

Test Characteristics of the SAT Subject Tests™



Test	Number of Students	Scaled Score		Number of Questions	Difficulty	Reliability	Completion Rates			
		Mean	SD		Average % Correct	Reliability Coefficient	% Students Completing Test	% Students Completing 3/4	% Questions Reached by 4/5	Avg. % of Questions Not Reached
Literature	14,138–34,621	553–628	102–111	60	54–66	0.90–0.91	66–83	95–99	90–100	1–5
History										
United States	5,298–52,887	556–673	90–110	90	50–70	0.94	68–97	97–100	98–100	0–3
World History	3,350–14,907	564–618	116–122	94–95	51–59	0.94–0.96	70–88	97–99	98–100	1–3
Math Level 1	11,409–26,023	598–620	93–103	50	61–67	0.91–0.92	35–66	98–99	92–96	3–4
Math Level 2	24,879–64,147	617–689	93–112	50	56–66	0.89–0.93	42–67	96–99	92–96	3–5
Biology										
Biology EB	4,318–16,663	546–635	94–107	80	54–70	0.92–0.94	60–93	98–100	99–100	1–3
Biology MB	5,320–16,750	582–663	91–111	80	62–74	0.93–0.94	66–85	98–100	98–100	1–3
Chemistry	6,913–11,613	620–655	107–118	85	61–66	0.96	70–86	98–99	98–100	1–2
Physics	6,753–16,103	636–667	96–110	75	55–61	0.93–0.95	67–77	97–98	96–99	2–3
Chinese with Listening	1,812–2,533	729–746	67–83	85	83–87	0.94–0.96	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		73–75	7–8	30	79–83	0.89–0.92	72–93	99	98–100	1–2
Listening		73–74	7–8	30	86–92	0.85–0.92	NA	NA	NA	NA
Usage		73–75	7–8	25	79–89	0.84–0.88	NA	NA	NA	NA
French	1,153–2,895	587–618	103–115	85	59–63	0.94–0.95	81–91	99–100	100	1
French with Listening	1,372–2,267	595–617	103–110	85–87	61–66	0.93–0.95	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		60–62	10–11	57–59	59–65	0.90–0.93	65–92	99–100	93–100	1–3
Listening		60–62	10–11	27–28	60–69	0.82–0.86	NA	NA	NA	NA

Points to Note

- SAT Subject Tests™ are taken by fewer students than those who take the SAT®. SAT Subject Test mean scores tend to be higher than SAT mean scores.
- Difficulty: For most of the SAT Subject Tests, students get about half of the answers right, on average. Therefore, these tests are appropriately difficult for the intended test-taking population.
- Reliability: The data show that, in general, the different SAT Subject Tests are reliable. Students will tend to consistently earn similar scores on repeated testing, provided that no additional learning experience in the subject area has occurred between testings.
- Completion rate: The data indicate that the time limits allocated to each SAT Subject Test are appropriate for the intended test-taking population.
- Speededness data are collapsed for tests with both reading and usage sections.
- For all SAT Subject Tests, data are for the five most recent tests administered (dates may vary). The following samples consist of test-takers with two to four years of study in the language: French, French with Listening, German, German with Listening, Spanish, Spanish with Listening, Italian, Latin and Modern Hebrew (Sunday test-takers).

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German	337–529	559–581	106–119	85	61–65	0.94–0.96	55–88	99–100	94–100	1–2
German with Listening	367–535	537–550	101–124	85	65–71	0.94–0.95	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		54–55	10–12	57–59	63–72	0.91–0.93	61–88	99–100	88–100	1–4
Listening		54–55	10–12	26–28	68–73	0.83–0.87	NA	NA	NA	NA
Modern Hebrew	162–247	573–621	108–119	85	77–82	0.94–0.95	83–87	98–100	100	1–2
Italian	273–383	606–625	115–128	81–82	63–69	0.94–0.96	76–93	100	99–100	0–1
Japanese with Listening	209–483	566–647	105–134	80	70–83	0.94–0.95	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		57–65	11–13	27	72–88	0.86–0.89	71–90	98–100	96–100	1–2
Listening		57–65	11–14	30	71–81	0.84–0.89	NA	NA	NA	NA
Usage		56–65	11–13	23	65–79	0.85–0.88	NA	NA	NA	NA
Korean with Listening	702–1,642	714–723	75–83	80	84–85	0.94–0.95	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		72	8	29–31	79–83	0.92	74–83	97–99	96–100	2–3
Listening		71–72	8–9	26–27	89–93	0.70–0.78	NA	NA	NA	NA
Usage		72	8	23–24	80–85	0.83–0.86	NA	NA	NA	NA
Latin	768–2,357	591–630	99–111	70–75	59–66	0.90–0.93	69–90	100	99–100	0–2
Spanish	2,855–7,325	594–621	107–116	85	68–72	0.94	82–92	99–100	100	1
Spanish with Listening	2,236–4,302	594–618	105–116	85	70–72	0.93–0.95	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reading		59–62	10–12	53–55	64–74	0.90–0.92	87–92	97–100	100	1–2
Listening		59–62	10–12	30–32	69–81	0.85–0.88	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Definitions of statistical terms are provided online at research.collegeboard.org/definitions.