



SAT

Administrators, Teachers, Student, and Parents

We all have a stake in this.....

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Timelines of SAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/educator-experience/get-to-know-digital/best-practices-timeline> Check this link out for more

- The PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT testing window is October 2–October 31, 2023.
- Schools can test on any day of the window, including testing groups of students across different days.
- Each student may only test once per assessment during the testing window.
- Schools may also choose to administer the PSAT/NMSQT on **Saturday, October 14, 2023**. (Note: This is the only Saturday available for PSAT/NMSQT testing.)
- Resource Video at the end of the link above.

Dates and Milestones.

- Apr 26 Ordering opens.
- Sep 5 Registration opens.
- Oct 2 PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 testing begins.
- Oct 14 Last day to submit answers to receive scores by Nov 2.
- Oct 26 Last day to add to or update your SSOR registration roster. Students with records added or updated after this date are at risk of being unable to test before the end of the testing window.
- Oct 31 Last day to submit answers to receive scores by Nov 14.
- Last day to remove unused registrations from SSOR.
- Nov 2 Scores are available to educators online in the K–12 reporting portal for those who tested by Oct 14.
- Nov 6 Scores available to students who tested by Oct 14.
- Nov 14 Scores are available to educators online in the K–12 reporting portal for those who tested by Oct 31.
- Nov 16 Scores available to students who tested by Oct 31.
- Nov 20 Electronic score release in K–12 Portal.

So You Want to Take the SAT Test.....

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Bear in mind that your SAT score is only one factor among several on your application. Your grades, application essay, and extracurriculars also shape admissions officers' perceptions of your application.
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/educator-experience/tools-information-districts> All educators of SAT PSAT need to read this before starting the training.
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-benefits-students-parents> Parents need to be given this link to prepare themselves for the SAT experience.
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-benefits-students-parents/faq> This is a site for parents with questions.
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-preparation> Prepare to take the Test at this link. Dates and What to Bring that DAY.

These content areas will be inside the Reading/Writing/Math sections.

Reading Explained on the SAT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfFBj4Dk0B0&t=22s> 2min –A must read for everyone.

- Careers
- Social Studies
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riVKZRtARw&t=298s> 22 min video on a history passage on the SAT and how to read it and answer questions.
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/sat-reading-writing-practice/new-sat-reading/a/how-to-approach-a-history-passage> Another practice for history passages
- Humanities
- Science
- Graphics

Most of the questions are multiple choice, though some of the math questions ask you to write in the answer rather than select it. Below is what will be tested. Science, History and other contents will be inside the Math and Reading/Writing Sections. Make sure you read the rules on permitted items and behavior before test day . <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/school-day-testing-rules>

Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading	65	52
Writing and Language	35	44
Math	80	58
Total	180	154

On all questions, there’s no penalty for guessing:
if you're not sure of the answer, it's better to guess than leave the response blank.

It is all about READING.....

- Reading comprehension is often considered the most difficult section of the SAT for students to improve their scores.
- The prevailing belief is that students must improve their reading speed and proficiency in order to raise their score; as a result, it is expected to be a long, gradual process.

It starts with Phonemic Awareness
Decode words-Phonics
Affixes and Roots
Vocabulary
Fluency
Comprehension

Strategies for Reading	Clarify Do you understand the story? Pause to review what you have read and to answer questions you had earlier.	Connect How do you relate to the story? Find a way to make a personal connection to the story plot, setting or characters. Apply the story to your own life.
Evaluate Do you agree or disagree with the events in the story? Form your own opinions about the story and characters.	Predict What do you think will happen next? Take a guess then keep reading to find out if you were right.	Question What is unclear? What do you want to know more about? What words are you unfamiliar with?

Taking the SAT

- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/terms-conditions>

a. Registration and Admission to the Test Site

- a. Photo Requirements for Registration. You must provide an acceptable photo when you register for the SAT in accordance with sat.org/photo. The photo you provide when you register will appear in your registration record.
- b. Admission to the Test Site. You must bring an acceptable photo ID and your admission ticket to be admitted to the test site in accordance with sat.org/id-requirements.
- c. Identification and Other Discrepancies. If we determine that there is a discrepancy between your photo ID and your admission ticket, or if the photo ID doesn't meet our requirements (for example, if your preferred name is on one field but your full name is on another), we may, in our sole discretion, deny you admission to the test site, dismiss you from the test site, decline to score your test, or cancel your test scores.

b. Requirements for the Paper and Pencil SAT

- a. You must bring the following items to the paper and pencil SAT in accordance with satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/what-to-bring-do:
 - a. Printed admission ticket, which is required for entry to the test site for Weekend testing
 - b. Acceptable photo ID
 - c. 2 No. 2 pencils that have erasers
 - d. Acceptable calculator (as set forth later in this section) for math sections where they are allowed
 - e. If you're approved for assistive technology-compatible or pre-recorded audio accommodations, you must bring headphones
 - f. Epinephrine auto-injector (e.g., EpiPen) in a clear plastic bag if you need one
 - g. If you have been approved for testing accommodations, your College Board Services for Students with Disabilities ("**SSD**") Student Accommodations Letter to verify your approval
- b. Acceptable Calculators. A battery-operated, handheld calculator can be used for testing on the SAT Math with Calculator section only. No power cords are allowed. If you have a calculator with characters that are 1 inch or higher, or if your calculator has a raised display that might be visible to other test takers, you will be seated at the discretion of the testing staff. All scientific calculators, which can perform complex mathematical functions but don't have a graphing feature, are acceptable as long as they don't have any prohibited features. For a list of acceptable graphing calculators, see sat.org/calculator. No other calculators are permitted.

