

Method Test Prep SAT tips

Tip #1

You will take ten sections but only nine of the ten will count toward your score. Three math sections, three critical reading sections, and three writing sections will count toward your score. The extra section, which will not count, could be either math, critical reading, or writing. Unfortunately, you will not know which section this is. Therefore, you need to try your hardest on all ten sections.

Tip #2

Do the easy questions first and don't rush through them. They count just as much as the harder questions

Tip #3

Try to eliminate wrong answers. If you don't know which answer is right, but you're able to determine that three of the five answers are wrong, you have a 50 percent chance of selecting the right answer from the remaining two options. Even eliminating just one answer as wrong helps you find the right answer.

Tip #4

Getting a good night's sleep after studying helps put all of that newly learned information into long-term memory.

Tip #5

All sections of the SAT go from easiest to hardest, except for the critical reading section. This means that on the math sections you should not rush just to get to the end of the section. The last few questions on each math section are the most difficult to get correct. If you have to omit a few questions, those are the ones to omit.

Tip #6

If you are having trouble finishing the critical reading sections in time, you should skip the last couple of sentence completion questions so that you can get to the reading comprehension questions a few minutes earlier. Remember that the critical reading questions do not go in order of difficulty, so the last few questions might not be too difficult. If you get to the end of the critical reading section with a few minutes to spare, then go back and try the last couple of sentence completion questions.

Tip #7

Do not read the reading comprehension passages for too long. Only take between one and two minutes to read the long passages quickly, reading just enough to get a main understanding of the arguments or points the author is making. Once you get to the questions, you will be going back to the passages anyway to search for the right answer, so it doesn't make sense to read for too long.

Tip #8

The rule on when to guess: If you can ever eliminate at least two of the answer choices so that you have only three or two answers remaining as possibly correct, then you should definitely guess. If you cannot narrow it down to three choices, then you should just omit the question. The reason for this rule is that a correct answer on the SAT counts as +1, an incorrect answer is -1/4, and omitting a question is just a 0. So, in short, three choices or less, answer the question; more than three answer choices, leave it blank.

Tip #9

Small point: You don't lose points for guessing on the "grid-in your answer" math questions. So you should put down an answer for every one of these questions.

Tip #10

Learn vocabulary! One of the best ways to raise your SAT score from the last time you took the test or from your PSAT score is to learn more words. Go to the vocabulary builder portion of the Method Test Prep course and click on "Take Quiz." Whenever you get a question wrong, make a flashcard for that word. Have a rule that you are going to learn 30 words per week. If just ten of the 200 words you learn appear on the SAT, your score could go up by 100 points!

Tip #11

The breakdown of critical reading questions on every SAT is this: 19 sentence completion and 48 reading comprehension questions. Make sure you have practiced a ton of reading passages—they make up more than 70 percent of your critical reading score!

Tip #12

Know what information they give you at the start of each math section. There are many formulas that are given to you. You don't have to memorize them; just make sure to go back to them when you are asked a question involving one of these formulas.