

Three-Month Preparation Plan

So, you are ready to start preparing for the SAT . . . but where do you begin?

While some students prefer to just jump in and start taking quizzes, others like to have a plan of action. With this in mind, we have created a preparation plan for you to follow.

Each week you will focus on a different topic area. Begin by testing your skills, then review your results and make a study plan for the week. Launch quizzes, review lessons, and take advantage of the tools provided. At the end of the week, test yourself again and reward yourself for your improvement.

The first week you will learn about the BTP Online SAT Program and about the New SAT Reasoning Test. You will also take three diagnostic tests – one in each of the three SAT areas. Your results will provide you with a pre-prep measure of your performance.

The last week you will retake the diagnostic tests. You can compare your results with your pre-prep scores to gauge your improvement and to identify any areas where you may want to do some final preparation.

During the ten weeks in the middle you will Build Your Brain™ by reviewing lessons and practicing your skills in the 10 topic areas. Although the cards are presented in a specific order, how you study is up to you. Strive to practice and build your skills in each area.

Print off these plan pages. Each week tape your plan in a place where you will see it often. Focus on testing your skills and strengthening your weaknesses. Keep going and reward yourself each week as your skills and your scores improve.

As you pick your topic for the week, think about what else you have going on. Learning to balance study with other commitments is a skill you will need in college, so start practicing now. For instance, a fairly relaxed week may be a good time to tackle one of your weaker areas. On the other hand, if you have two big tests, an away game, and have already made plans for the weekend, you may want to review one of your stronger areas instead. Learn to balance your SAT Preparation with your other time commitments.

The SAT countdown has started. Good luck with your SAT prep!



Introduction: Getting Started

This Week's Focus

This is the week for getting started. It is a time to learn about the program and the SAT. It is also the week to test your skills so you have a "before" measurement of your performance. Later on, as you prepare, you can refer back to these results to gauge your progress.

Get to know the BTP SAT Program.

- First, run a system check on your computer just to make sure you are ready to go.
- Next, wander around the program to learn what's available and where things are located. Read some tips and frequently asked questions. Request a sticker. Peruse the BTP Blog to learn what's there and where to go if you have questions.

Get to know the SAT.

- Learn all about the SAT so you know what to expect. Start by reviewing the lesson "About the SAT," found in the toolbox on the SAT Home tab.
- Additionally, if you have not done so already, you should register for the SAT, with the College Board through their web site – www.collegeboard.com.

Assess your skills.

- Use this week to help you identify the areas where you will need to focus over the next eleven weeks. Take three 25-minute diagnostic tests – one in each of the three SAT areas (math, critical reading, and writing).
These results will provide you with an overall assessment of your skills and weaknesses and will be a pre-prep measurement you can use to gauge your improvement.

Lessons & Tools

- System Check
- About the SAT Lesson
- College Board Website
- Math Diagnostic Quiz
- Critical Reading Diagnostic Quiz
- Writing Diagnostic Quiz
- BTP Blog & FAQ

Checklist

- Run a system check.
- Learn where things are located.
- Review the About the SAT lesson.
- Register for the SAT.
- Take a Math Diagnostic Quiz.
- Take a Critical Reading Diagnostic Quiz.
- Take a Writing Diagnostic Quiz.



Math: Numbers & Operations

This Week's Focus

This is the week to really brush up on your basic math skills. You will need these skills to answer questions in other Math areas, so make sure you are comfortable with the concepts covered.

Focus on your diagnostics.

- Start by taking a Quick Quiz in *each* of the six topic areas.
- Review your results and list your strengths and weakness.
- Note the areas you need to review and formulate a study plan for the week.

Build Your Brain™

- Build your skills in one of two ways:
 - 1) create Build Your Own quizzes in study mode and review lessons as you go, or 2) review a specific lesson and then build a quiz to practice what you've learned. It's up to you!
- The key to improving in math is practice, practice, practice. Quizzes will not only test your skills, they will also increase your speed and accuracy.
- Learn when to use your calculator. A calculator won't solve questions for you, but can help you work more accurately and efficiently in the right situations. Set up equations, determine what calculations are needed, key carefully, and always check your work!

Gauge your improvement.

