



SAT

READING & WRITING

CRASH COURSE

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SAT or ACT? Start with the right plan.

Which should I take - the SAT or ACT?

Take both exams for 2 reasons:

1) Over the years, the SAT and ACT have become more like each other. For example, the English section of the ACT and the writing section of the SAT test nearly the same concepts. If you're going to prepare for one exam, you might as well take the other.

2) You may be accused of cheating on the SAT or ACT. When you are accused, your test scores are rescinded; it's as though you never took the exam. If the College Board accuses you of cheating on the SAT, you'll still have your ACT scores. By the same token, if the ACT accuses you of cheating on the ACT, you'll still have your SAT scores.

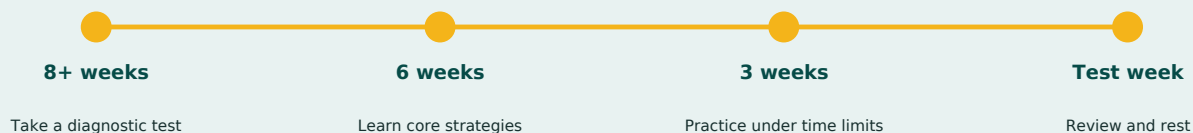
How many times should I take the SAT?

You may take the SAT as many times as you want. I recommend that you wholeheartedly prepare for at least 2 administrations of the SAT. Keep in mind, at some point, you may get burned out on taking exams.

When should I start preparing?

Begin preparing for the SAT with rigorous coursework in middle school and high school. Once you select a certain test date, begin taking practice SATs, learning testing strategies, and reviewing the content of the SAT at least 8 weeks before the test date.

A practical preparation timeline



Select a test date early so your study plan has a clear finish line.

Scores, timing, and purpose

What is superscoring on the SAT?

While some colleges and universities want your single-highest SAT score, others may superscore. Consider the following scores:

	MARCH	MAY	SUPERSCORE
Reading and Writing	600	720	720
Math	790	710	790
Total	1390	1430	1510

When should I take the SAT?

It depends on your academic and extracurricular schedule. Consider taking the SAT after you've completed almost all of Algebra II. Also, make sure that your schedule enables you to prioritize SAT preparation. Ideally, you will take the SAT for the first time no later than the end of 11th Grade.

What is the purpose of the SAT?

The SAT is used to extend college admissions and scholarships to students. It's also used to exempt students from remedial courses.

Admissions, support, and registration

Do colleges prefer one exam?

Most colleges will accept the SAT and ACT, without a preference for one or the other.

I have a learning disability. Help!

You may qualify for accommodations such as extra time. Work with the SAT (collegeboard.org) and the ACT (act.org) and your counselor to determine if you qualify for accommodations.

What is a good SAT score?

You can score in the range of 400 – 1600. What are your goals? Are you a highly sought after athlete aiming to attend a state school? Are you striving to attend an Ivy League school? Are you striving to earn academic scholarships? Talk with your prospective colleges' recruiters about their score requirements.

How do I sign up for the SAT?

Visit www.collegeboard.org to register for the SAT.

How do I get fee waivers?

Talk with your school counselor.

Before you register

Check your target colleges, choose a realistic test date, and request accommodations or fee support early.

SAMPLE READING QUESTION

1

During World War II, the Signal Corps, like the other technical services, served the Army in a special way. The commodity it handled is less obvious than food or clothing, less spectacular than bridge building, and less gratefully received than medical care. As the Army's communications agency, the Signal Corps had specific duties in the field: the installation, maintenance, and operation of all signal communications within armies; within army, armored, and cavalry corps; and within infantry, cavalry, motorized, and armored divisions. They included provision of the communications required at the headquarters of each of these units for their respective army, corps, and division troops and installations, and for communicating with the next lower and adjacent headquarters.

According to the text, what was a function of the Signal Corps during World War II?

A

Communicating upcoming medical procedures to wounded soldiers

B

Repairing technology that allowed Army leaders to share information with each other

C

Maintaining bridges that the Army needed for transporting supplies

D

Designing uniforms that distinguished infantry and cavalry soldiers from each other

SAMPLE READING QUESTION

2

The following text is adapted from Walter Noble Burns's 1927 semi-fictional Tombstone: An Iliad of the Old West."

A stranger had ridden out of the desert into Signal and startled the raw mining town up in the Bill Williams River country of northwestern Arizona with his ineffable sartorial chaos. As the newcomer stalked past the unpainted shanty saloons and gambling places of the main street, the citizens loitering on the plank sidewalks, themselves roughly clad and familiar with the uncouth dress of frontier riffraff, turned to stare in amazement at the ruinous figure. His corduroy clothes, shiny and threadbare, a thorn-torn hole showing here and there, were patched like a crazy-quilt with deerskin, flour sacking, and rags of saddle blanket. His pants were stuffed into rusty boots run down at heel and his coat flapped open to reveal a flaming expanse of red flannel shirt. His face was half-hidden by a heavy curly brown beard and a mass of dark, tangled, unkempt hair fell upon his shoulders.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A To describe a typical day in a small town in the Old West

B To depict how better-dressed elites scorn a nomad

C To emphasize the ramshackle image of an outsider

D To describe how an impoverished person maintained his wardrobe despite arid conditions

SAMPLE READING QUESTION

3

Population aging continues to drive elements of public policy debate in industrialized countries, and has become a force to reckon with in much of the developing world. Declining fertility rates and lengthening life expectancy produce population age structures that are increasingly weighted toward older age groups. As a consequence of this shift in age structure, issues regarding social support for elderly persons take on added _____.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A salience

B fragility

C reverence

D tolerance

STUDENT & PARENT TESTIMONIALS



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- Dear Ms. Jennifer,
Good evening! This is David Szklaruk Traipe, a repeat student in your SAT prep course. I'm writing this email because thanks to your class, I scored a 1450 on my SAT, in the 99th percentile and almost 200 points higher than my latest PSAT score. I've tried some SAT prep classes before, but yours was the one that really improved my score. So thank you for teaching me so much.

David Szklaruk Traipe - Glenda Dawson High School graduate; Texas A&M student

- "Jennifer has been tutoring our children in math as well as PSAT and SAT prep for the past two years, and the results have been outstanding. Under her guidance, we've seen significant improvements in their grades and standardized test scores. Beyond just teaching content, she truly prepares them — building their confidence, sharpening their skills, and helping them perform at their best. We're incredibly grateful for the impact she's had on their academic journey."

Alton and Angelica Robinson

- "Hey Ms. Jennifer! It's been a minute since we have spoken, but I wanted to give you an update on the December SAT that I took. I got a 1350!!!! I just wanted to let you know because if it wasn't for your class and the strategies you taught us I wouldn't be where I am at right now. So, I greatly appreciate you! Hope you have a wonderful Christmas and an even better New Year."

Zachary Jacob, Graduate, Lutheran South Academy, BBA Howard University

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Review each solution

Use the answer key below, then select **EXPLANATION** to watch the step-by-step solution for each exercise.

B

EXERCISE 1

Correct answer: B

EXPLANATION

C

EXERCISE 2

Correct answer: C

EXPLANATION

A

EXERCISE 3

Correct answer: A

EXPLANATION



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