



TEST PREP AND  
ADMISSIONS

# SAT

## Test Strategies to Raise Your Score

Prep smarter, score higher—guaranteed or your money back!

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# Agenda

- Get to know the SAT
- Learn strategies for success
- Prep smarter, not harder

# But First—Let's Say Hello!

- Grade?
- Taken the SAT?
- Math vs. Reading?
- Dream school?



# Let's Get to Know the SAT

# Top Factors in College Admissions

## 1a) Grades in College Prep Courses

- ✓ Advanced Placement
- ✓ International Baccalaureate
- ✓ Dual-enrollment Courses

Source: National Association of College Admissions Counseling, “2010 State of College Admission”

# Top Factors in College Admissions

## 1b) Strength of Curriculum

- ✓ Rigor
- ✓ Relevance
- ✓ Quantity

Source: National Association of College Admissions Counseling, "2010 State of College Admission"

# Top Factors in College Admissions

## 2) Admissions Test Scores

- ✓ SAT
- ✓ ACT
- ✓ AP & Subject Tests

Source: National Association of College Admissions Counseling, "2010 State of College Admission"

# Top Factors in College Admissions

## 3) High School GPA

- ✓ Overall
- ✓ Don't fall behind
- ✓ Don't lose focus

Source: National Association of College Admissions Counseling, "2010 State of College Admission"

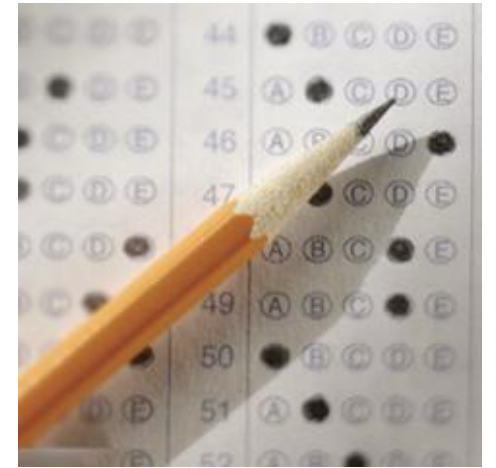
# The SAT at-a-Glance

SECTION	FORMAT/ TIME	QUESTION TYPES	SCORE	2010 Averages
Math	3 Sections	Multiple Choice Grid-Ins	200–800	516
Critical Reading	3 Sections	Multiple Choice	200–800	501
Writing	3 Sections	Multiple Choice Essay	200–800	492
			0–12	7.1
Experimental	1 Section	Multiple Choice	Not Scored	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Sections</b> 3 hours, 45 minutes	<b>Multiple Choice</b> <b>Grid-Ins</b> <b>Essay</b>	<b>600–2400</b>	<b>1509</b>

# The SAT at-a-Glance

## Understanding SAT Scoring

- **Correct Answer: +1 point**
- **Omitted Question: 0 points**
- **Incorrect Answer** (multiple choice) : **-1/4 point**
- **Incorrect Answer** (non-multiple choice math questions) : **0 points**



**Test Day Tip:**

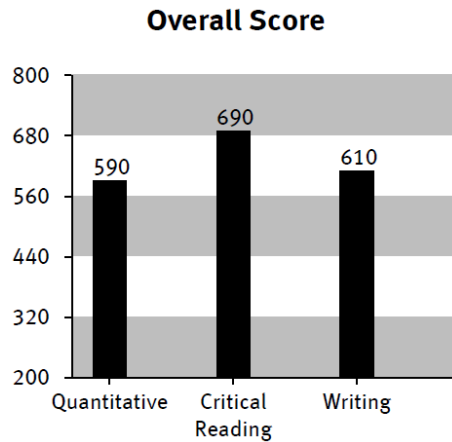
**If you can eliminate 1 answer choice, guess!**

# Score Choice

- In effect for a little over a year.
- Majority of students send all scores to all schools, but, wait to see their actual scores first.
- Each test registration comes with 4 free score reports.
- Most schools take the top score for each section from all of your scores.