- End the week by creating a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode that contains each of the six topic areas.
- Compare your results, note areas where you need additional practice, and reward your progress.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ Types of Numbers & Absolute Value
- ___ Fractions
- ___ Decimals & Percents
- ___ Ratios & Proportions
- ___ Exponents & Roots
- ___ Sets, Sequences & Patterns

Checklist

- Take a Quick Quiz in each area.
- Assess your skills and identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Formulate a study plan.
- Review lessons and build targeted quizzes in study mode to build your skills.
- Take quizzes in exam mode to see your results.
- Practice using your calculator.
- Increase your Prep Points by 6,500 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 6,500 points



Math: Algebra & Functions

This Week's Focus

This is the week to increase your knowledge of algebraic concepts and functions. Knowing how to work with algebraic expressions is the basis of solving all algebra problems.

Focus on your diagnostics.

- Start by taking a Quick Quiz in each of the five topic areas.
- Review your results and list your strengths and weakness.
- Note the areas you need to review and formulate a study plan.

Build Your Brain™

- Build your skills in one of two ways:
 - 1) create Build Your Own quizzes in study mode and review lessons as you go, or 2) review a specific lesson and then build a quiz to practice what you've learned. It's up to you!
- Many students tend to avoid word problems and algebraic functions because they think they are tricky. Once you understand how to approach and set up these questions, you may realize they are not as difficult as you think. Take the time to learn what you don't know and practice these skills.
- The key to improving in math is practice, practice, practice. Quizzes will not only test your skills, they will also increase your speed and accuracy.

Gauge your improvement.

- End the week by creating a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode that contains each of the five topic areas.
- Compare your results and reward your progress.
- Make note of any areas where you need additional practice.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ Simplifying Algebraic Expressions
- ___ Solving Equations & Inequalities
- ___ Solving Advanced Equations
- ___ Translating & Word Problems
- ___ Algebraic Functions

Checklist

- Take a Quick Quiz in each area.
- Assess your skills and identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Formulate a study plan.
- Review lessons and build targeted quizzes in study mode to build your skills.
- Take quizzes in exam mode to see your results.
- Increase your Prep Points by 5,500 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 5,500 points



Math: Geometry & Measurement

This Week's Focus

This is the week to focus on your ability to recognize and use properties of geometric figures. Geometry questions tend to be more difficult so take the time you need to develop your skills in this area.

Focus on your diagnostics.

- Start by taking a Quick Quiz in each of the seven topic areas.
- Review your results and list your strengths and weakness.
- Note the areas you need to review and formulate a study plan for the week.

Build Your Brain™

- Build your skills in one of two ways:
 - 1) create Build Your Own quizzes in study mode and review lessons as you go, or 2) review a specific lesson and then build a quiz to practice what you've learned. It's up to you!
- Take some time during the week to ensure that you are familiar with the formulas provided on the SAT. (Remember, even though these formulas are provided, if you don't know how to properly use the formulas they will be of little use.)
- Quizzes will not only test your skills, they will also increase your speed and accuracy. Practice, practice, practice.

Gauge your improvement.

- End the week by creating a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode that contains each of the seven topic areas.
- Compare your results and reward your progress.
- Make note of any areas where you need additional practice and return to these areas.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ All About Angles
- ___ Parallel & Perpendicular Lines
- ___ Triangles
- ___ Perimeter & Area of Rectangles & Triangles
- ___ Perimeter & Area of Circles
- ___ Volume & Surface Area
- ___ Coordinate Geometry

Checklist

- Take a Quick Quiz in each area.
- Identify your strengths and weaknesses and formulate a study plan.
- Review lessons and build targeted quizzes in study mode to build your skills.
- Take quizzes in exam mode to see your results.
- Memorize and practice using the formulas.
- Increase your Prep Points by 7,500 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 7,500 points

Reference Information

$A = \pi r^2$
 $C = 2\pi r$

$A = lw$

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

$V = \pi r^2 h$

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

$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$

Each number of degrees of arcs in a circle is 360
The measure in degrees of a straight angle is 180
The sum of the measures in degrees of the angles of a triangle is 180

Special right triangles



Math: Data Analysis, Statistics & Probability

This Week's Focus

Questions from this math area are among the most difficult and are rarely asked. Review these areas, but unless you are aiming for an extremely high score in math, you may want to use this time to improve the skills tested in the other three Math areas.

Focus on your diagnostics.

- Start by taking a Quick Quiz in each of the three topic areas.
- Review your results and list your strengths and weakness.
- Based on your results and your overall goals, formulate a study plan for the week – either focusing on these three areas or returning to other areas where you need more practice.

Build Your Brain™

- Review the lesson on Average, Median, and Mode and then build a quiz in study mode to test your skills.
- Review the lesson on Data Interpretation and then build a quiz in study mode to test your skills.
- Review the lesson on Probability and Combinations and then build a quiz in study mode to test your skills.

