



**Method  
Learning**

# Digital SAT, ACT, PSAT - Everything You Need to Know

Tom Ehlers

Founder

Method Learning



# Method Learning



Tom Ehlers

President and Founder



Tom graduated from Princeton University and completed Princeton's Teacher Preparation Program. Early on, he developed a passion for learning which led to the inception of Method Test Prep. Running this small business allowed Tom to really focus on each student's needs and spend countless hours tutoring with the belief that all students have the ability to succeed. In addition, he has worked as an educational consultant with school districts across the country and advises them on ways to improve the districts' college admission test scores.

Tom is a father to twins Jonathan and Julia and enjoys traveling with his children and wife, Ally. In his down time, he reads, watches sports, and stays active. His motto in life, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows."

# What's Our Goal?



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Use higher ACT  
and SAT scores  
to...



Get accepted to  
more places/have  
more options



Earn more \$\$ in  
academic merit  
aid



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If you only remember  
**ONE THING** from this  
presentation...



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The ACT and SAT are  
*predictable.*

*Predictability* warrants  
**preparation.**



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If a student gets just 1 more question correct on the SAT, how many points does his or her score often go up?

# National Averages



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ACT - 20 (Highest - 36)

SAT - 1060 (Highest-1600)

What's a good  
score?

What's a good  
score?



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Should a student take  
both the SAT and ACT?





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What are the  
differences between  
the SAT and ACT?



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If you get a question wrong  
on the SAT or ACT, you lose  
how many points?



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How much time  
should I put in each  
week to prepare for  
the tests?



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What would I do if I had an 11<sup>th</sup> grader?  
(or if I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade)



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# ACT 2023 -2024 Test Dates



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## 2023-2024 Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024*	June 7	June 21

# SAT 2023 -2024 Test Dates



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SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Regular Cancellation
<b>Aug 26, 2023</b>	Jul 28, 2023	Aug 15, 2023
<b>Oct 7, 2023</b>	Sept 8, 2023	Sept 26, 2023
<b>Nov 4, 2023</b>	Oct 5, 2023	Oct 24, 2023
<b>Dec 2, 2023</b>	Nov 2, 2023	Nov 21, 2023
<b>Mar 9, 2024</b>	Feb 23, 2024	Feb 27, 2024**
<b>May 4, 2024</b>	Apr 19, 2024	Apr 23, 2024**
<b>June 1, 2024</b>	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024**

ACT TIR Service



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Test Information Release Service

- April
- June
- September 2024 or December 2024

# Digital SAT Overview



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- Students will take the test on a laptop or tablet, using a digital testing app that they'll download prior to test day
- The length of the test will be around 2 hours 15 minutes, compared to about 3 hours for the current test
- More time per question



# Test Format



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- Reading and Writing/Language Module 1
- Reading and Writing/Language Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)
- 10-minute break
- Math Module 1
- Math Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)

# The Test is Adaptive



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- A student will need to get roughly half of the first module correct to be routed into the harder second module
- A student's maximum score on a section will likely only be in the low-600s if he or she is routed into the easier second module
- The only way to score in the 650 - 800 range is to get to the harder second module!



# Features of the Digital Test

## Section 2: Math

Directions ▾

0:00

Hide

100%

Calculator Reference More

Calculator

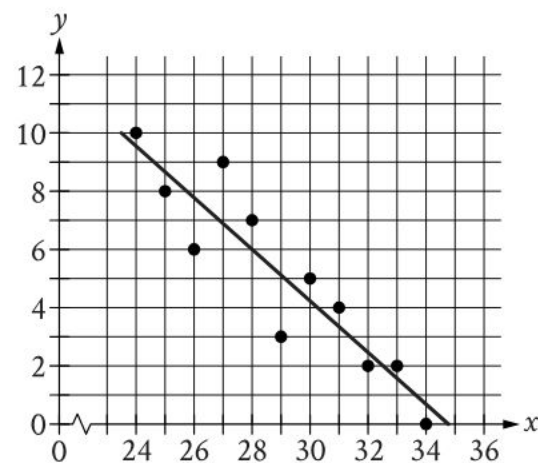
Expand

powered by desmos

1 Mark for Review



The scatterplot shows the relationship between two variables,  $x$  and  $y$ . A line of best fit for the data is also shown.



