



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?



**Method
Learning**

Use higher ACT
and SAT scores
to...



Get accepted to
more places/have
more options



Earn more \$\$ in
academic merit
aid



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



**Method
Learning**

The ACT and SAT are
predictable.

Predictability warrants
preparation.



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



**Method
Learning**

ACT - 20 (Highest - 36)

SAT - 1060 (Highest-1600)

What's a good
score?

What's a good
score?



Should a student take
both the SAT and ACT?



What are the
differences between
the SAT and ACT?



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



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



Method Learning

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



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

ACT 2023 -2024 Test Dates



Method Learning

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



Method Learning

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

ACT TIR Service



Test Information Release Service

- April
- June
- September 2024 or December 2024

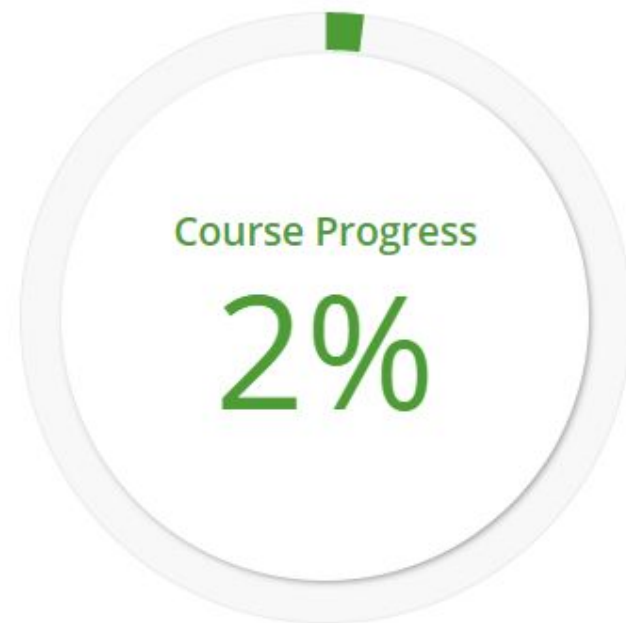


So what is the next step? How can I improve my score most efficiently?



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](#)



Functions

Report Issue

Answered: 0 of 1

Play Audio

Segment 1 of 3

Next Segment

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

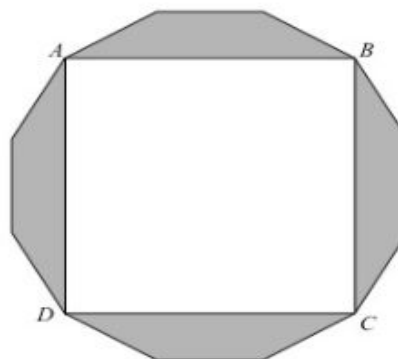
[Report Issue](#)

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

$$\begin{aligned} p &= 2(200) + 100 + 3(50) \\ &400 + 100 + 150 \\ &650 \end{aligned}$$

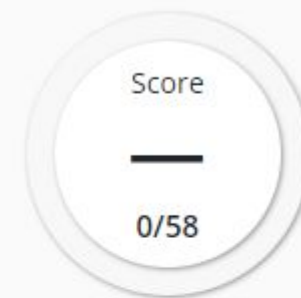


[Course ▾](#)[Classes](#)[Assignments](#)[School](#)[Tom](#) 

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

Score

—
0/154

Section 1



Reading

Score

—

0/52

Time Allowed
65 min

Completed
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 2



Writing and Language

Score

—

0/44

Time Allowed
Unlimited

Completed
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 3



Math No Calculator

Score

—

0/20

Time Allowed
25 min

Completed
—

[Start Section →](#)

Section 4



Math Calculator Section

Score

—

0/38

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](#)

Digital SAT Overview



- 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



- 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



- 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

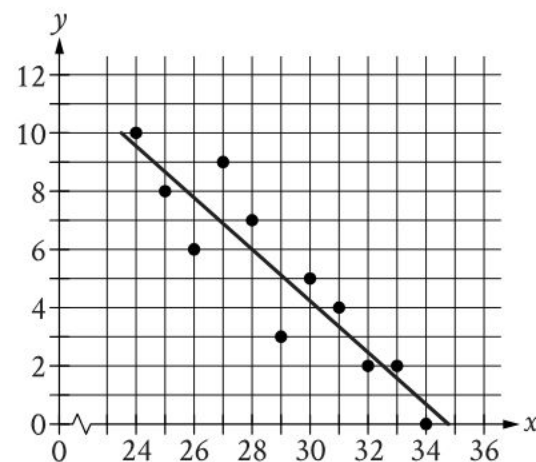
1

2

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

0:00

100%

Directions ▾

Hide

Annotate More

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 ☐ B melodic ☒ C jarring ☐ D personal **New Annotation:** "the language has the same pleasant musical quality"

CLOSE ×

Highlight Color:

Underline style:

Save

Cancel

Section 1: Reading and Writing

0:00

100%

Directions ▾

Hide

 Annotate
 More

Check Your Work

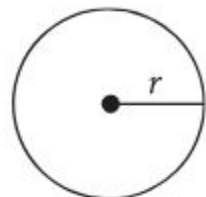
On test day, you won't be able to move on to the next module until time expires.