Resources for Admin and Counselors.

- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/administration/sat-school-day/prepare-staff> Admins prepare staff for SAT
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:general-sat-strategies/x0a8c2e5f:how-to-prepare-for-the-sat/a/how-to-register-for-the-sat> How to register for the SAT
- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/fee-waivers?excmpid=pt001-st-3-ka> fee waivers-see if you are eligible
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:general-sat-strategies/x0a8c2e5f:how-to-prepare-for-the-sat/a/test-day-what-to-expect-and-what-to-bring> What to expect on Test Day
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:general-sat-strategies/x0a8c2e5f:how-to-prepare-for-the-sat/a/tips-for-test-day> Tips for the Test Day
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:general-sat-strategies/x0a8c2e5f:how-to-prepare-for-the-sat/a/beyond-the-sat-resources-for-college> What college fits best

Start with a Growth Mindset

- A "growth mindset" is an attitude that embraces hard work, grit, and determination as the keys to intelligence and capability. Unlike a "fixed mindset", which thinks that people must be born smart and successful, a growth mindset believes that failure and disappointment are critical steps on the way to knowledge and achievement. The brain is a muscle that just gets stronger every time it is tested. If you're not failing, you're not learning!
- Disappointment happens to everyone, and while we may feel like the world comes crashing down when we fail, you may be surprised at how much you learn and grow from each challenging experience.
- Next time you find yourself disappointed, think about what you'll take away from the experience and what you can do differently if you have a chance for a do-over. You might be surprised at how well things turn out!

Content Alignment –Reading

Increasing Text Complexity

- Across the SAT Suite, Reading Tests contain increasingly complex passages. As text complexity increases, the student's ability to draw on reading skills becomes more crucial, and the tasks become more challenging.

When students advance from test to test, they'll also see:

- More reading questions
- Longer passages
- More passages paired with informational graphics

Differences from PSAT to SAT in Reading

	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10	SAT
Inference	Draw a fairly simple, one-step conclusion spelled out clearly in text.	Draw an inference to reach the right conclusion.	Complete several steps to draw the right conclusion.
Relationships	Identify relationships based on multiple, fairly straightforward pieces of information stated in the text.	Infer somewhat more complicated relationships based on more subtle pieces of information stated in the text.	Infer more complex relationships from the text by piecing facts or incidents together.
Graphics	Determine explicit meaning from the graphic or text.	Recognize trends in graphical data.	Synthesize information from a graphic and passage.

Reading Passage Contents

Contents	% of Questions	
Careers Social Studies Humanities Science Graphics	25 % EACH	1 or More Graphics will be in the contents.

Text Types	SAT	PSAT
Argument	1–2 passages-25%–50%	Same
Informational/Explanatory	1-2 passages -25%-50%	Same
Nonfiction Narrative	1 passage 25%	Same

Text Complexity -A range from grades 9–10 to first year of college across 4 passages SAT and PSAT

Graphical Data Representations-
(tables, graphs, charts, etc.)
Basic to somewhat challenging (low to moderate data density, few variables, simple to moderately challenging interactions)

Writing and Language

- The Writing and Language Tests keep pace with student progress, matching the scope and difficulty of work in the classroom.
- Increasing Sophistication
- Moving through the SAT Suite, the Writing and Language Tests ask students to make increasingly sophisticated choices in vocabulary, sentence structure, organization, tone, and factual support.

Grammar and the SAT

Element	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Punctuation	Use punctuation effectively in simple contexts, such as using commas to separate items in a list.	Use punctuation effectively in somewhat challenging contexts, such as using a colon to introduce a list.	Use punctuation effectively in challenging contexts, such as using a semicolon to link independent clauses.
Sentence Structure	Edit straightforward sentences that pose some challenge, such as sentences with an introductory phrase.	Edit compound and complex sentences, including sentences with introductory phrases and clauses.	Edit syntactically challenging sentences, such as lengthy sentences that include several clauses.
Graphics	Accurately incorporate basic information from graphics into a text.	Accurately incorporate somewhat detailed or nuanced information from graphics into a text.	Incorporate accurate, specific, and complex information from graphics into a text.