At  $x = 32$ , which of the following is closest to the  $y$ -value predicted by the line of best fit?

(A) 0.4



(B) 1.5



(C) 2.4



# Section 1: Reading and Writing

Directions ▾

0:00

Hide

Annotate More

100%

In recommending Bao Phi's collection *Sông I Sing*, a librarian noted that pieces by the spoken-word poet don't lose their \_\_\_\_ nature when printed: the language has the same pleasant musical quality on the page as it does when performed by Phi.



1 Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- (A) scholarly Undo
- (B) melodic ⊖
- (C) jarring Undo
- (D) personal ⊖

New Annotation: "the language has the same pleasant musical quality"

CLOSE X

Highlight Color:

Underline style:

Save

Cancel

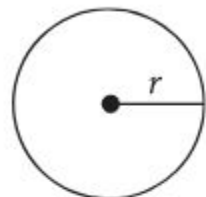
## Check Your Work

On test day, you won't be able to move on to the next module until time expires.  
For these practice questions, you can click **Next** when you're ready to move on.

### Section 1: Reading and Writing Questions

 Unanswered  For Review

-  1
-  2
-  3
- 4
-  5
- 6
- 7
- 8

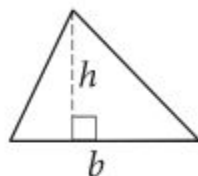


$$A = \pi r^2$$

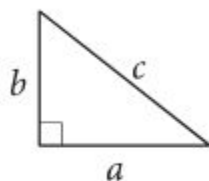
$$C = 2\pi r$$



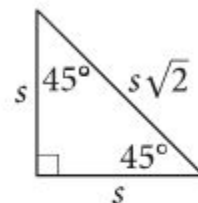
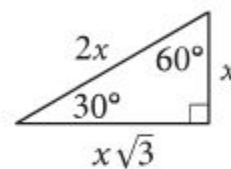
$$A = \ell w$$



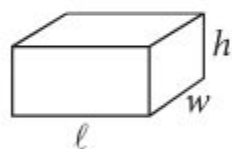
$$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$$



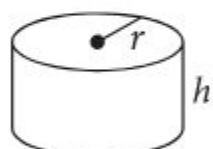
$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$



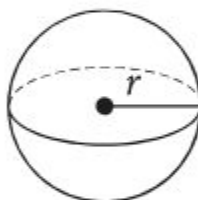
**Special Right Triangles**



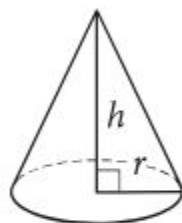
$$V = \ell wh$$



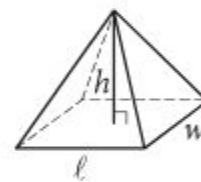
$$V = \pi r^2 h$$



$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$



$$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$$



$$V = \frac{1}{3}\ell wh$$

The number of degrees of arc in a circle is 360.

The number of radians of arc in a circle is  $2\pi$ .

The sum of the measures in degrees of the angles of a triangle is 180.



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So what is the next step? How can I improve my score most efficiently?



