

# Intro to SAT Reading

The SAT Reading test is quite different than it used to be. Gone are the sentence completion questions that quizzed you on tough vocabulary. Now, it's all about the passages. In other words, it's all about reading comprehension. (Okay, so there's a little vocab snuck in there too; we'll talk about that in a bit.)

## What to Know:

- The SAT Reading test is 65 minutes long.
- It has four passages, plus one pair of passages (so five parts total). Each passage is 500-750 words long (the paired passage has two parts that add up to 500-750 words).
- SAT Reading has 52 questions (10-11 questions per passage).
- It's all multiple choice.
- One passage will be about World Literature & the U.S. two passages (or one pair and one passage) will be about Social/History Studies, two passages (or one passage and one pair) will be about Science.
- There will be one to two graphics embedded in one History/Social Studies passage and in one Science passage.
- Passage intricacy ranges from ninth grade to early college.

- Your score will be combined with your Writing score for one “ Writing and Evidence-Based Reading” score out of 800.

## What to Study:

- Reading comprehension
- Understanding basic tables and graphs of data
- Texts from a variety of genres including contemporary and “classic” literature, science, and social studies, including one text from “U.S. Founding Documents or the Great Global Conversation.”

## What Not to Study:

- Esoteric vocab words (such as “esoteric”). Definitely flip those flashcards if you have a weaker vocabulary so that you can better understand the passages. However, the questions that specifically address the meaning of words on the new SAT primarily concern more common words with multiple meanings.