For these practice questions, you can click **Next** when you're ready to move on.

Section 1: Reading and Writing Questions

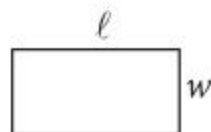
☐ Unanswered ☒ For Review

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

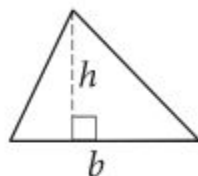


$$A = \pi r^2$$

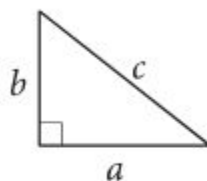
$$C = 2\pi r$$



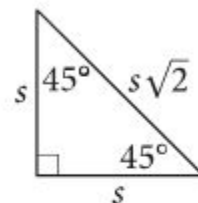
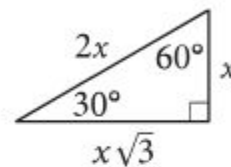
$$A = \ell w$$



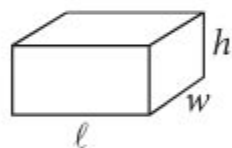
$$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$$



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



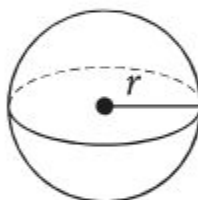
Special Right Triangles



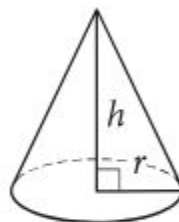
$$V = \ell wh$$



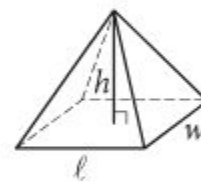
$$V = \pi r^2 h$$



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



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



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

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

The number of radians of arc in a circle is 2π .

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



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

An Example: “Red Flag” Words



**Method
Learning**

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



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



Put all of my academic
energy into my classes

Take the most challenging classes I can and focus on my GPA

Questions?



Call: 1-877-871-PREP

Email: tom@methodlearning.com

Private tutoring and classes



**Method
Learning**

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

2nd Special Offer for Tonight

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



Private Tutoring



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)



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



College admissions
today is more
competitive than ever
before

Acceptance rates 2022



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%



Strong test scores give
strong grades more
credibility



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



A high score is better
than no score



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



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



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





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.

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

- 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)



For parents/students who
want/need something in
addition to the web-based
program...

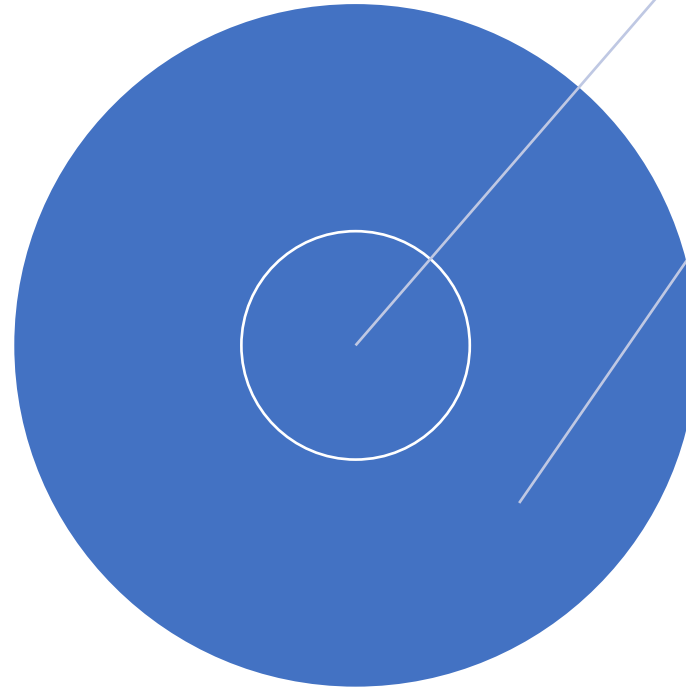


1. Use Methodize
2. Take one of our classes
3. Private tutoring

Polls: How many times?



**Method
Learning**



Ideal number
of times?

How many
times can a
student take
these exams?



Can you mix and match
your best scores?

Digital SAT Timeline

