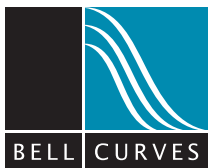


10 Winning Strategies

to beat the SAT[®]



Bell Curves

Get Ahead of the Curve!

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SAT Registration

Test Date	Registration Deadline
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010
October 9, 2010	September 10, 2010*
November 6, 2010	October 2, 2010*
December 4, 2010	October 30, 2010*
January 22, 2011	December 16, 2010*
March 12, 2011	February 3, 2011*
May 7, 2011	March 25, 2011*
June 4, 2011	April 28, 2011*

* Tentative Dates

When: The SAT is always offered on a Saturday morning (or Sunday morning for Saturday Sabbath observers).

How often: The SAT can be taken as many times as you choose, but in most cases it should be taken only 2–3 times.

How much: The cost is \$45.00. (Vouchers may be available from your guidance counselor for students who qualify.)

Score reporting: Your scores will be kept on record for five years and will be reported to schools upon your request. When you register for the SAT, you can select up to four schools to receive your scores for free. After you have completed the test, you can request additional reports at a cost of \$9.50 per school.

Contact info: Visit www.collegeboard.com or call 866-756-7346.



The SAT offers Score Choice™, but in most cases it is not an option that is in your best interest.

Know what you need!

The SAT is one of the top three factors used by most colleges to determine which applicants are admitted. Since the SAT is so important to colleges, you must know what score will make you attractive to the schools you want to attend. The chart below shows the 25th to 75th percentiles of Math and Critical Reading scores for some popular schools.

School	SAT Range (Math + Reading)	SAT Subject Tests
Duke University	1380–1570	2 required
Columbia University	1330–1540	2 required
Georgetown University	1300–1490	3 required
Emory University	1300–1470	Recommended
New York University	1240–1430	2 required
University of North Carolina	1210–1410	Considered if submitted
SUNY Binghamton	1180–1350	Considered if submitted
UCLA	1170–1410	2 required
University of Texas	1110–1350	Required for some applicants
Florida State University	1090–1270	Considered if submitted
Michigan State University	1020–1270	—
Baruch College (CUNY)	1000–1210	—
Hunter College	990–1180	—
Spelman College	990–1150	—
Morehouse College	940–1170	—
Hampton University	940–1160	—
Virginia State University	890–940	—
North Carolina A&T University	790–1010	—

All colleges may accept a student who scores below the average SAT score for that college if that student has something else in his/her profile that shows academic potential (such as a higher than average GPA, AP classes, or college classes).

Build your endurance with real practice!

The SAT consists of almost four hours of testing. Taking practice tests will build your endurance and stamina. Like an athlete, you will perform at your best only if you train and practice realistically.

Section	Content	Timing
1	Essay	25 minutes
2-7	2 Math (one with 18 and one with 20 questions) 2 Critical Reading (24 questions each) 1 Writing (35 questions) 1 <i>experimental</i> (? questions)	25 minutes each
8-9	1 Critical Reading (19 questions) 1 Math (16 questions)	20 minutes each
10	Writing (14 questions)	10 minutes
Total Time		3 hours 45 minutes



Bell Curves students who took three or more practice tests improved an average of 100 points more than those who took two or fewer practice tests.

Learn what will be tested!

Knowing what's going to be on the test allows you to prepare for the test. To get your best score, spend 2-3 months before the test reviewing rules and learning effective strategies.

Critical Reading

(67 multiple-choice questions)

The Critical Reading sections measure the ability to:

- determine the meanings of words
- understand an author's purpose and reasoning
- make multiple, layered inferences
- understand the central idea
- identify the relationship of ideas within and across different texts

Mathematics

(44 multiple-choice questions, 10 grid-in questions)

The Mathematics sections measure math learned in 7th through 10th grades. Specifically, the Math sections test:

- number operations and definitions
- algebra
- geometry and measurement
- word problems and mathematical reasoning
- data analysis, statistics, and probability

Writing Skills

(49 multiple-choice questions, 1 Essay)

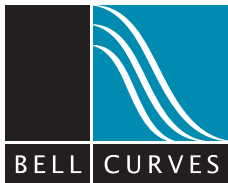
The Writing Skills sections measure the ability to use the rules of standard written English. Specifically, the Writing Skills sections test the ability to:

- manage word choice and grammatical relationships between words
- manage grammatical structures used to modify or compare
- manage phrases and clauses in a sentence

Knowing what to expect on the SAT will make you more confident and enable you to do better!

Work smarter, not harder...

Most students attempt to answer every question on the SAT, but shouldn't!



