Abstract

The SAT is a standardized test used primarily for college admissions. The test has been altered multiple times in the past 50 years. On the version instated in 2005, students began to dislike the SAT more than ever. This paper determines the version of the SAT on which most students performed the best based on the average score for each school year, and whether the recent and upcoming changes align with helping students perform as well as possible. Linear regression tests are performed to find that average SAT scores have been declining over time, with the exception of 2017 and 2018. This paper finds what aspects of the SAT work best for test-takers to have the highest score possible while still accurately separating test-takers by their level of mastery of tested skills. This is done by comparing the average scores by version followed by analyzing what aspects likely caused the highest scores to be as high as they are. The paper then takes a look at the changes most recently implemented by the College Board, the company that regulates the SAT.