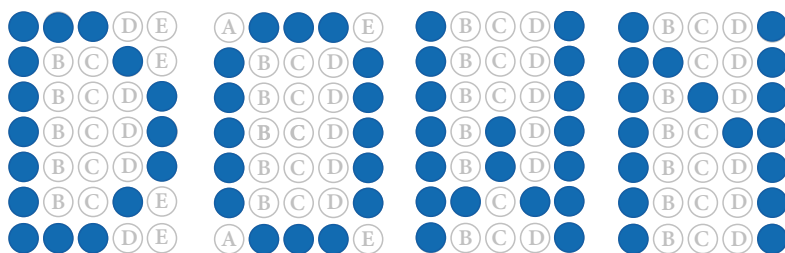


# PENCILS

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## New shortened, digital SAT to be administered throughout United States in 2024

**O**n Jan. 25, College Board announced a new digital version of the SAT to optimize it for the college admissions process. While the new format is planned to be administered in the United States in 2024, Stevenson has already begun to prepare themselves to accommodate the changes.

Each subject will be split into two stages in a “stage adaptive” format, where the difficulty of the second stage is determined by the student’s performance on the first stage. Reading passages will be shorter and accompanied by only one question each, while calculators will be permitted on both stages of the math portion. Additionally, the exam will be reduced from three hours to two hours, and with digitization easing the process of test administration—which is still administered on-campus and monitored by proctors—there will be more testing opportunities as well.

“I hope shortening the test and increasing the options to take the test will make it easier for students to take them when they are ready and not be as exhausted from a three-hour test,” Post-Secondary Counselor Sara English said.

Stevenson is confident they will be able to accommodate the digital exam from a logistical perspective. However, other schools have brought up concerns about not being able to support the number of students taking the test, which raises the question of whether the new SAT will be suitable for all students and schools.

“Everybody has a device, and we have enough broadband internet that

it’ll work,” Principal Troy Gobble said. “There are many schools that are freaked out—[I have] other principal friends that got a little panicked.”

Despite reassurance that Stevenson can administer the 2024 exam, some students are concerned with the digitization. After taking standardized tests both on paper and digitally, Paula Vist ’22 says that focusing on questions is easier on paper than on a device. “If this was implemented when I was testing during my junior year, I would have been really upset because I would not want to take it on a computer in my school,” Vist said. “I like filling out the bubbles. I like answering the questions on paper and annotating—it’s not the same [digitally].”

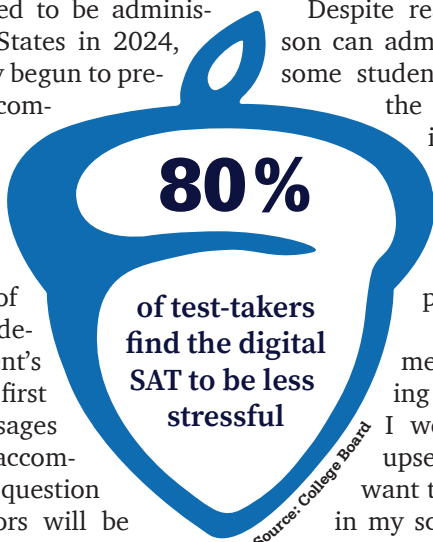
So far, English says that it is unclear how the digital transition will affect student performance and score reports. Nonetheless, for Aditi Ambravan ’22, the 2024 developments seem to reflect a general decline of the importance of standardized tests in college admissions.

“I think [the SAT] is already less important because of the fact that so many schools have gone test-optional and you don’t need a good score to get into college anymore,” Ambravan said. “If anything, this [new SAT] will just contribute to that [trend]. That’s really important for a lot of students who don’t have the ability to access SAT prep or ACT prep.”

Many students and staff agree that standardized tests are not fully representative of a student’s qualifications in the college admissions process. Regardless of how the upcoming changes impact the importance of the SAT, Steven-

son still plans on continuing to support such testing.

“Every so often the standardized testing agencies shake things up, so it takes a few cycles to normalize the test and understand the changes,” English said. “Overall, we remind students they are not their test score. It is only one piece, and as colleges have shown, it isn’t as important in the process.”



1

How long will the online SAT take to complete?

- A around 2 hours
- B around 3 hours

2

When will online score reports become available?

- A days after the exam
- B 2-3 weeks after the exam

3

What will the online math section look like?

- A no calculator, calculator allowed
- B calculator allowed throughout

4

Will reading and writing be combined on the online test?

- A yes
- B no

5

How will difficulty be determined online?

- A content does not change based on student performance
- B second stage difficulty depends on first stage performance