James Smith

Subject	Raw Score	Scaled Score
Critical Reading	16	400
Math	16	420
Writing	17	410
Essay	6	---
Total	--	1230

Previous Test Scores:

Test	CR	M	W	E	Tot	Date

3	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Difficulty	1	1	3	3	5	1	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	5	3	4	2	5	3	5	3	4	4
	Correct	E	A	B	A	A	E	E	C	C	A	D	C	E	D	C	B	E	A	D	C	E	E	E	B
	Student	✓	✓	E	C	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	E	✓	C	-	A	A	✓	B	✓	C	D	D	A
	Section 3 results:	Raw Score: 5.5				Easy Correct: 6/6				Med Correct: 3/11				Hard Correct: 0/6				Total Correct: 9/23							

7	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Difficulty	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	2	5	5	3	4	5	4	4
	Correct	D	C	A	B	C	C	E	E	D	B	D	B	C	D	E	A	D	E	D	A	B	A	C	B
	Student	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	E	A	A	✓	✓	B	A	A	B	B	✓	✓	B	C	✓	C	B	D	D
	Section 7 results:	Raw Score: 5.25				Easy Correct: 7/9				Med Correct: 2/7				Hard Correct: 0/8				Total Correct: 9/24							

9	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Difficulty	1	2	3	4	4	5	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	3
	Correct	A	B	B	D	D	B	A	E	B	B	D	C	C	C	D	E	C	E	
	Student	✓	✓	✓	C	C	C	A	✓	✓	C	✓	C	✓	E	E	B	B	✓	B
	Section 9 results:	Raw Score: 7.25				Easy Correct: 4/4				Med Correct: 5/8				Hard Correct: 0/4				Total Correct: 9/16		

2	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Difficulty	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	4	4	5	5
	Correct	C	C	E	A	B	C	B	A	E	C	C	C	D	C	B	D	A	B	C	A
	Student	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	D	✓	✓	✓	A	A	-	B	A	C	E	B	A	B	D
	Section 2 results:	Raw Score: 4				Easy Correct: 6/9				Med Correct: 1/4				Hard Correct: 0/6				Total Correct: 7/19			

6	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Difficulty	1	1	3	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	
	Correct	B	E	B	A	D	A	C	B	108	1/2 or .5	1300	24	300	11	2/3 or .666 or .667	3 < x < 4	2491	70/3 or 23.3	
	Student	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	B	A	A	✓	✓	✓	48	150	22	.67	3	-	-	
	Section 6 results:	Raw Score: 6				Easy Correct: 5/7				Med Correct: 2/6				Hard Correct: 0/3				Total Correct: 7/16		

Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Difficulty	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	5	5
Correct	C	A	B	B	D	E	B	B	C	D	B	B	D	E	D	

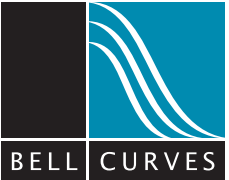
Raw Scores

Correct Answers = +1
 Wrong Answers = -1/4
 Blank = 0

Since harder questions come in predictable locations, you can increase your score by slowing down and focusing on the easy and medium questions.

...by focusing on accuracy, not speed!

To get a great score, you should focus on achieving the highest possible accuracy rather than finishing as quickly as possible.



James Smith

Subject	Raw Score	Scaled Score
Critical Reading	33	520
Math	30	540
Writing	25	490
Essay	7	---
Total	--	1550

Previous Test Scores:

Test	CR	M	W	E	Tot	Date
Test 1	400	420	410	6	1230	8/13/08
Test 2	510	510	470	7	1490	9/6/08

Critical Reading

3	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Difficulty	1	3	3	3	4	5	5	5	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	2	3	3	2	
	Correct	E	E	B	E	D	E	D	E	B	D	A	E	B	D	E	D	A	D	B	A	C	C	B	E	C
	Student	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	-	C	✓	B	✓	-	-	-
Section 3 results:		Raw Score: 12					Easy Correct: 6/6					Med Correct: 6/10					Hard Correct: 1/1					Total Correct: 13/17				

5	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Difficulty	1	2	1	3	5	3	2	3	5	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	
	Correct	C	A	D	C	B	E	A	C	B	B	A	C	E	A	E	E	C	B	C	C	D	E	E	A	
	Student	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	B	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Section 5 results:		Raw Score: 12.5					Easy Correct: 7/7					Med Correct: 4/6					Hard Correct: 2/2					Total Correct: 13/15				

8	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
	Difficulty	1	1	3	4	5	5	3	3	3	1	2	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	3						
	Correct	A	C	B	D	D	E	A	D	E	C	A	E	B	C	C	B	E	E	D						
	Student	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	A	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	-	✓	D	A	✓	-	-	B						
Section 8 results:		Raw Score: 8.5					Easy Correct: 4/4					Med Correct: 4/6					Hard Correct: 2/6					Total Correct: 10/16				

