

# BARRON'S

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# SAT<sup>®</sup> Study Guide Premium



## 2023

- 8 full-length practice tests with detailed answer explanations
- Online practice with a timed test option and scoring
- Comprehensive review and practice for all topics on the exam
- Expert tips and study advice to prepare you for exam day



Brian W. Stewart, M.Ed.

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**ONLINE PRACTICE**

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**Premium**

# Study Guide

## 2023

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## **Dedication**

Dedicated to Caitlin, Andrew, and Eloise—without your love and support, this book would not have been possible. I would like to thank my mom, my dad, Andy, Pam, Leah, Thapasvi, Patrick, Sarah, and Bella. A special thank you to Michal Strawn for her invaluable help. I am grateful to all the support from my publisher, especially Jennifer Goodenough and Angela Tartaro.

Thanks so much to all of my students over the years—I have learned far more from you than you have learned from me.

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# About the Author

Brian W. Stewart is the founder and president of BWS Education Consulting, Inc., a boutique tutoring and test preparation company based in Columbus, Ohio. Brian is a nationally recognized test preparation expert, having over 30,000 hours of direct instructional experience with a wide variety of learners from all over the world. He has achieved a perfect score on the SAT, helped hundreds of students reach their college admissions goals, and presented on best tutoring practices at national conferences.

Brian has used his experience and expertise to write several best-selling books with Barron's, including *Barron's ACT* and *Barron's PSAT/NMSQT*. He is a former high school teacher and graduate of Princeton University (A.B.) and The Ohio State University (M.Ed.).

Brian resides in Columbus with his wife, two children, and an assortment of pets.

To learn more about Brian's online tutoring and group presentations, please visit [www.bwseducationconsulting.com](http://www.bwseducationconsulting.com).



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# How to Use This Book

This book is designed to allow for highly targeted preparation for the SAT. Based on your previous SAT scores or the SAT Diagnostic Test in this book, review the strategies and content knowledge that are most relevant to your needs. There are hundreds of drills that range in difficulty from easy to challenging so that you can achieve the very best results for your personal situation.

## Diagnostic Test

First, take the Diagnostic Test to gain an understanding of your strengths and weaknesses. It is a complete test with answer explanations and a question-type analysis guide so you know what types of concepts need the most attention.

## Review and Practice

The Reading, Writing and Language, and Math sections each have:

- Proven test-taking strategies that allow you to customize your approach
- Extensive review of key concepts, particularly grammar and math knowledge
- Practice questions fully aligned with SAT content
- Advanced practice drills for ambitious students

## Practice Tests

The final section of the book offers the opportunity to take four full-length practice tests that include all question types found on the actual SAT for the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math (calculator and non-calculator) sections. Comprehensive answer explanations are provided for all questions.

## **Online Practice**

In addition to the Diagnostic Test and four practice tests within this book, there are also three full-length online practice exams. You may take these exams in practice (untimed) mode or in timed mode. All questions include answer explanations.

## **For Students**

Every strategy and explanation is based on what I have found works best for students on the actual SAT. No matter your personal goals and background knowledge, you will find practice drills and test-taking strategies that are geared toward your situation. Look at the SAT as an opportunity to showcase all of your knowledge and skills for colleges.

Best of luck,  
Brian W. Stewart

## **For Teachers**

While many students will like working through this book independently, others will maximize their learning when they have a great teacher or tutor as their guide. Help your students work smarter instead of simply harder by utilizing the concept reviews and drills most appropriate for your students' needs. Also, you can coach your students on which test-taking strategies will be the best fit based on their past performance. I am hopeful that the skills students develop from using this book will help them not just with the SAT, but also with their academic coursework and future careers. If you have any suggestions for future editions, please reach out via the publisher.

Sincerely,  
Brian W. Stewart

**PART 1**

**Introduction to the SAT**

# Welcome to the SAT

## The New Digital SAT

In January 2022, the College Board announced that in the spring of 2024, students in the United States are scheduled to switch from a paper SAT to a digital SAT. Students taking the SAT internationally are scheduled to shift to the digital format in the spring of 2023. The fundamental math, reading, and grammar skills and knowledge necessary for success will remain the same, and the test will still be scored out of 1600 points. The most important anticipated changes are that the SAT will take about 2 hours to complete instead of 3, the test sections will be “adaptive” (changing in difficulty based on your performance), and the entire test will be given on a computer. Check out the latest information on the digital exam by accessing Barron’s Online Learning Hub via the link provided in the card at the front of the book. The Learning Hub includes online practice materials, and you can find more information on the digital SAT in the Library section.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the SAT?

The SAT is a standardized test designed to assess your readiness for college-level work. Approximately 2,200,000 students take the exam each year, and most U.S. colleges and universities accept it for admissions consideration. Many schools also use the SAT to determine eligibility for scholarships. The SAT is one of many factors that colleges use to grant admission, along with evaluations of high school coursework, application essays, extracurricular involvement, and more.