Illinois Requires the Essay at PSAT & 11th Grade SAT-2023

Essay analyzing a source

- The optional essay will no longer be part of weekend SATs.
- However, the following states will be administering the SAT with Essay in the 2021-2022 academic year as part of their spring state-wide assessment system:
 - Colorado
 - Delaware
 - Illinois
 - Michigan
 - New Hampshire
 - Oklahoma
- To find out more, check out our article [The SAT Essay: Overview](#)

Essays will go to
Digital Form in 2024

- The **Writing and Language Test** also focuses on **command of evidence**. It will ask you to analyze a series of sentences or paragraphs and decide if they make sense. Other questions will ask you to interpret graphics and to edit a part of the accompanying passage so that it clearly and accurately communicates the information in the graphics.
- **Evidence** is a large part of the Common Core Standards. Evidence finding supports critical reading and writing.

THE WRITING PROCESS



Here's a generic version of the prompt:

"As you read the passage below, consider how [the author] uses evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence, stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed."

After the passage appears, this secondary part of the prompt appears:

- Write an essay in which **you explain how [the author] builds an argument to persuade their audience that [claim]**. In your essay, analyze how the author uses:
- evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed."
- (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of their argument. Be sure that your analysis **focuses on the most relevant features of the passage**.
- Your essay **should not explain whether you agree** with the author's claims, but rather explain how the builds an argument to persuade their audience

Video of Essay Writing for SAT

- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:untitled-709/x0a8c2e5f:the-sat-essay-overview/a/using-khan-academics-sat-essay-practice> Practice before you test.
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/mission/sat/practice/essay> Practice Essay before the SAT



MATH RESOURCES FOR THE SAT

The tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments measure the same skills and knowledge in ways that make sense for different grade levels. The Math Tests keep pace with student progress, matching the scope and difficulty of work in the classroom.

A Shift in Emphasis

- Moving through the SAT Suite, students see more multistep math problems and more problems that require them to use complicated concepts and equations.

Other differences include these:

- The number of math problems increases from test to test.
- Later tests include more student-produced response questions and fewer multiple-choice items.

• **Key Changes:** Focus of test will move from reasoning-based to content-based, and have two main sections (Math & Evidence-Based Reading and Writing). Major changes to content include an increased focus on higher level math, inclusion of a no-calculator math section, focus on evidence-based reading, all passage-based writing questions, and an optional essay section.

• <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/sat-math-practice> This is an excellent source of information and practice for Prep of the Math Section of SAT

- **Scoring:** The two sections will be scored on a scale from 200-800, with a composite score calculated by adding the sections together. There will be additional subscores and insight scores available, and the optional essay will not count towards the overall score.

Math SAT - Read Carefully

The Math that matters most

- The **Math Test** focuses in depth on three essential areas of math: **Problem Solving and Data Analysis**, **Heart of Algebra**, and **Passport to Advanced Math**.
- Questions from the **Problem Solving and Data Analysis** area will require you to use ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science, and career contexts.
- Questions from the **Heart of Algebra** area focus on the mastery of linear equations and systems, which help students develop key powers of abstraction.
- The **Passport to Advanced Math** questions focus on more complex equations and the manipulation they require.
- **Problems grounded in real-world contexts**
- Throughout the SAT—in the Math Test, the Reading Test, and the Writing and Language Test—you will be asked questions grounded in the real world, directly related to work performed in college and career.

Element	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT	SAT	Examples of Progression
Complexity	Many items requiring 1 or 2 steps to solve.	Many items requiring 2 or more steps to solve.	Emphasis on multistep problems.	
Geometry	May require the use of common geometric equations.	May require the use of common geometric equations and spatial reasoning.	Requires the use of geometry concepts and reasoning.	
Probability and Statistics	Includes ratios, proportions, percentages, introductory probability, and statistics.	Requires comparing linear and exponential growth.	Includes statistics topics such as sampling and inferring correlation and causation from a research method.	
Trigonometry	May require the use of properties of right triangles to solve problems.	Requires the use of trigonometric relationships.	Requires the use of trigonometry.	

Math Areas on SAT

Math Area	Examples	# of Questions
Number and Operations	properties of integers; arithmetic word problems; number lines; squares and square roots; fractions and rational numbers; factors, multiples, and remainders; prime numbers; ratios, proportions, and percents; sequences; sets; counting problems; and logical reasoning	11-13 questions
Algebra and Functions	operations on algebraic expressions; factoring; exponents; evaluating expressions with exponents and roots; solving equations; absolute value; direct translation into mathematical expressions; inequalities; systems of linear equations and inequalities; factoring; rational equations and inequalities; direct and inverse variation; word problems; and functions	19-21 questions
Geometry and Measurement	geometric notation; points and lines; angles in the plane; triangles; quadrilaterals; areas and perimeters; other polygons; circles; solid geometry; geometric perception; coordinate geometry; and transformations	14-16 questions
Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability	data interpretation; statistics; elementary probability; and geometric probability	6-7 questions

•**Key Changes:** Focus of test will move from reasoning-based to content-based, and have two main sections (Math & Evidence-Based Reading and Writing). Major changes to content include an increased focus on higher level math, inclusion of a no-calculator math section, focus on evidence-based reading, all passage-based writing questions, and an optional essay section.

•**Scoring:** The two sections will be scored on a scale from 200-800, with a composite score calculated by adding the sections together. There will be additional subscores and insight scores available, and the optional essay will not count towards the overall score.