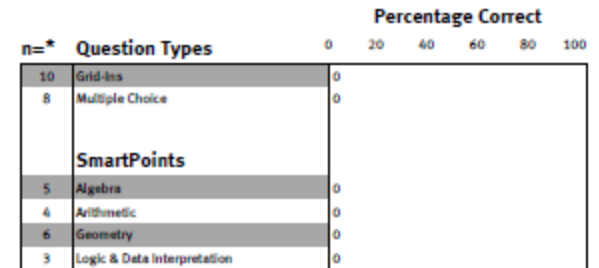
# Reading your Score Report

Math Scaled Score	590
Math Percentage Below	71
Critical Reading Scaled Score	690
Critical Reading Percentage Below	94
Writing Scaled Score	610
Writing Percentage Below	81
Overall	1890
Overall Percentage Below	87
Essay Score	0



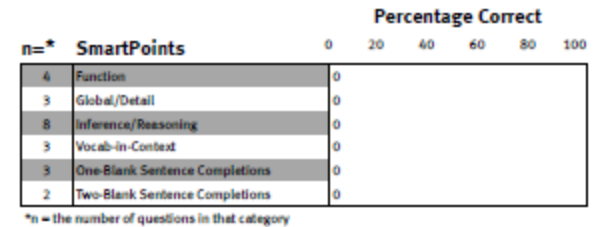
## SAT MATH

Correct	0
Incorrect	0
Omitted	18
Scaled Score	260



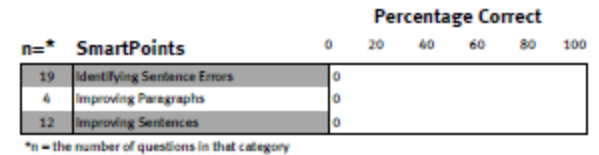
## SAT CRITICAL READING

Correct	0
Incorrect	0
Omitted	23
Scaled Score	250



## SAT WRITING

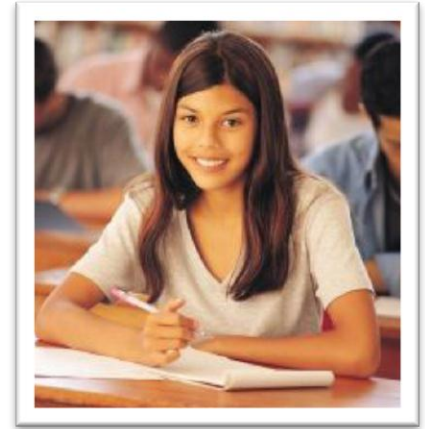
Correct	0
Incorrect	0
Omitted	35
Essay Score	10
Scaled Score	370



1. Overall Results

2. Section Breakdown

# The SAT Essay Unraveled



## About the SAT Essay

- Scored on a 0–6 scale by two graders; grades are then added to get a total score out of 12
- Worth about 25% of the scaled Writing score

# The SAT Essay Unraveled

To get that high score you deserve...

6 5 4!

## DO:

- ✓ Answer the assignment question
- ✓ Use detailed and relevant examples
- ✓ Construct a strong thesis
- ✓ Organize the essay well
- ✓ Use smooth transitions
- ✓ Use vivid imagery
- ✓ Proofread! (Spelling, grammar, and punctuation)
- ✓ Be clear, coherent, and concise

# The SAT Essay Unraveled

To get that high score you deserve...

6 5 4!

**~~DON'T:~~**

- ✗ Lose your central argument
- ✗ Use flowery and artificial language
- ✗ Use clichés
- ✗ Repeat yourself
- ✗ Use slang or abbreviations

# SAT Test Scores

CR + M Score	Writing Score	School Type
1600	800	INSERT LOCAL SCHOOL NAME
1540–1590	800	
1490–1530	770–790	
1440–1480	730–760	INSERT LOCAL SCHOOL NAME
1400–1430	710–720	
1360–1390	690–700	
1330–1350	660–680	INSERT LOCAL SCHOOL NAME
1290–1320	640–650	
1250–1280	620–630	
1210–1240	610	
1170–1200	590–600	
1130–1160	570–580	