## What is the format of the SAT?

The SAT takes approximately three hours to complete, and is broken down as follows:

SAT Format		
<b>1. Reading</b>	<i>65 minutes</i>	<i>52 questions</i>
<i>10-minute break</i>		
<b>2. Writing and Language</b>	<i>35 minutes</i>	<i>44 questions</i>
<b>3. Math No Calculator</b>	<i>25 minutes</i>	<i>20 questions</i>
<i>5-minute break</i>		
<b>4. Math with Calculator</b>	<i>55 minutes</i>	<i>38 questions</i>

## How is the SAT scored?

- The SAT score is broken up into two halves:
  1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, made of the Reading and Writing and Language sections, is scored between 200–800 points.
  2. Math, made of the Math No Calculator and Math with Calculator sections, is scored between 200–800 points.
- The total SAT score is therefore between 400–1600 points, with a 1600 being a perfect score, and a 1000 being approximately an average score.
- There is no penalty for guessing, so be sure to answer every question.

## **How do you register for the test? When is it offered?**

Go to the College Board website and set up an account here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/>

The SAT is typically offered seven times throughout the year in the following months: March, May, June, August, October, November, and December. Check on the above website link for the most updated information on test dates. Some schools may also offer an in-school test date; check with your guidance counselor for more details.

## **What is a good SAT score?**

There is not a “passing” score on the SAT—a good score for you depends on your specific goals for college admissions. Take a look at this free College Board website for detailed information on typical scores for admitted students at schools throughout the United States:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

## **Does the SAT potentially offer accommodations?**

For students whose test-taking is impacted by a documented disability, such as ADHD, dyslexia, or visual or motor impairments, the SAT may offer accommodations. The most typical accommodation is extended time, although some students may receive more specific accommodations, like the services of a reader or extended breaks. If you have an IEP or 504 plan with your school, talk to your guidance counselor or school administrator about applying for accommodations on the SAT. Having an IEP or a 504 plan will not necessarily lead to having accommodations on the SAT, but it usually helps. Allow plenty of time to apply for accommodations—at least seven weeks. Go to this website for the latest details on requesting SAT accommodations: <https://accommodations.collegeboard.org>

## **Does the SAT offer accommodations for English language learners?**

Students who are actively enrolled in an English as a Second Language program at their school may be able to take the SAT with 50% extra time,

translated test directions, and the use of a bilingual dictionary. This service is currently available on school-day SATs, but not on the national test dates on weekends. Go to this website for further information about SAT supports for English language learners:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/educators/k-12/english-learner-supports>

## **What are the similarities and differences between the SAT and ACT?**

The SAT and ACT have many similarities:

- They both test English grammar.
- They both test high school math up through precalculus.
- They both test reading comprehension.
- They both assess students' ability to analyze graphs and charts.
- There is no guessing penalty on either test—be sure to answer every question.
- Colleges throughout the United States will accept results from either the SAT or ACT.

There are some important differences:

- **The SAT gives students more time to complete the same amount of material.** For example, on the Writing and Language section of the SAT, students have about nine minutes to complete 11 questions, while on the English section of the ACT, students have nine minutes to complete 15 questions. So, if you are more comfortable taking your time completing the test, the SAT may be a better fit than the ACT.
- **The SAT focuses more deeply on certain math topics**, emphasizing algebra and word problems. **The ACT has a broader array of math topics**, including things like matrices, logarithms, and hyperbolas.
- **The ACT has a Science section, while the SAT tests scientific skills throughout the test.** The final section of the ACT is a stand-

alone science reasoning section, which assesses your skill in analyzing experiments, scientific research, and scientific theories. The SAT has questions on each section—even the Writing and Language—that will ask you to interpret graphs and charts.

## **What should I do right before the SAT?**

Immediately before the SAT, prioritize sleep and relaxation. You will do far better on the SAT if you are well-rested and have a positive mindset. In the week before the test, try to get eight to nine hours of sleep a night. Since the SAT is very much a critical thinking test, the better rested you are, the better you will be able to read, problem solve, and edit. Some practice shortly before the test is perfectly fine to do, but make sure you are not staying up late and cramming.

## **What should I bring with me to the SAT?**

- **Admissions ticket**
- **Wooden number 2 pencils** (not mechanical)
- **Calculator with fresh batteries**—most any graphing or scientific calculator is fine.
  - Check to see if your calculator is approved here:  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/calculator-policy>
- **A watch** (one that doesn't make noise and is not connected to the internet)
- **A snack and a drink** to have during your breaks (don't have food/drink out on your desk)
- **Do not have your cell phone with you during the duration of the test**—you are welcome to use it after the test has concluded, but the proctors do not want to see phones used during the test to prevent possible cheating.

## **What are some general SAT test-taking strategies?**