# 3347 Levittown Early Spring 2024 SAT Class

PREPARATION FOR THE MAY 4 SAT



Eight 2 1/2-Hour Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays

7 to 9:30 pm

March 12, 19, 26

April 2, 4, 11, 16

May 2

\$375



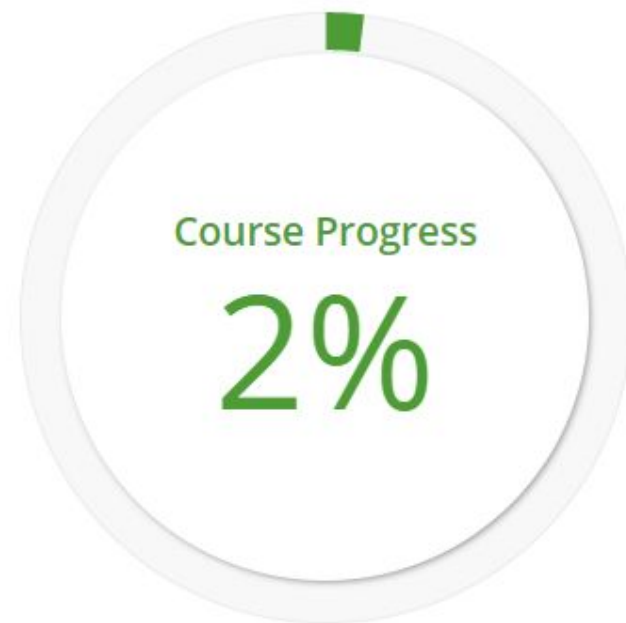
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**Levittown pays for all  
students to have access to  
our Methodize SAT/ACT  
course. No cost to families.  
Access through Castle  
Learning**



## SAT

The SAT course provides students with a comprehensive overview of the most effective strategies and most relevant content for raising their SAT scores. It also offers robust features for teachers looking to improve their students' SAT skills and performance in math, reading, and English.

[Continue →](#)

Units

1/17

[View Units](#)

Lessons

1/51

[View Lessons](#)

Quizzes

0/59

[View Quizzes](#)

Test Sections

0/11

[View Tests](#)



## Understanding Functions

Think of a function like you think of software: it takes an input (something you type in) and gives you an output (a result) according to a program. Typical notation gives the function a name like  $f$ , an input, and an output.

$$f(\underbrace{x}_{\text{input}}) = \underbrace{2x^2 + 5x}_{\text{output}}$$

Once the function is defined (just like  $f$  is defined above), anything that shows up in the "input" variable (here, that's  $x$ ) gets plugged in whenever the variable shows up in the output. *No matter what the input is—a number or another variable—it gets plugged in.* Here are a few examples using the function above. Inputs are shown in blue.

$$f(4) = 2(4)^2 + 5(4)$$

$$f(4) = 52$$

$$f(a) = 2(a)^2 + 5(a)$$

$$f(a) = 2a^2 + 5a$$

$$f(p + q) = 2(p + q)^2 + 5(p + q)$$

$$f(p + q) = 2(p + q)(p + q) + 5p + 5q$$

$$f(p + q) = 2p^2 + 4pq + 2q^2 + 5p + 5q$$

Now, give the basic function question below a try.



## Catch All Geometry

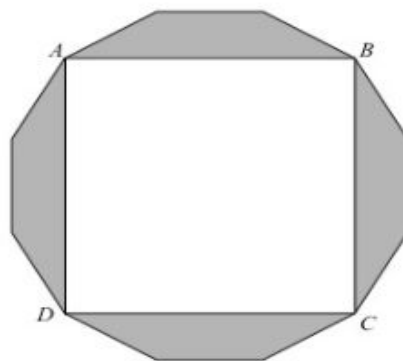
Report Issue

Questions 1 of 8

00:01:14

View Results

QUESTION 1 OF 8



In the figure above, square ABCD is inscribed in a regular dodecagon (12 sides). Each side of the dodecagon has length 10. What is the area of the square?

