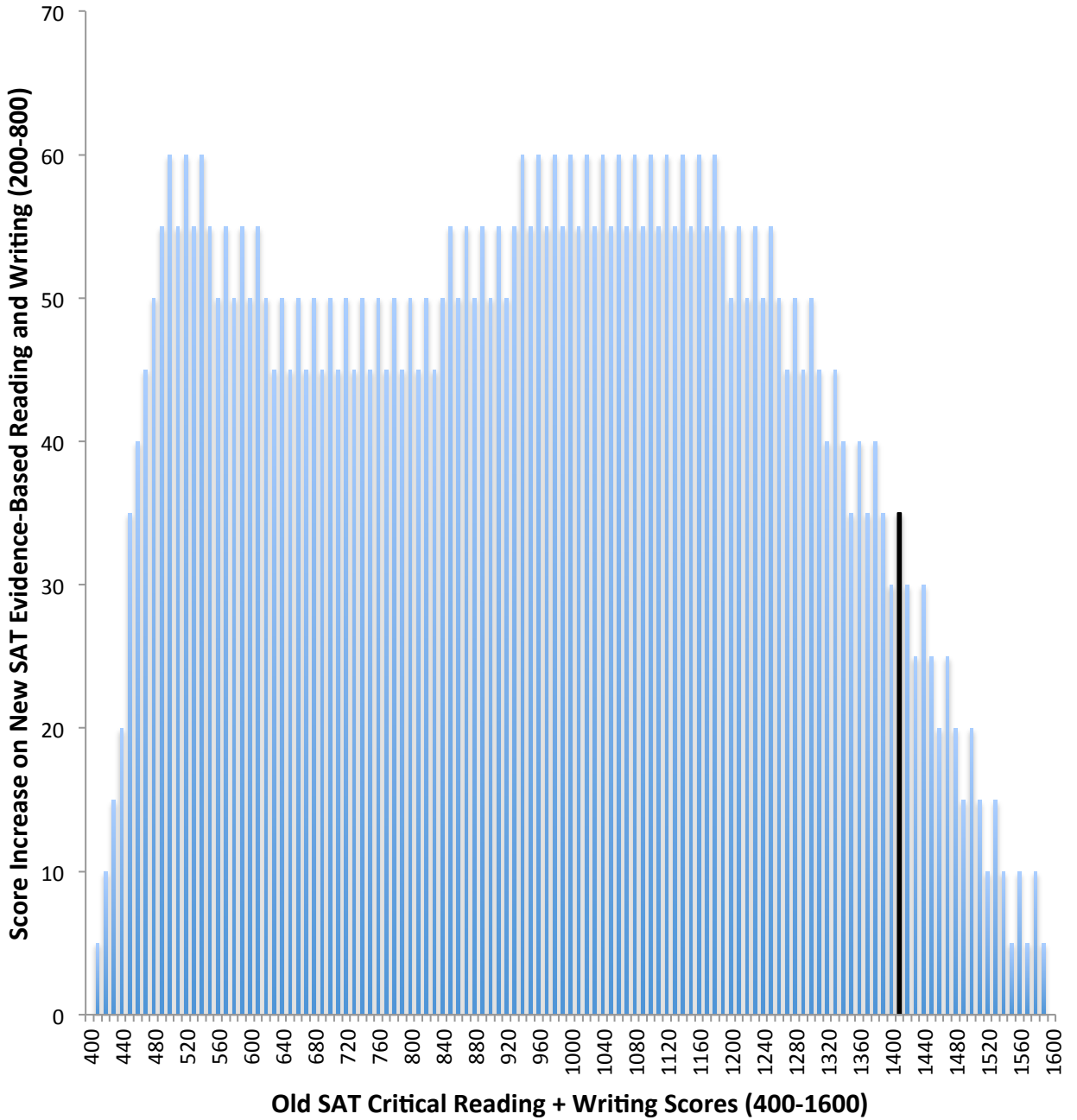
The College Board has kindly provided concordance charts to help out with this calculation. The charts show that you can still expect to see **higher scores on the new SAT**

EBRW compared to the **old SAT Reading and Writing** section scores.