CR + M Score	Writing Score	School Type
1090–1120	550–560	INSERT LOCAL SCHOOL NAME
1050–1080	530–540	
1020–1040	510–520	
980–1010	480–500	
940–970	470	
900–930	450–460	
860–890	430–440	INSERT LOCAL SCHOOL NAME
820–850	410–420	
770–810	390–400	
720–760	380	
670–710	360–370	
620–660	340–350	
560–610	320–330	
510–550	300–310	

# Strategies for Success

# Kaplan Backsolving Method

## Backsolving

- Try out the answer choices to find the right one
- Start with (C) unless the problem asks for the smallest or largest value

## When do you Backsolve?

- When you're asked for a value
- When the answer choices are simple numbers

# Ratios

3. Of the participants at a certain conference,  $\frac{1}{3}$  are veterinarians;  $\frac{1}{2}$  are zoologists; and the remaining 12 are trainers. Each participant specializes in only one field. What is the total number of participants at the conference.

~~A. 36~~

~~B. 48~~

→ C. 60

D. 72

E. 76

Veterinarians →  $\frac{1}{3} (60) = 20$

Zoologists →  $\frac{1}{2} (60) = 30$

+ Trainers → 12

~~62~~

# Ratios

3. Of the participants at a certain conference,  $\frac{1}{3}$  are veterinarians;  $\frac{1}{2}$  are zoologists; and the remaining 12 are trainers. Each participant specializes in only one field. What is the total number of participants at the conference.

~~A. 36~~

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~~C. 60~~

→ **D. 72**

~~E. 76~~

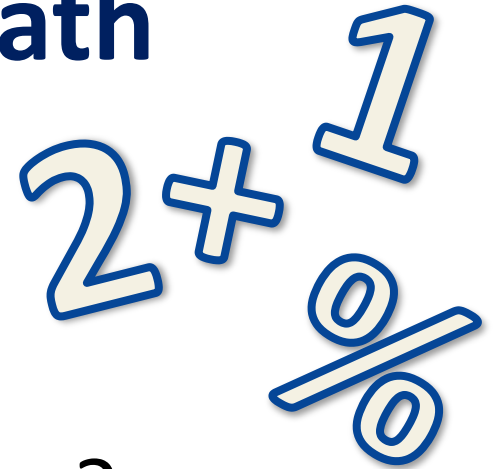
Veterinarians →  $\frac{1}{3} (72) = 24$

Zoologists →  $\frac{1}{2} (72) = 36$

+ Trainers → 12

**72**

# The Kaplan Method for Math



1. What is the question?
2. What information are you given?
3. What can you do with this information?
4. Are you done yet?

# Logic

3. 64 teams compete in a tournament. Two teams play in each game, and teams that lose are immediately eliminated from the tournament. What is the minimum number of games that must be played in order to have only one undefeated team?

**32 vs. 32 = 32 Games**

**16 vs. 16 = 16 Games**

**8 vs. 8 = 8 Games**

**4 vs. 4 = 4 Games**

**2 vs. 2 = 2 Games**

**1 vs. 1 = 1 Game**

**= 63 Games**



# Logic

3. 64 teams compete in a tournament. Two teams play in each game, and teams that lose are immediately eliminated from the tournament. What is the minimum number of games that must be played in order to have only one undefeated team?

**Use your critical-thinking skills!**

**# of winners = 1**

**# of losers = 63**

**63 games had to be played**



# Writing: Relative Pronouns

To whom is the letter addressed?

The letter is addressed to **him**.



Objective Pronoun = her, him, them, or us → **WHOM**

Subjective Pronoun = she, he, they, or we → **WHO**

# Writing: Relative Pronoun

I went to the library with Anthony, who is also in my math class.

He is in my math class.

The boy to whom we were speaking had bright green hair.

I was speaking to him.