A  $200\sqrt{3} + 300$

B 700

Incorrect

C  $200\sqrt{3} + 400$

Correct

D 900

[View Explanation](#)[Next Question](#)

An ice-cream truck driver's monthly profit can be modeled by the equation  $p = 2k + m + 3n$ , where  $p$  is the monthly profit in dollars,  $k$  is the number of ice-cream cones sold,  $m$  is the number of ice-cream sandwiches sold, and  $n$  is the number of ice pops sold. What is the ice-cream truck driver's monthly profit if he sells 200 ice-cream cones, 100 ice-cream sandwiches and 50 ice pops?

- A) 350
- B) 450
- C) 650
- D) 800

$$p = 2(200) + 100 + 3(50)$$

$$400 + 100 + 150$$

$$650$$



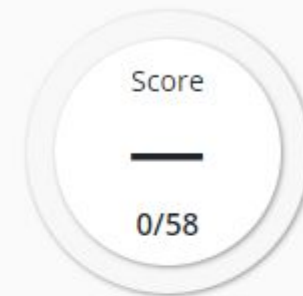




## SAT Evaluation

No Attempts

Evaluation/Diagnostic Test



Section 1 < >

### Reading

Score  
—  
0/18

Time Allowed: 25 min      Completed: —

[Start Section →](#)

Section 2 < >

### Writing and Language

Score  
—  
0/20

Time Allowed: 20 min      Completed: —

[Start Section →](#)

Section 3 < >

### Math Evaluation

Score  
—  
0/20

Time Allowed: 25 min      Completed: —

[Start Section →](#)



Course ▾

Classes

Assignments

School

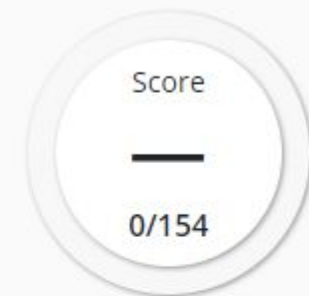
Tom ☰



## SAT Full Length #1

No Attempts

SAT Full Length #1



Section 1



### Reading



Time Allowed  
**65 min**

Completed  
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 2



### Writing and Language



Time Allowed  
**Unlimited**

Completed  
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 3



### Math No Calculator



Time Allowed  
**25 min**

Completed  
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 4



### Math Calculator Section



Time Allowed  
**55 min**

Completed  
—

[Start Section →](#)





Course ▾

Classes

Assignments

School

 Tom 

## Missed and Mastered Vocabulary Words

A vocabulary word is considered "mastered" when you have correctly defined it more than one time in the vocabulary quiz.

Filter:

All Time

This Year

Words Missed	Total: 7
scrupulous	1
vitriolic	1
perspicacious	1
resolve	1
voracious	1
vapid	1
monotony	1

Words Mastered	Total: 0
----------------	----------

[Practice Vocabulary Words](#)

Questions?



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Call: 1-877-871-PREP

Email: [tom@methodlearning.com](mailto:tom@methodlearning.com)



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How many questions are on  
the 45-minute ACT English section?

An Example: "Red Flag" Words



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Where's the error?

The congressional panel issued their findings after conducting an investigation that lasted for over a year.

The **congressional panel** issued **their** findings

The **congressional panel** issued **its** findings



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**SAT vs. ACT: on which  
test do you have more  
time per question?**



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For tonight's webinar, the cost is just \$400!



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Private tutoring and classes



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- For students and families who want/prefer live instruction:
  - we offer many **class** and **private tutoring** options at [MethodLearning.com](https://MethodLearning.com)

# 2nd Special Offer for Tonight

Coupon Code: **200off** for \$200 off the cost of  
any of our live SAT classes



# Private Tutoring



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If you are interested, scan this QR code for information on packages and prices:





How many sections are on the SAT? the ACT? (putting aside the optional essay section)



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Poll: True/False: The  
ACT Science Section  
test students on science  
knowledge?