Compare Math content in the PSAT 8/9 to the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT to help understand how to use the assessments over time.

	PSAT 8/9		PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT	
Time Allotted	Amount	% of Test	Amount	% of Test
Total	60 minutes	100%	70 minutes	100%
Calculator Permitted Section	40 minutes	67%	45 minutes	64%
Calculator Not Permitted Section	20 minutes	33%	25 minutes	36%
Questions	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Total	38	100%	48	100%
Multiple Choice (4 options)	31	82%	40	83%
Student-Produced Response (grid-in)	7	18%	8	17%
Content Categories				
Heart of Algebra	16 questions	42%	16 questions	33%
Problem Solving and Data Analysis	16 questions	42%	16 questions	33%
Passport to Advanced Math	6 questions	16%	14 questions	29%
Additional Topics in Math*	0 questions	0%	2 questions	4%
Contribution of Items to Cross-Test Scores				
Analysis in Science	6 questions	16%	7 questions	15%
Analysis in History/Social Studies	6 questions	16%	7 questions	15%

Math Calculator NOT Permitted Section Specifications.

	PSAT 8/9		PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT	
Question Type	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Total	13	100%	17	100%
Multiple Choice (4 options)	10	77%	13	76%
Student-Produced Response (grid-in)	3	23%	4	24%
Content Categories				
Total	13	100%	17	100%
Heart of Algebra	8	62%	8	47%
Passport to Advanced Math	5	38%	8	47%
Additional Topics in Math	0	0%	1	6%
Time Allocated	20 minutes		25 minutes	

Math Calculators Permitted in Sections

SAT		PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT		
Question Type	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Total	38	100%	31	100%
Multiple Choice (4 options)	30	79%	27	87%
Student-Produced Response (grid-in)	8	21%	4	13%
Content Categories				
Total	38	100%	31	100%
Heart of Algebra	11	29%	8	26%
Problem Solving and Data Analysis	17	45%	16	52%
Passport to Advanced Math	7	18%	6	19%
Additional Topics in Math	3	8%	1	3%
Time Allocated	55 minutes		45 minutes	

AT Math covers 24 main topics, within four main sections. The first two sections below, basic algebra and advanced algebra, both fit within the College Board's "Heart of Algebra" subject area.

- **Basic Algebra**

- Linear functions
- Single variable equations
- Systems of linear equations
- Absolute value

- **Advanced Algebra**

- Manipulating polynomials
- Quadratic equations
- Dividing polynomials
- Exponential functions
- Function notation
- Solving exponential equations
- Solving exponential equations

Problem Solving and Data Analysis

- Ratios and proportions
- Scatterplots and graphs
- Categorical data and probabilities
- Experimental interpretation
- Median, median, mode, standard deviation

Additional Topics

- Coordinate geometry - lines and slopes
- Coordinate geometry - nonlinear functions
- Geometry - circles
- Geometry - lines and angles
- Geometry - solid geometry
- Geometry - triangles and polygons
- Trigonometry
- Complex numbers

The majority of questions (over half) will be on algebra, so this is the subject you should focus most of your studying on **A maximum of 10% of questions will cover geometry and trigonometry**, and these questions will ask only basic questions on these subjects, so if you haven't taken classes in either of them, you should still be able to learn the information you need to know fairly easily.

Science and Social Studies/History

Analysis in science and analysis in history/social studies

- You will be asked to apply your knowledge in reading, writing, language, and math to answer questions in science and history/social studies contexts. Questions will require you to read and understand texts and to synthesize information presented through texts and graphics.

Founding documents and great global conversations

- These reading passages focus on major founding political documents and the great global conversations they inspire.

Overview of the content areas and question formats you can expect to see on the SAT:

Evidence-based reading and writing-Skill of being able to find evidence in the content to support the answer

- **Words in context**

- You will be tested on words that appear frequently in high-school-level and college-level texts.

Range of sources

You'll be asked to **analyze, synthesize, and interpret data from a range of sources**, including tables, charts, and graphs, as well as multi-paragraph passages in the following areas:

- Literature and literary nonfiction
- The humanities
- Science
- History and social studies
- Work and career

- **Command of evidence**

- For every passage or pair of passages you'll see during the **Reading Test**, at least one question will ask you to identify which part of the text best supports the answer to the previous question. In other instances, you'll be asked to find the best answer to a question by pulling together information conveyed in words and graphics.

- <https://www.khanacademy.org/profile/me/courses> get more support

All questions on SAT Reading are based on passages.

The SAT Reading section contains five passages with 52 multiple-choice questions, which means there will be about 10-12 questions for each passage.

- Some passages are paired with other passages, and some have graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts accompanying them.

There will be at least one passage from each of the following topics:

- U.S. or world literature
- U.S. founding document or a text inspired by one
- Social science (such as economics, psychology, sociology, etc.)
- Science (Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics)

Reading Passages will supply back ground knowledge for students.

