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**PLAY IT  
SMART**



**TIPS FOR  
TAKING  
THE SAT**



## Test Scores

Once you have completed the exam, you must wait patiently to see your scores.

- Scores are available by web or by phone approximately two weeks after the exam. There is an \$8.00 fee if you choose to receive your score over the phone.
- Scores are sent out in the mail approximately one month after the exam.
- For the 2003 college-bound seniors the average verbal score was 507 and the average math score was 519.
- If you are not satisfied with your score, consider retaking the exam. On average, students who re-take the SAT score approximately 12 points higher the second time.
- If you are completely dissatisfied with your score, you can fill out a “Request to Cancel Test Scores Form” and bring it to your test center supervisor by the Wednesday after the test date.

### **Further Questions About The SAT? Helpful Contact information**

**Phone:** 888-SAT-HELP  
**E-mail:** sat.help@info.collegeboard.org  
**Mail:** College Board SAT Program  
P.O Box 6200  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6200  
**Web site:** www.collegeboard.com

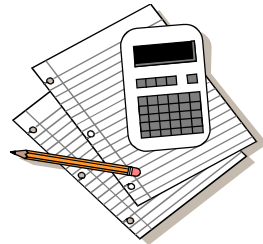
## Test Day

### In Preparation for the Exam...

- Get a good night's sleep
- Arrive at the test taking location at least 15 minutes prior to the exam
- Eat a good breakfast
- Dress comfortably

### Remember...

- Bring an appropriate ID card (drivers license, school identification card, or a valid passport)
- Bring two number two (soft-lead ) pencils with erasers
- Bring two calculators (in case one breaks). Any four function, scientific, or graphing calculator is acceptable



### As You take the Exam...

- Answer easy questions first
- Guess smart! Rule out answers that you know are definitely wrong before making a choice.
- Omit questions that you have no idea how to answer
- Don't panic if you can't answer every question
- Use your test book for scratch work

## SAT doesn't stand for "Saturday Afternoon Test!"

The SAT is an exam that tests your verbal and mathematical skills. College admissions officers use the results of the SAT to determine if you are prepared to handle college work. Your SAT score is NOT the only factor that colleges look at when determining your admission. They also look at your grade point average, personal statement essays, extracurricular activities, and the recommendations of your teachers and counselors.

This workbook will give you some basic information about the SAT. A new version of the SAT will be administered starting in March of 2005. Information on the new SAT is provided on page 8. If you have further questions, please see the contact information at the back of the book.



\*\* Information for this workbook was adapted from [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).

## JUST THE FACTS

### What is the SAT?

The SAT is a three hour reasoning exam that measures your verbal reasoning and mathematical problem solving skills.

### Why do I need to take the SAT?

Colleges and universities use student's SAT scores as indicators of how well they will perform academically at the collegiate level.

### When do I take the SAT?

Usually, students take the SAT during their junior or senior year and many take it more than once.

### When is the SAT administered?

The SAT is given seven Saturdays throughout the year in October, November, December, January, March/April, May, and June. Check the website below for specific dates.

### What is the SAT II?

Some colleges require you to take the SAT II test which measures a student's knowledge of a particular subject, such as history.

### Where do I sign up for the SAT?

Signing up is easy. You can register by mail or online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). If you have taken the SAT before, it is possible to register over the phone.

**Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)**

## The New SAT

**October 2004**– The new PSAT debuts

**March 12, 2005**– The **FIRST ADMINISTRATION** of the new SAT

### 7 Multiple-Choice Sections:

- 3 math
- 3 “critical reading” (formerly verbal reasoning)
- 1 experimental (see previous page)

### Writing Section Consisting of:

- Multiple-choice questions
- 1 written essay

### Covers 1-2 years of High School Math:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Quantitative comparisons will be eliminated

- Analogies will be eliminated
- “Verbal Reasoning” will be changed to “Critical Reading”
- More reading passages will be added

- Multiple-choice questions that test standard rules of grammar
- Essay section

- 1 Math Score 200-800
- 1 Critical Reading Score 200-800
- 1 Writing Score 200-800
- Total Score 600-2400

3.5 Hours

\$36.00-\$38.00

## Current SAT

<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>January 22, 2005</b> The <b>FINAL</b> offering of the current version of the SAT
<b>Test Format</b>	<b>7 Multiple-Choice Sections:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 math</li> <li>• 3 verbal reasoning</li> <li>• 1 experimental (one section, either math or verbal, that does not count toward your final test score and is used for the purpose of SAT research)</li> </ul>
<b>Math Section</b>	<b>Covers 1-2 years of High School Math:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> </ul>
<b>Verbal Section</b>	<b>3 Sections:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analogies</li> <li>• Sentence Completion</li> <li>• Reading Comprehension</li> </ul>
<b>Writing Section</b>	None
<b>Scoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Math Score 200-800</li> <li>• 1 Verbal Score 200-800</li> <li>• Total Score 400-1600</li> </ul>
<b>Testing Time</b>	3 Hours
<b>Cost</b>	\$26.00

## JUST THE FACTS

### How much does it cost to take the SAT?

The fee to take the SAT I is \$28.50. This includes the \$16.00 basic registration fee. The fee of the new SAT, to be administered beginning in March 2005, will increase by approximately \$10-12.

### How much does it cost to take the SAT II?

If you are taking the SAT II subject test, the price ranges from \$8.00-\$16.00 depending on the subject. The \$16.00 basic registration fee is also required.

### How do I make the payment?

Payment can be made by check, credit card, or money order.

### What if I don't have the money?

A fee waiver is available if you are eligible. Check with your school counselor to find out if you can receive one.

### What if I have a learning disability?

If you have a learning disability, talk to your school counselor or Academic Coach about your options.



## Can I Study for the SAT?



There is not a special book that will provide you with all of the answers to the SAT! It is not possible to cram for the SAT, just like it's not possible to learn all of your plays the night before a big game! However, it is possible to be properly prepared for the exam. The following is a list of preparation tips:

- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT!**  
This is a preliminary SAT that will give you exposure to the material of the SAT.
- **Visit the SAT Prep Center at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).**
- **Enroll in an SAT prep class!**  
Many high schools offer their students an SAT prep class. Be sure to check with your guidance counselor, teachers, or your Academic Coach!
- **Practice, Practice, Practice!**  
Take the practice exams to become more familiar with the different types of questions. You can practice on-line, purchase SAT software, or an SAT prep book.

## Sample Questions

### Sentence Completion Example:

Medieval Kingdoms did not become constitutional republics overnight; on the contrary, the change was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) unpopular (B) unexpected (C) advantageous  
(D) sufficient (E) gradual

**Solution:** Choose the word that, when inserted into the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. In this example the correct answer is (E) gradual.

### Math Examples:

1) What is 10% of 20% of 30%?

- (A) 0.006% (B) 0.6% (C) 6% (D) 60% (E) 6000%

**Solution:** (B)  $10\%$  of  $20\%$  of  $30\% = .10 \times .20 \times .30 = 0.006 = 0.6\%$

2) Al, Sonja, and Carol are to divide  $n$  coins among themselves. If Sonja receives twice as many coins as Carol and if Al receives twice as many coins as Sonja, then how many coins does Carol receive, in terms of  $n$ ?

- (A)  $n/2$  (B)  $n/3$  (C)  $n/4$  (D)  $n/6$  (E)  $n/7$

**Solution:** (E) Since the three values add up to  $n$ , then  $x + 2x + 4x = 7x = n$   
Therefore,  $x = n/7$

For more sample questions visit the College Board website at : [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)