If the two tests were exactly equivalent, you'd expect that the combined old Reading and Writing section scores (a range of 400-1600) divided by two would be the same as the concorded new SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score (a range of 200-800). This, however, is not the case.

Instead, students can expect to score between **zero and sixty points better on EBRW** than they would have on **each of the Critical Reading and Writing sections** on the old SAT. The graph on the next page gives a more detailed look at how the score increases are distributed across old SAT combined Reading and Writing scores.

Old SAT Critical Reading + Writing vs. New SAT EBRW

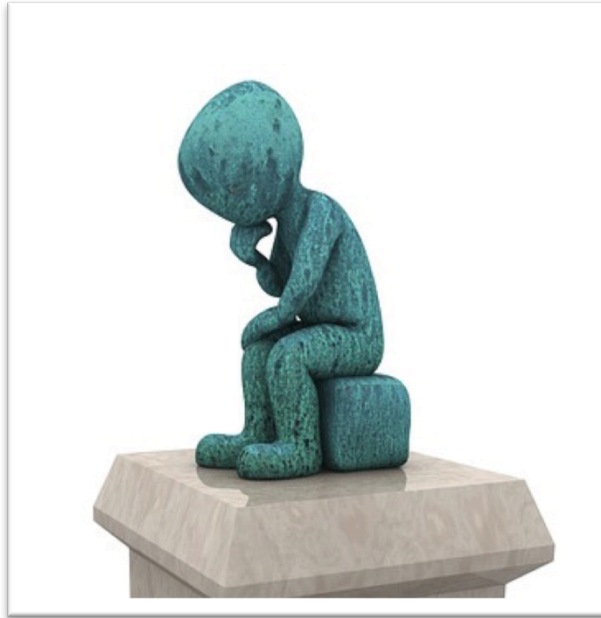


To put this graph in context, consider the following examples. If you took the old SAT, got **Critical Reading 700 and Writing 710** (a combined score of **1410**, shown as a black vertical bar in the graph on the previous page), and took the new SAT with exactly the same preparation and skills, you could expect to score a **740/800 on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing**. If you got around the [national average old SAT scores](#) of **500 on Reading** and **480 on Writing**, you could expect to score a **550** on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing - **a huge jump**.

> Conclusion: Most students who take the new SAT can expect to score relatively higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section, compared to old combined Reading and Writing scores.

4: How Does This Affect You?

- > **Key Point:** Take the new SAT if your old SAT score indicates you could get a 20+ point increase per section. Higher numerical scores make a better first impression on those considering your application.



Theoretically, schools have access to the concordance tools needed to compare old and new SAT scores and admissions officers will do their due diligence to understand that it's easier to get higher scores on the new SAT. **Schools won't be superscoring between the old and new SAT,** so it's not like you can get a 760 Math on the new SAT and combine that with your Critical Reading and Writing scores from the old SAT for a higher superscore.

In practice, however, **a SAT result of 510 Math/650 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing makes a better impression than 470 Math/590 Reading/590 Writing** (even though according to the College Board's concordance tables and its conversion tool, these scores are equivalent). Even after the old SAT has been phased out entirely from college applications, it will take admissions officers a little while to adjust and align their unconscious, split-second assessments of student scores with the new reality that more students will be getting higher scores on the SAT, and so a 760 isn't as impressive as it used to be.

Therefore, if you took the **old SAT** and scored in a range where you can expect to see **at least a 20-point increase in nominal score**, you should consider **taking the new SAT to see if you can get a higher score**. Add [effective prep](#) to that score increase, and you might very well be able to get a high enough score on the new SAT to step yourself over the threshold for acceptance for colleges previously just out of reach.

AND NOW WHAT?

Through this guide, you've learned a lot about how much you can expect to see your score increase from the old to new SAT. Make sure you consider your specific situation and weigh the costs and benefits of taking the new test to get the best score results.

We at PrepScholar believe we've built the best SAT prep program in the world. But even if you don't work with us at PrepScholar, we hope you found this guide useful.

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or **call us** at **1(866) 811-5546**, where one of our Academic Advisers will walk you through the best options for you and your family.

We'd love to hear from you.

Finally, if you found this guide helpful, please share it with any other people who might benefit.

Good luck!

-The PrepScholar Team