SAT Reading tests the following skills:

- **Command of Evidence:** Finding evidence in a passage that supports the answer to a question.
- **Words in Context:** Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word.
- **Analysis in History/Social Science and Science:** Examine hypotheses, interpret data, and consider implications

Like the Reading section, all questions in the SAT Writing and Language are based on passages. There will be four passages and a total of 44 questions, which means each passage will be followed by 11 questions.

Each passage will each cover one of the following subjects: Careers, Social Studies, Humanities, and Science.

- Careers passages could discuss trends or debates in major professional fields, such as medicine, technology, or business.
- Social studies passages might focus on topics from history, anthropology, psychology, political science, or sociology.
- Humanities passages could feature an author or explore trends in literature, drama, art, music, or dance.
- Science passages will focus on Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

The **passages will either be argument-based, explanatory, or nonfiction narrative.**

Also, at least one **passage will also be accompanied by a diagram**, such as a chart, table, or graph.

Each of these passages will be **riddled with errors in punctuation, word choice, sentence structure, and organization.** The questions in this section will ask you to identify and fix these errors.

SAT Writing covers four major skills areas: Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Expression of Ideas, and Standard English Conventions.

SAT Writing and Language questions focus on three main subject areas. You've likely covered these three subjects in your English or Writing classes as you write and edit your work and other's work.

Grammar

- These questions will test your ability to fix grammar errors and correctly identify errors in verb tenses and forms, pronoun agreement, subject-verb agreement, run-on sentences and fragments, idioms, and punctuation rules. Grammar questions make up about 45% of the Writing and Language section.

Style

- Style questions test your ability to analyze word choice, sentence construction, and paragraph construction. These questions make up about 7% of the section.

Reading Comprehension

- For reading comprehension questions in this section, you'll need to be able to understand why certain words or sentences are used in a given passage or if they should be replaced with other words or sentences. Reading Comprehension questions make up approximately 48% of the section.

The SAT takes three hours and consists of three tests: (1) the Reading Test, (2) the Writing and Language Test, and (3) the Math Test. Compared to the ACT®, the SAT provides 43% more time per question:

Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/ Tasks
Reading	65	52
Writing and Language	35	44
Math	80	58
Total	180	154

Most of the questions are multiple choice, though some of the math questions ask you to write in the answer rather than select it.

On all questions, there's no penalty for guessing: if you're not sure of the answer, it's better to guess than leave the response blank.

FREE STUDY TECHNOLOGY

- [Quizlet](#): flashcards and memorization games
- [StudyBlue](#): custom flashcards and open-source flashcard library
- [EverNote](#): note-taking and note management program
- [Google Calendar](#): online calendar and task management system
- [Kahoot](#): online quiz and learning game program
- [Grammar Girl](#): podcasts and articles on general grammar skills and topics
- [YouTube](#): videos on every topic under the sun

Essay Task –Teacher’s NEED TO KNOWS

- The task the Essay asks you to complete—**analyzing how an argument works**—is an interesting and engaging one, and will give you an excellent opportunity to **demonstrate your reading, analysis, and writing skills**.
- These skills are critical to success in college and your career—and the scores you’ll get back will give you insight into your strengths and weaknesses in these areas.
- Each SAT Essay consists of one passage between 650 and 750 words that you will read and then respond to. You will have 50 minutes to complete the SAT Essay.
- The purpose of the SAT Essay is to **assess your ability to analyze an author’s argument**.
- To write a strong essay, you will need to **focus on how the author uses evidence, reasoning, and other rhetorical techniques to build an argument and make it convincing**.
- The Essay task will be the same in every test. What will change is **the reading selection you’ll be asked to analyze**. If you are familiar with the Essay prompt ahead of time—and understand exactly what your task is—you will save time on Test Day and write a stronger essay.

Here's a generic version of the prompt:

Here's a generic version of the prompt:

- "As you read the passage below, consider how [the author] uses evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- How author uses reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- How author uses stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed."

After the passage appears, this secondary part of the prompt appears:

- Write an essay in which you **explain how [the author] builds an argument to persuade their audience that [claim]**. In your essay, **analyze how the author uses one or more of the features listed in the above** (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of their argument. Be sure that your **analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage**.
- Your essay **should not explain whether you agree with the author's claims, but rather explain how the builds an argument to persuade their audience**.

Student Job on the SAT Essay is”

Explain how the author builds the argument to persuade the reader.

- You need to identify **the point** that the author is making (e.g.: "Kittens are cuter than puppies and for that and other reasons people should adopt more of them") and then analyze **how** the author makes the point, using examples drawn from *nowhere but the passage itself*.

Here's a sample passage and prompt:

- As you read the passage below, consider how Peter S. Goodman uses
 - evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
 - reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
 - stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:untitled-709/x0a8c2e5f:the-sat-essay-overview/a/the-sat-essay> The essay overview is here

This is the Essay Prompt from that Reading.

Adapted from Peter S. Goodman, "Foreign News at a Crisis Point." (c)2013 by TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. Originally published September 25, 2013. Peter Goodman is the executive business and global news editor at TheHuffingtonPost.com
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:untitled-709/x0a8c2e5f:the-sat-essay-overview/a/the-sat-essay>

Write an essay in which you explain how Peter S. Goodman builds an argument to persuade his audience that news organizations should increase the amount of professional foreign news coverage provided to people in the United States. In your essay, analyze how Goodman uses one or more of the features listed in the box above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage.