Mathematics

4	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Difficulty	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
	Correct	D	A	E	A	D	D	B	B	C	A	A	B	D	D	C	C	B	E	B	D
	Student	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	C	✓	E	-	-	-
Section 4 results:		Raw Score: 11					Easy Correct: 5/5					Med Correct: 5/8					Hard Correct: 2/2				

7	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	Difficulty	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	5	1	2		2		3	3	4	3	4		
	Correct	D	C	B	C	E	E	B	E	15	4	1/6 or .166 or .167	2/3<x<1 or .666<x<1	115	18	9	1600	3/4 or			
	Student	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	B	A	A	✓	✓		✓		.666	-	✓	11	800	✓	
Section 7 results:		Raw Score: 9.75					Easy Correct: 7/7					Med Correct: 2/5					Hard Correct: 1/1				

8	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Difficulty	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
	Correct	E	C	D	B	B	A	B	C	D	A	C	C	A	D	E	A

Scaled Scores				
Raw Score	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Essay
33	520	570	580	560
32	510	560	570	550
31	500	550	560	540
30	500	540	550	530
29	490	540	540	520
28	480	530	530	510
27	480	520	520	510
26	470	510	510	500
25	460	500	500	490
24	460	490	480	480
23	450	480	470	470
22	440	480	460	460
21	440	470	450	450
20	430	460	440	450
19	420	450	430	440
18	410	440	420	430
17	410	430	410	420
16	400	420	410	410

The best way to do well on the SAT is to have a high "hit ratio." More questions attempted does NOT always result in a higher score. It often results in a lower score.

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Plug in numbers when given variables!

Multiple-Choice Questions

Easy

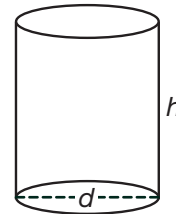
1. Jason has built computers for 6 years less than Christina has. If Christina has built computers for c years, which of the following expressions represents the number of years that Jason has built computers?

- (A) $c + 6$
 (B) $c - 6$
 (C) $2c - 6$
 (D) $2c + 6$
 (E) $6 - 2c$

Medium

2. If for all positive integers y , $x = y^3$ and $z = x^2 + x$, what is z in terms of y ?

- (A) y^9
 (B) $y^6 + y^3$
 (C) $y^5 + y^3$
 (D) y^4
 (E) $y^2 + y$



Hard

3. The right circular cylinder shown above has diameter d and height h . Which of the following expressions represents the volume of the smallest rectangular box that completely contains the cylinder?

- (A) $(d + h)^2$
 (B) d^2h^2
 (C) dh^2
 (D) d^2h
 (E) dh

Answers: B, B, D

SAT math questions are often made more difficult by testing multiple concepts at the same time.

Answer Critical Reading questions in your own words before looking at the choices!

Sentence Completions

Easy

4. The success of *Do the Right Thing* ----- director Spike Lee as one of the most ----- African American directors of the last two decades.

- (A) established . . prominent
- (B) buoyed . . irrelevant
- (C) surrendered . . prolific
- (D) decried . . cynical
- (E) categorized . . mundane

Hard

6. The producer complained that the show's basic premise was downright -----, having no more pep and vigor than a -----.

- (A) inchoate . . lullaby
- (B) sprightly . . eulogy
- (C) facetious . . ballad
- (D) lugubrious . . dirge
- (E) monotonous . . jingle

Medium

5. Adam gained a reputation for being a ----- because he was punished several times for bullying other children.

- (A) stickler (B) naysayer (C) daredevil
- (D) vandal (E) ruffian

Answers: A, E, D

Learning vocabulary words will help your performance in both sentence completions and passage-based reading.

Lugubrious: extremely mournful, sad | Eulogy: spoken or written tribute to someone dead

Inchoate: just beginning to develop | Sprightly: full of life and vigor

Facetious: joking (often inappropriately) | Monotonous: repetitious or uninteresting

Dirge: funeral hymn or music

Read only what you need to answer the given question!

Short Reading Questions

Line Passage 1

One of the more striking recent changes is the wholesale adoption of the recycling ethic. This is especially true of the younger generation who give their parents humbling lectures for throwing newspaper or metal cans in the trash can. The popularity of recycling is even more stunning when we consider the inconveniences associated with the practice. How many of us haven't been annoyed trying to decipher the complicated rules about what can and what cannot be recycled? Plastic bottles can—but not their tops? Aluminum cans are recyclable—but not aluminum foil? People are so certain of the benefits of recycling that now, almost a decade after the implementation of widespread recycling programs, there is no sign of the public becoming impatient with it.

