

# 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.