This link will take you to comparison in writing from PSAT to SAT and the SKILLS needed on each to take the test

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/about/alignment/writing-language/psat-10-psat-nmsqt-sat>

This Section is For Students and Teachers



- These are tips, suggestions, ideas, and wisdom from SAT takers and retakers.
- They just say it like it is.
- It is helpful for students without test confidence to read these or have these so they can read what other students are saying about how they felt, what they experienced, what they should have done, or how to perfect studying for this incredibly scary test that they feel will make or break their college entrance.
- Teachers could use these in their SAT Prep classes and then discuss some of their tips and tricks. It could help some of the 11th graders feel better about the approaching test.

HOW TO... study for the SAT in particular

Understand what you know and what you don't know:

Review your mistakes thoroughly.

- “The most important thing you can possibly do when preparing for the SAT is to review your mistakes. It doesn't matter if the mistake you made was silly or if it happened because you were genuinely confused. All mistakes should be recorded and reviewed. For the math and reading sections, write down or cut and paste the questions you missed, and make sure to solve the problems once more after initially writing down the correct solution. A strategy that helped me was to create my own reading sections out of a set of hard passages and questions.” – *Gaeun*

Create a routine.

- “The most helpful thing I did for the SAT was to practice a single section a day and go into each problem I missed in detail - then I did full length practice tests every other week in the last two months before the actual exam.” – *Aneesh*

Practice at the edge of your ability.

- “Try to find the hardest problems, and solve those. If you can't do them, take some steps back.” – *Rushi*

Skip the hard ones.

- “If you don't know a question, skip it. Sometimes, things don't "click", and that's alright. Just keep going and go back to the question later. Most of the time you'll realize that it was actually super easy!” – *Clayton*

Memorize the formulas.

- “Know your math formulas! There are some that are super helpful and key which are easy to find online and easy to memorize. Those can be super helpful.” – *Alexis*

HOW TO... understand the material

Teach and learn:

Use online resources.

- “Looking up videos on websites such as YouTube and Bozeman Science helps me to study and understand concepts more profoundly so that I am completely comfortable with the material.” – *Eillen*

Use your own words.

- “I find that the best way to study content is to read about it while taking notes, and then explaining the notes and information to myself as if I were teaching it, in order to understand it in my own words.” – *Fariha*

Try teaching the concepts to someone else.

- “If you can't find someone to teach it to, teach it to a blank wall or stuffed animal – anything works. You can also film yourself teaching these concepts (film yourself discussing what happened during a certain war, film yourself on a whiteboard solving a math problem and explaining why you're doing everything you're doing, etc) and then to go back and watch it and see where you're hesitant (hesitating means you're not as confident on that part) or if you've left out any information.” – *Elyse*

Make learning interactive.

- “To make studying enjoyable, it's important to make learning interactive. For instance, I use screen recording apps to create my own lectures, and post them on a private website so that I can watch them later to review. Also, the process of recording these videos helps reinforce concepts in a way that suits my learning style. This allows me to participate in your learning process, which makes studying more fun in general.” – *Gaeun*

Talk it out.

- “If you happen to be studying at school, use your friends as resources. Talk out the steps to solving a math problem, explain a scientific concept, or discuss the structure of your essay. Verbalizing concepts and ideas can help solidify them and make them easier to complete and understand later on. Studying with a friend may even be beneficial for both of you!” – *Emily*

Put everything on paper:

Be prepared.

- “Always have a paper and pencil with you to note down anything that comes to your mind.” – *Rushi*

Take notes.

- “I find it crucial to take good notes.
- I always make my own personalized textbook for every subject, which includes important ideas I'm learning, personal comments about them (especially in subjects such as literature or history), and the mistakes I've made in the past on tests or on essays.
- It's also helpful if you write down mnemonic devices in the margins, such as a memorable quote made by someone in class, to memorize dates or formulas. – *Gaeun*

Use technology.

- "I like to digitalize the content of my notes by saving them in iCloud, Google Docs, or Evernote. This enables you to access your notes on other devices or in other locations. A few weeks before big tests, good, organized notes turn out to be very useful.” – *Gaeun*

Get creative:

Have fun.

- “I have learned to have fun with my notes. I personalize them so that they help me. Sometimes, instead of scribbling everything my teacher says during a lecture I will draw pictures that I associate with the topic (probably the only time doodling in class is considered acceptable).
- For example, we were recently reviewing a cardiovascular unit in Anatomy. Instead of writing out the steps of blood flow through the heart, I drew a basic diagram of the heart and labeled arrows directing the path of blood flow. Instead of having some abstract concept in my head of the path of blood, I could more deeply understand the concept with the visual aid.” – *Eillen*

Use color.