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College admissions  
today is more  
competitive than ever  
before

# Acceptance rates 2022



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MIT: 4%

Duke: 6%

Johns Hopkins: 6%

Vanderbilt: 6%

Colby: 6%

CalTech: 6%

Pomona: 7%

Swarthmore: 7%

Barnard: 7%

Northeastern: 7%

U. of Chicago: 7%

Northwestern: 7%

Rice: 9%

Bowdoin: 9%

Tulane: 10%

USC: 13%

UCLA: 9%



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**Strong test scores give  
strong grades more  
credibility**





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The less information an applicant gives, the more the college will scrutinize the information the applicant does give



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A high score is better  
than no score



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Anything that a college says is optional,  
(if you are serious about going to that  
college), you do.



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Students who submit strong test scores are offered more generous academic merit aid packages.



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The SAT and ACT test students on skills they will need for success in college: reading comprehension, fundamental math and grammar concepts.

# Not as optional as you might think...

- At very competitive institutions, students who submitted scores were **accepted at much higher rates** than those who decided to take the option.
  - Therefore, if they think test scores will give them an edge, it makes sense that they will usually want to do so.

College/University	Admit Rate with Tests	Admit Rate without Tests	Testing Advantage
UVA	26%	14%	89%
Notre Dame	22%	11%	99%
Boston College	29%	11%	169%
Fordham	63%	49%	29%
Tufts	13%	9%	44%
Barnard	10%	6%	56%
Wellesley	17%	9%	83%
Emory	17%	9%	98%
Colgate	25%	12%	108%
Georgia Tech	22%	10%	120%
Vanderbilt	7%	6%	20%

<https://is.gd/P4qJtu>

# Institutions Requiring Standardized Test Scores

Despite COVID, several popular colleges and universities require test scores, including:

- ✓ All state-sponsored universities in Florida
- ✓ University of Georgia at Athens
- ✓ Georgia Institute of Technology
- ✓ Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ✓ University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- ✓ United States Service Academies
  - Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Military Academy, Naval Academy





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Students can and will be  
successful on these exams with  
the right preparation



# College admissions



- Dramatic increase in number of applications. Admit rates way down.

	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Admit Rate</b>
<b>Class of 2020</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>196,000</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>188,000</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Two-year change</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-26%</b>

- Data from the websites of 40 selective colleges and universities

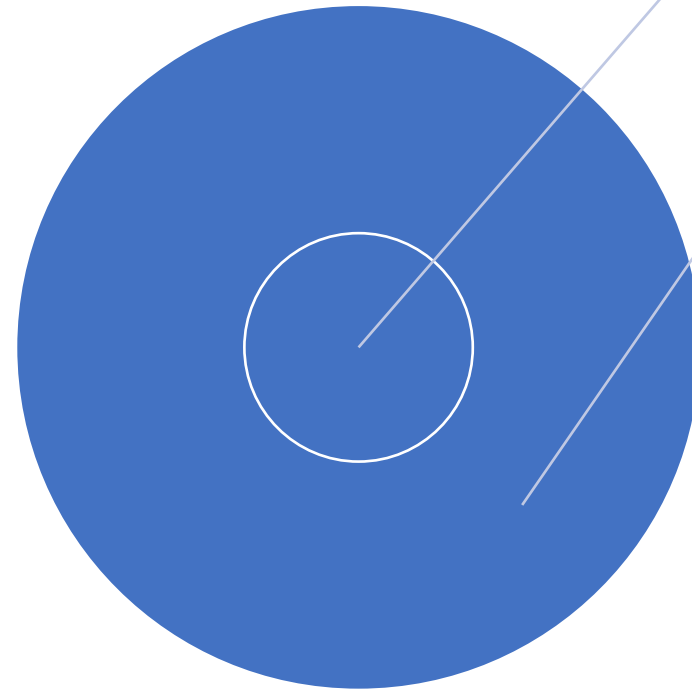


There is a “**Submitter Advantage**”  
(Students who submit strong test scores have  
a greater chance of being accepted)

# Polls: How many times?



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Ideal number  
of times?

How many  
times can a  
student take  
these exams?



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Can you mix and match  
your best scores?