# College Prep Timeline

# College Prep Timeline

## Freshman Year

- Extracurricular activities
- Prep for AP/Honors

## Sophomore Year

- PSAT in October
- Take AP and SAT Subject Tests after completing courses
- Summer prep for PSAT

# College Prep Timeline

## Junior Year

- PSAT in October for National Merit
- Focus on academics—this is the critical year!
- Research admissions requirements for chosen schools
- Prepare for SAT and/or ACT
- Take required SAT Subject Tests

## Senior Year

- Take SAT and/or ACT for the last time
- Take required SAT Subject Tests
- Request letters of recommendation
- Fill out FAFSA and research scholarships
- Visit schools

**Prep Smarter,  
Not Harder.**

# It's All About You!

## Consider Your...

- Goals
- Timeline
- Schedule
- Learning preference



# Prep smarter, not harder.

## How do you learn best?



Online?



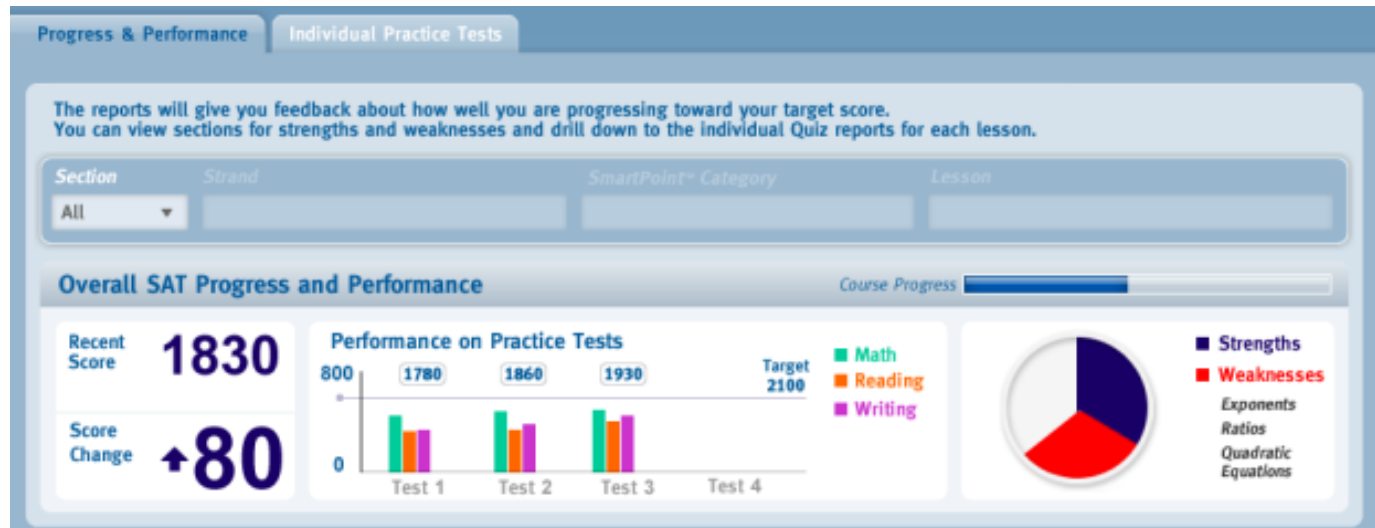
In the classroom?



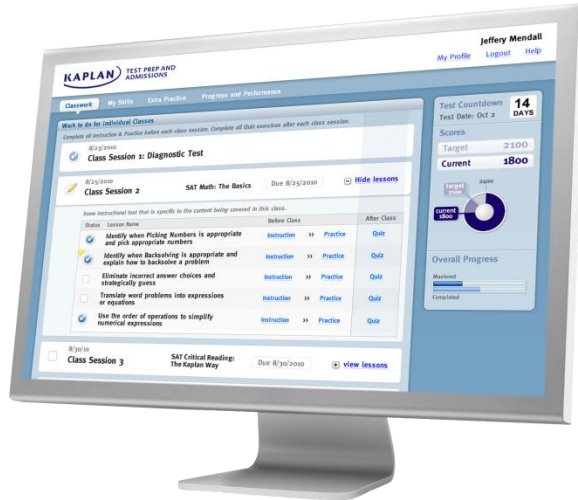
One-on-One?

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