- “I'm the type of person who learns by writing things out, but writing things over and over again can be a bit dull. I am able to make it through these study sessions by using different colored thick markers; it makes studying seem more like an arts and crafts project plus writing in markers is much easier than writing in pencil. I spend time making diagrams and coming up with fun mnemonic devices for things that need to be memorized.” – *Tiffany*

Try recording yourself.

- “Read your notes into a voice recording app, and replay them as you do something else. The combination of reading something and hearing it again is more effective than reading alone.” – *Erin*

Challenge yourself.

- “For people who are competitive like me, challenging myself and making studying a competition is what keeps me engaged. I like to use Quizlet flashcard sets because they have an option where the cards are shuffled and turned into a matching game. In my opinion, making studying a competition or game is the best way to keep me engaged.” – *Kennedy*

HOW TO... stay focused

Remove temptation:

- **Turn off your phone.** “How do we avoid falling into the trap of social media and internet distractions? I'll tell you one way to do it. Take that phone, turn it off, put it in another room, and detach yourself for a few hours - it won't kill you.” – *Eillen*
- **Commit to study time.** “To stay focused, I turn off all my devices, and just allocate some time to just study. I tell myself that I can't stop until the time is up, regardless of if I know the material or not.” – *Neil*
- **Take breaks when you need them.** “During the weekends, I know that I won't get any work done during the day, because I won't have the motivation to finish my work until it becomes urgent. Therefore, I forget about my homework and allow myself to have fun and relax. This prepares me for the time when I finally have to get to work and finish my homework and study.” – *Alexis*

Keep things fun:

Get in the zone with music.

- “Music without vocals helps me focus while I study. I explore other genres that I don't get much exposure to - flamenco music, Indian classical, erhu solos, minimalist, etc. It's a good opportunity to expand your cultural horizon while providing a non-distracting drone of sound.” – Eric

Treat yourself.

- “To make studying fun, I take breaks every 20 minutes. I'll get up and stretch, treat myself to a snack and a YouTube video, or clean up my room (because organization is everything!). I'll continually re-evaluate my progress, just so I know that I'm going somewhere with all the time and energy that I've invested.” – Heeju

Mix it up.

- “Taking lots of breaks while studying to do something completely different - going out for a jog, playing some piano, listening to some music - helps make learning more efficient by allowing for a memory refresh and refocus.” – Jody

SAT students say “Take advantage of all resources:

Take ownership - ask questions. “The SAT is a big deal, but you are the one who ultimately decides how much you want to freak out about it.

- Talk to people you know who have experience with taking the SAT, and make sure that you are well acquainted with how the process works.
- Speak with teachers or counselors at school who have knowledge about the process if you have questions.” – *Emily*

Take initiative - go for it! “Practice tests and questions are available online, in bookstores, and at school.

- If you put in effort, there really is no need to pay for an expensive SAT preparation class.
- The materials you need to do well on the test are all available to you, you just need to have the initiative to take advantage of them.” – *Eillen*



Students say.....

Take control. “You have to study at your pace.

- Don't be scared if a peer knows or understands more than you. You might just have to learn that thing another way.
- Think about how you like to learn and that's how you should study.” – *Ryann*

Know what works for you and stick to it. "If you learn best in groups, hold a group study session and exchange solutions with friends.

- If you learn best by writing things down, write down the math formulas in fun colors. Begin studying by doing what is best for you and then work your way up to taking official tests in the environment that you are expected to take the test in. That way, you can learn what your favorite strategy for taking the SAT is and perfect it.” – *Tiffany*

Take the SAT when it best fits your schedule. "Many students take it in October of their junior years, but that time may be too hectic for you, or you might not feel prepared enough.

- Any time from sophomore year to early senior year is okay; just make sure your scores will be ready by the time college apps come around.” – *Shruthi*

Keep on practicing!



Keep on practicing!

Practice! The SAT is something you can study for and see marked improvement. Anyone can improve with practice in anything, and that's certainly true of the SAT.” – *Aneesh*

Practice! “The best way to study for the SAT is to practice. Practice, practice, practice. Oh yeah, and did I mention to practice?”

- Practice taking parts of the exam in a testing environment.
- Time yourself.
- Check your answers once you're finished.
- If you got a question wrong, understand why you got it wrong. The practice won't do you any good if you don't understand what you did incorrectly. Find out what you're good at and not so good at.
- Work on your trouble areas. I guarantee that with practice, your score will improve.” – *Eillen*



Take full practice tests! “Full practice tests are also invaluable.