Passage 2

Mandatory recycling programs are not financially beneficial. The main benefit they give is short term, helping only politicians and waste-management companies while diverting money from other more pressing social and environmental problems. These programs, which require extra governmental administrators and educational public relations campaigns to explain what to recycle, consume scarce resources. Collecting recyclable items is more expensive than collecting an equal amount of garbage because trash haulers pick up less at each stop. Recycling may actually be the most wasteful activity in modern times.

Easy

7. The author of Passage 2 would most likely characterize the “people” mentioned in line 13 as

- (A) ignorant
- (B) rational
- (C) indecisive
- (D) astute
- (E) undemanding

Hard

8. The authors of both passages would most likely agree that recycling rules are

- (A) unnecessary
- (B) commendable
- (C) unenforceable
- (D) convoluted
- (E) antiquated

Answers: A, D

For most Critical Reading questions you only need to read one paragraph to get your answer.

Avoid selecting “being” on writing questions!

Improving Sentences

- Easy 9. Daniel believes that proper parenting requires personal attention, being the reason for his spending time with his children every day.
- (A) attention, being the reason for his spending time
 (B) attention and spending time is what is done
 (C) attention and being the reason he spends his time
 (D) attention; for this reason has been his spending time
 (E) attention; he therefore spends time
- Hard 10. Mary was worried about how Joseph would react to the report, but in searching his face, he did not appear to be concerned.
- (A) in searching his face, he did not appear to be
 (B) his face being searched showed that he was not
 (C) by searching his face, it showed that he appeared not
 (D) a search of his face showed that he appeared not
 (E) searching his face, he did not appear to be

Error Identification

- Easy 11. Four decades after Martin Luther King’s *I Have a Dream* speech inspire many people to discuss race tensions in their cities, new hope has been given by the 2008 election of Barack Obama.
- No error
- Hard 12. Chinese writer Kwok Tsun Chan is like the novelist Christopher Scott in her use of hyper nationalism, but unlike his books, she dwells on the psychological aspects of her characters. No error

Answers: E, E, B, C

The Writing Skills section tests how clearly and consistently things are expressed. The specific grammar rules most often tested are verb agreement and tense, pronoun agreement and case, list consistency, comparison consistency, modifier clarity, and proper use of idioms.

Create a winning essay template before going to the test!

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. Your playing small doesn’t serve the world. There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

An excerpt of a speech by Nelson Mandela, originally written by Marianne Williamson

Assignment: Is our deepest fear that we are extremely powerful? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experiences, or observations.

Template:

Introduction : 3–5 sentences that state my position on the topic (quote part of the assignment);
Indicate the examples I plan to use

Body paragraph 1: 3–7 sentences that explain example 1 and how it supports my position

Body paragraph 2: 3–7 sentences that explain example 2 and how it supports my position

Conclusion: 3–5 sentences that summarize how my examples are clearly supportive of my position and close the essay

My favorite sentences:

I firmly believe that (insert topic). My position is most clearly demonstrated when you consider (example 1 and example 2).

First, when one examines (example 1), it becomes clear that his life supports (position).

My favorite examples:

Edgar Allan Poe...

- ...showed perseverance (no one liked his work during his time)
- ...demonstrates that belief in self leads to good things

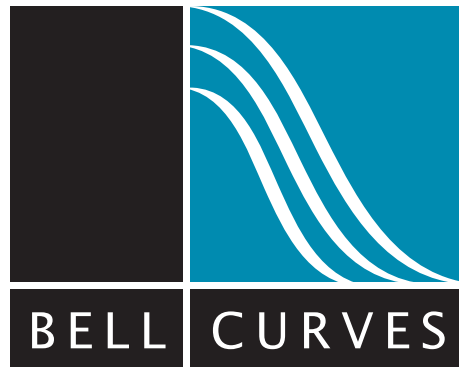
World War II...

- ...showed teamwork (together, the Allies overcame what one could not alone)
- ...shows the benefits of teamwork, democracy, and community

Lord of the Flies...

- ...by William Golding; main characters Piggy, Jack, and Ralph
- ...shows the nature of man in extreme circumstances

The essay is worth up to 180 of the total possible points in the Writing Skills section. The key factors in maximizing your essay score are clarity of position, relevance of examples, and proper essay structure.



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"My scores were a 650 in math, a 650 in critical reading, and a 710 in writing. And my combined score ended up being a 2010, so I ended up achieving my goal to break 2000. I found my tutor to be fun and engaging, at the same time teaching the skills that I needed to know in order to succeed."

- Sophia P. Poly Prep HS '08, University of St. Andrews, Class of '12