

Standardized Test Guide Tips

Whether you're preparing for the SAT, ACT or SSAT, this standardized test guide will give you basic tips on how to achieve your best score possible.

Preparation "R": Read, Review, Restrict

Read: From sharpening your brain to reducing your stress, reading is an important prep tool.

Review: Do as many practice tests as possible and review test strategies.

Restrict: Stick to time restrictions whenever completing a test section.

Eliminate the Unknowns

Familiarize yourself with the test directions, know how to approach all the question types, study vocabulary lists.

Avoid Getting Stuck

Skip and come back after 2 or 3: If you can't get a question, leave it temporarily. Do 2, maximum 3 more problems, then return to the one you couldn't get. You'll be fresher.

Be sure to circle the problem number in your test booklet so you don't get out of sequence with the answer booklet.

Get Your Fix

Learn the meaning of as many **prefixes** and **suffixes** as possible. This can prove especially helpful when confronted with a word you don't know in the vocabulary in context questions.

Trust Your Feelings

If you find yourself not knowing the meaning of a word or phrase, determine how it makes you feel. It'll have either a **positive** or **negative connotation**. Determining this can help lead you to the right answer.

Subdivide and Conquer

Break the time allotments for sections down into segments. For example, work to complete each Reading Section passage in 12 minutes.

Leave No Question Unanswered

Neither the SAT nor the ACT penalizes you for a wrong answer. Keep an eye on the clock. If you are running out of time, start filling out bubbles in a randomized way. Just don't leave any question blank!



Getting ready to take the SAT or ACT?

Understand the difference between each test and what skills are needed to get your best score.

SAT or ACT: Pick Your Preference

Similar Content: Both feature articles on science, history, social science, one fiction passage and one paired passage.

Test Format: Both tests are multiple choice.

Essay Section: The Essay is optional in both. The ACT essay is 30 minutes, whereas SAT is 50. *Note: The College Board is eliminating the essay component after June, 2021.*

Grading System: The grading system is different. The highest score on SAT is 1600; ACT is 36.

Questions and Timing: The ACT requires you to answer more questions (215 vs. 154) in less time (5 fewer minutes).

Science Component: The ACT includes a separate Science component. The SAT English component includes a minimum of two Science passages.

Basic Skills Needed for the SAT and ACT



Concentration

Stay focused and on task for over 3 hours.



Organization

Arrive early; bring necessary documents, utensils and snacks; use time management strategies.



Neatness

Fill in the circles without going outside the lines.

Need help with test prep?

The Best Education Prep team has got you covered! Contact us today to get started.