- Taking at least one or two before the actual test helps you gain some sense of what it's like to sit for 4 hours taking the SAT. It is essential to time yourself strictly and accurately when taking these tests.” – *Gaeun*

Improvement Through Practice

- If you have time to take the SAT again—especially if you just took it as a junior—it's possible to bring your score up considerably by practicing with Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®. Link your College Board account to your Khan Academy account and then share your score.
- Khan Academy will prepare a personalized study plan that targets your weak areas and advises you how to study efficiently and effectively—at no cost.
- Research shows that following these personalized recommendations helps students increase their scores. With time and effort, you can get closer to achieving your target score.
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat/confirmed>

Take a Practice Test Here

- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/x0a8c2e5f:general-sat-strategies/x0a8c2e5f:how-to-prep-for-the-sat/a/how-to-take-a-practice-sat-online>
- **Top Tips**
- Don't forget to write the essay – you need to know what it feels like to tackle this essay assignment after three hours of testing
- Give yourself exactly the amount of time indicated for each section
- Don't give yourself a few extra seconds to fill in bubbles for questions you didn't get to. If you do that on Test Day, your scores may be canceled
- **Take Official Breaks:** Take one 10 minute break after The Reading Test (Section 1) and one 5 minute break after the first part of the Math Test (Section 3). If you are writing the essay assignment, your break after finishing the second part of the Math Test may only be 2 minutes long. (Yes, you read that right!)
- Eat healthy snacks and drink water during your breaks

Accommodation

An adjustment in testing conditions to enable students with disabilities to take a standardized test.

- Examples: having the questions read aloud (for visually impaired students);
- use of a computer for the essay (dysgraphia),
- 50% or 100% extended time to complete the test (documented ADD/ADHD,
- executive function, working memory impairments).
- While the testing conditions for students taking the test with accommodations may be different, the test questions and scoring system are the same

Be Careful How You Answer

Answer choices

- On a multiple-choice question, there will be four answer options lettered A, B, C, and D. **Only one of these will be correct.**
- The three incorrect answer choices may represent common errors and can be very tempting!
- In the Reading Test, and in many of the Writing & Language Test questions, the **best choice is always the one that has the best textual support - that is, evidence!**

Diagnostic test

A diagnostic is a brief test with a small number of questions intended to test your general level of mastery.

For the SAT, the Khan Academy diagnostic tests aim to identify your current level of skills for Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing so the practice program can give you the most accurate recommendations for skills to work on. In this way, our system “diagnoses” your current state of knowledge, and that helps us make personalized practice recommendations just for you!

IQ test / intelligence test

An IQ (Intelligence Quotient) test is an exam or a set of exams intended to evaluate a person’s general intelligence based on a combination of question accuracy and age. The SAT is **NOT** an IQ test. It is important to remember this, because it can seem at times like your parents, peers, or the colleges to which you apply are judging how smart you are based on your score. The SAT measures college readiness, not intelligence or aptitude or persistence.

Percentile rank-What it Means...

- Percentile ranks provide a way for you to compare your scores to those of other students.
- SAT percentile ranks are reported based on the total group of SAT test-takers in the US.
- The number can range from 1 to 99, and indicates the percentage of test-takers who achieved an equal or lower score than yours.
 - For instance, a percentile rank of 76 means that 76 percent of SAT-takers achieved a score at or below your score.
 - A percentile rank of 43 means that 43 percent of SAT-takers attained scores at or below your score.

Scores Understood....

Raw score

- Your raw score is simply the number of questions you got correct out of the total number of questions. If there are 40 questions on a test and you got 28 correct, your raw score is 28.
- For the SAT, your raw score will be translated into a scaled score that takes into account things like the difficulty of the questions on this administration of the test versus another administration.

Scaled score

- When you take a standardized test, there are two types of scores you may see: the raw score (number of questions you got correct out of the overall number of questions) and the converted score, which is the translation of your raw score into a different numerical format that takes into account the difficulty of the questions and the performance of your peers.
- For the SAT, your converted score will be 200-800 for each section.

Subscore

- Your SAT score report will include a number of scores, including test scores (for the Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests and the Essay), cross-test scores (like Analysis in Science, which is a skill covered across sections), and subscores (like Expression of Ideas, which is a skill tested within one section). [More Info](#)

Reviewing your practice test

- **Here are some useful questions to consider when reviewing your performance:**
- Did you sleep at least 8 hours the night before the practice test?
- Did you wake up at least one hour before the practice test?
- Did you eat a healthy breakfast?
- Were you happy with your breakfast? Would you like to try out another kind of breakfast food next time?
- Did you start the test at 8:30am?
- Did someone proctor the test for you?
- Did you use a printed test and bubble sheet?
- Did you take it one sitting?
- Did you give yourself **Test Day breaks** (10 minutes after the Reading Test, 5 minutes after part one of Math Test, 2 minutes before starting the essay)?
- Did you drink water during breaks?
- Did you eat healthy snacks during the breaks?
- Did your snacks make you happy? Treat yourself during the breaks—you should only be eating healthy and happy-making snacks!
- Were you strict with yourself about the time? If not, why not?
- Did you leave your phone off for the duration of the practice test?
- If you can answer YES to ALL of the above questions, then the chances are good that you have an accurate picture of what you're currently capable of. If you answered NO, then you didn't do everything you could to realistically assess where you stand.

Good Luck

Hopefully, this helps educators and student body who will take the test to be less stressed and more ready to tackle the SAT.

Making sure that the standards are covered and mastered grade by grade ensures higher scores on any state test. **EVIDENCE IS THE WORD.**

FIND THE EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR CALCULATIONS, READING, AND WRITING.

Thank for the all you do as a teacher, principal, and student.

The Regional Office is here to support you.