

# SAT Reasoning Test & SAT II: Subject Tests

Standardized Tests for Applying  
To American Colleges

# What is the SAT?

- “a measure of the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems- skills you learned in school that you'll need in college” - collegeboard.com
- Nearly every college in America accepts it as part of their admissions process
- Taken by high school juniors and seniors

# What does the test cover?

- 3 Sections
  - Critical Reading
  - Writing
  - Math

# Critical Reading Section: Overview

- Includes short and long reading passages with questions and sentence-completion questions.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Item Types</b>	<b>Score</b>
70 min. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	Critical reading and sentence-level reading	Reading comprehension, sentence completions, and paragraph-length critical reading	200-800

# Critical Reading Section:

## Sentence Completion

- Measure your:
  - Knowledge of what words mean
  - Ability to understand how the different parts of a sentence fit together

- Example:

Hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ the dispute, negotiators proposed a compromise that they felt would be \_\_\_\_\_ to both labor and management.

- (A) enforce . . Useful
- (B) end . . Divisive
- (C) overcome . . Unattractive
- (D) extend . . Satisfactory
- (E) resolve . . acceptable

# Critical Reading Section: Reading Passages

- Measure your ability to read and think carefully about different reading passages ranging in length from about 100 to about 850 words.
- They are taken from a variety of fields, including the humanities, social studies, natural sciences, and literary fiction.

# Writing Section: Overview

- Includes multiple-choice questions and a short essay

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Item Types</b>	<b>Score</b>
60 min.	Grammar, usage, and word choice	Multiple choice questions (35 min.) and student-written essay (25 min.)	200-800

# Writing Section: Multiple Choice Questions

- The multiple-choice writing questions measure your ability to:
  - Improve sentences and paragraphs
  - Identify errors (such as diction, grammar, sentence construction, subject-verb agreement, proper word usage, and wordiness)

- Example:

The reason we stopped fishing was because the fish had already stopped biting.

- A. because the fish had already stopped biting
- B. because the fish had all ready stopped biting
- C. that the fish had already stopped biting
- D. that the fish had all ready stopped biting
- E. because the fish had stopped biting already



# Answer to Writing Question

- The correct answer is C. Saying "the reason is... because" is redundant. A subordinate conjunction like "that" or "why" works better. Choice D is wrong because "all ready" is not an adverb.

# Writing Section: Short Essay

- The short essay measures your ability to:
  - Organize and express ideas clearly
  - Develop and support the main idea
  - Use appropriate word choice and sentence structure
- You will have to develop point of a view on an issue and use reasoning and evidence to support your ideas.
- The essay will be scored by trained high school and college teachers.

# Writing Section: Short Essay Example

- Directions: Think carefully about the statement and assignment below. Outline a response that develops and supports your own ideas. You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the given topic.
- Statement to Consider: There are times when you have to obey a call which is the highest of all, i.e. the voice of conscience even though such obedience may cost many a bitter tear, and even more, separation from friends, from family, from the state to which you may belong, from all that you have held as dear as life itself. For this obedience is the law of our being. --Mahatma Gandhi
- Essay Question: Is it more important to comply with the dictates of conscience than with other demands? 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 what you have read, studied, or experienced.

# Math: Overview

- Multiple choice and questions that require you to grid in the answer.
- Can use a calculator, but no question requires a calculator to be solved.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Item Types</b>	<b>Score</b>
70 min. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, and data analysis	Five-choice multiple- choice questions and student- produced responses	200- 800

# Math: Sample Questions

- A car travels from town A to town B, a distance of 360 miles, in 9 hours. How many hours would the same trip have taken had the car traveled 5 mph faster?
- A rectangular door measures 5 feet by 6 feet 8 inches. What is the distance from one corner of the door to the diagonally opposite corner? (1 foot = 12 inches)
  - A. 8'2"
  - B. 8'4"
  - C. 8'8"
  - D. 9'
  - E. 9'6"

# Answers to Math Sample Questions

- The correct answer is (B).  
5 feet = 60 inches  
6 feet 8 inches = 80 inches  
This is a 6-8-10 triangle, making the diagonal 100 inches, which is 8 feet 4 inches. If you don't recognize the common triangle, you can use Pythagorean Theorem ( $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ) to solve the problem.
- Answer: The correct answer is 8.  
Distance = rate  $\times$  time  
 $360 = r(9)$   
 $40 = r$   
If  $r$  were 5 miles an hour faster, it would equal 45 ( $40 + 5 = 45$ ).  
 $d = rt$   
 $360 = 45t$   
 $t = 8$

Sample questions and answers taken from: [www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)

# How Important Are My Scores?

- Each institution decides the importance of SAT scores
- The SAT is just one of many admissions requirements, it is not the only measure
- Considerations made for international students:
  - Degree of English proficiency can affect testing
  - SAT was developed for students educated in the United States, and international students have different cultural and educational backgrounds
- See the college's website to know their standards

# SAT II: Subject Test



# What is the SAT II?

- “designed to measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as your ability to apply that knowledge”  
-collegeboard.com
- Unlike the SAT: Reasoning, it tests your knowledge of specific subjects
- Some, but not all, institutions require it for:
  - Admissions
  - Placing you in courses
  - Helping you with your course selection

# Subjects

- English
  - Literature (How well you can read and interpret literature)
- History and Social Studies
  - U.S. History
  - World History (Use historical techniques and understand key developments)
- Mathematics
  - Math Level I (Algebra and Geometry)
  - Math Level 2 (Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry)
- Science
  - Biology E (populations, energy flow, biological communities)
  - Biology M (biochemistry, cellular structure and processes)
  - Chemistry
  - Physics

# Subjects

- Languages
  - Chinese with Listening
  - French
  - French with Listening
  - German
  - German with Listening
  - Spanish
  - Spanish with Listening
  - Modern Hebrew
  - Italian
  - Latin
  - Japanese with Listening
  - Korean with Listening

# Registration Fees

<b>Test</b>	<b>Fee</b>
SAT Reasoning Test	\$41.50
SAT Subject Tests (add the \$18.00 Basic Registration Fee to the total fee for the Subject Tests): Language Tests with Listening All other Subject Tests	\$19.0 0 \$ 8.00

# How can I prepare?

- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Work problems
- Take old exams in a TIMED setting
- Use review books
- For the subject tests, review course material
- Know directions for the test beforehand, and know how the tests are scored so that you can test wisely

# Internet Review Resources

- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html>
- <http://www.review.com>
- <http://www.petersons.com/testprep/default.asp?id=877&path=ug.pft.sat>
- <http://www.testprepreview.com/>
- <http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=6>
- [http://www.educationplanner.com/education\\_planner/preparing\\_article.asp?sponsor=2859&articleName=Test\\_Prep](http://www.educationplanner.com/education_planner/preparing_article.asp?sponsor=2859&articleName=Test_Prep)
- Use search engines for: SAT test tips, SAT practice exams, Free SAT preparation, SAT strategies

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.034 / CMS.930 Media Education and the Marketplace  
Fall 2005

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.