

Topic: Education
Source: www.npr.org
Title: 2004 S.A.T Results

LISTEN...

1. Listen to an extract from a news program about the current state of affairs regarding education in the US. (**Skills practiced:** Listening (listening for general information) // **Activity duration:** Report: 3.25min.; Total activity: 7 min.)

AFTER YOU LISTEN...

2. Listen to the news report again and answer the questions below. (**Score:** 15 marks // **Skills practiced:** Listening (listening for specific information) and writing (summarizing; gap-filling; sentence-completion) // **Activity duration:** Report: 3.25min.; Total activity: 7 min.)

1. Summarize this news report in ONE SINGLE SENTENCE and no more than 30 words. (1 mark)

2. Here is a summary of SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) results for 2004 as reported by Claudio Sánchez. Complete with the missing information. (2 marks: 0.2 - 0.5 - 0.5 - 0.2 - 0.2 - 0 - 0 - 0.2 - 0.2)

On the _____ section, worth 800 points, the _____
_____ fell to _____, down 1 point from last year. On
the _____ section, also worth 800 points, the _____

_____ remained flat: _____ for males, _____ for females.

3. Gaston Caperton, President of the College Board, speaks about 2 trends yielded by SAT results. (3 marks)

The 1st number shows _____
_____.

Combined with that number is _____
_____.

4. A 10% of SAT test-takers are Mexican-American —i.e. of Latino origin. G. Caperton says that these students are showing a great improvement, going up 3 and 1 points respectively in the two SAT sections mentioned above. (2 marks)

Does C. Sánchez, the reporter, agree that this is really a great improvement? ____ Why? _____

5. When G. Caperton comments on the different results obtained in the SAT by white and non-white students, he says that these differences point to a serious problem. Summarize this problem. (1.5 marks)

6. C. Sánchez interprets and summarizes G. Coperton's speech, and says that there are two important indicators of how Latino and Black students will do in the SAT. Which are these? (4.5 marks: a=1.5; b=1.5+1.5)

a) _____
_____.

b) _____
and _____
_____.

7. The SAT is undergoing some changes. What will the new writing section look like —i.e. what will it include? (0.5 mark)

8. What have the majority of high schools done in order to improve their students's writing skills? (0.5 mark)

3. Listen to the extract one last time and find out which words or phrases mean approximately the same as the ones below. (Score: 5 marks // **Listening skills practiced:** Listening for specific information // **Activity duration:** 7 min.)

1. To allow something to be shown in public or to be available for use _____
2. More important, bigger or more serious than others of the same type _____
3. Approximately _____
4. To move or advance so slowly that you are behind other people or things _____
5. The most important fact in a situation _____