

# The SAT

Scholastic Aptitude Test



Hartman Tutoring  
FROM THE ABCs TO THE SATs

## WHO TAKES THE SAT?

The test is typically taken by students in their junior year of high school, and this is the earliest stage at which **most** students should consider registering. There are no specific criteria for SAT eligibility, so younger students can technically sign up as well, but this is relatively uncommon. Students can take the test as many times as they want, and many will keep taking it through the fall of their senior year in order to achieve a high score.

## WHEN IS THE SAT?

The SAT is administered several times throughout the school year, typically in August, October, November, December, March, May, and June. The test is always scheduled on the first or second Saturday of the month, except in August when it's held on the last or second-to-last Saturday.

## WHAT IS THE SAT LIKE?

### Section 1 | Reading

Students are allotted 65 minutes to answer 52 passage-based reading questions with multiple-choice responses. The five passages range in length from 500 to 750 words and vary in topic and complexity.

### Section 2 | Writing and Language

This section contains 44 passage-based multiple-choice questions designed to show a student's comprehension of the English language. Success in this section requires a solid grasp of grammar, punctuation, and usage.

### Section 3 | Math - No Calculator

Consisting of 15 multiple-choice and 5 "grid-in" questions in 25 minutes, this section emphasizes reading comprehension, logical reasoning, and problem-solving methods over computational prowess. Many questions require students to be comfortable carrying out multi-step algebraic procedures. The non-multiple-choice "grid-in" questions get their name from the fact that students must bubble in their answers on a numerical grid.

### Section 4 | Math - Calculator

55 minutes to solve 30 multiple-choice and 8 grid-in questions. The content is similar to the no calculator section but with a heavier emphasis on data analysis and linear relationships.

### Section 5 | Essay

Students must read a persuasive passage and write an essay analyzing the author's rhetorical and argumentative strategies.

## HOW IS THE SAT SCORED?

Students are awarded points for each multiple-choice question they answer correctly. All questions are weighted equally and there is no penalty for missing a question. A student's answer totals for the two reading-based sections and the two math sections are tallied and converted into scaled Reading and Math scores, both ranging from 200-800, then combined into a composite score out of 1600. The essay is graded on a scale from 1-8 and is **not** factored into the composite score.

## OUR PROCESS

### Assessment

Set up a timetable

Overview of test logistics

Learn all necessary strategies

Test-specific executive functioning

Continuously enrich content gaps

Compile vocabulary / formula list

Ongoing sessions & homework

Monthly test simulations

Test-day preparation