Gauge your improvement.

- End the week by creating a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode that contains each of the three topic areas.
- Compare your results and reward your progress.
- Make note of any areas where you need additional practice.

Lessons & Tools

- Average, Median & Mode
- Data Interpretation
- Probability & Combinations

Checklist

- Take a Quick Quiz in each topic area.
- Assess your skills and identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Formulate a study plan.
- Review lessons and build targeted quizzes in study mode to build your skills.
- Take quizzes in exam mode to see your results.
- Increase your Prep Points by 3,500 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 3,500 points



Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

This Week's Focus

This is the week to get to know Sentence Completion questions and to learn the strategies for this question type. Because vocabulary is a key component of Sentence Completion questions, this is also the week to focus on building your vocabulary . . . though this is an area you should continue to build right up until the test.

Focus on your diagnostics.

- Start by taking a Quick Quiz of Sentence Completion questions.
- Review your results.

Build Your Brain™

- Review the Sentence Completions lesson to familiarize yourself with this question type.
- After you review strategies for "reading the question," create two Build Your Own quizzes in study mode to practice the strategies you've learned.

Build your vocabulary.

- Print off your vocabulary Flashcards. Carry them with you and review four cards each day.
- Listen to the words being used around you. Each day, find a new word and then try to use it in conversation.

Gauge your improvement.

- End the week by taking a Build Your Own quiz of Sentence Completion questions in exam mode.
- Compare your results and reward your progress.

Lessons & Tools

- About Sentence Completion Questions
- Vocabulary Flashcards

Checklist

- Take a Quick Quiz.
- Review the Sentence Completions lesson.
- Take two Build Your Own quizzes in study mode.
- Print off the vocabulary flashcards. Review four cards each day.
- Learn and use one new word each day.
- Take a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode.
- Increase your Prep Points by 2,000 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 2,000 points



Critical Reading: Reading Passages

This Week's Focus

This is the week to get to learn about the types of reading passages you will encounter on the SAT. Learn the strategies for 1) reading a passage and 2) answering the questions. Find a balance between reading quickly and understanding what you read.

Learn about reading passage questions.

- Start by reviewing the Types of Reading Passages lesson, located in the Critical Reading Toolbox.
- Next, select the button next to Reading Passages in your Diagnostic results board. This lesson will teach you strategies for answering this question type and is broken into two parts:
 1. First – review the “Reading the Passage” section and then create a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode to practice these reading strategies.
 2. Next – review the second half of the lesson – “Answering the Questions” – and then create a Build Your Own quiz in study mode to practice question strategies.

Practice mapping passages.

- Review the Reading Tips and apply what you learn.
- During the week, read at least three editorial pieces from the paper. Map the editorials as you read and tell someone about what you've read to test your understanding.

Gauge your improvement.

- When you are ready, take at a Diagnostic Quiz to test your skills and then compare your results. Reward your progress.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ Types of Passages
- ___ Reading Passages

Checklist

- Review the Types of Reading Passages lesson.
- Review the Reading Passages lesson in two sections.
- Take a Build Your Own quiz in study mode after each section to practice the strategies.
- Read the Content Tips for Critical Reading.
- Read, map, and share three editorial pieces.
- Take a Diagnostic Quiz to test your skills.
- Increase your Prep Points by 3,000 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 3,000 points



Writing: Multiple-Choice Content Areas

This Week's Focus

This is the week to brush up on your knowledge of the rules of standard written English. It is also another chance to focus on building your vocabulary.

Build Your Brain™

- Multiple-choice writing questions test your knowledge of standard written English. Use this week to brush up on the areas most commonly tested – verbs, pronouns, and usage.
- For each area (verbs, pronouns, and usage) do the following:
 1. Begin by taking a Quick Quiz.
 2. Review the related lesson.
 3. Create a Build Your Own quiz in study mode to practice your skills (include both Error Recognition and Sentence Improvement questions).
 4. When you are ready, build a quiz in Exam mode, to test your skills (again, include both question types).
 5. Compare your results and reward your progress.

Build your vocabulary.

- Print off your vocabulary Flashcards. Carry them with you and review four cards each day.
- Listen to the words being used around you. Each day, find a new word and then try to use it in conversation.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ Verbs
- ___ Pronouns
- ___ Usage
- ___ Vocabulary Flashcards

Checklist

Verbs, Pronouns & Usage

- Take a Quick Quiz in each area.
- Review the related lessons.
- Practice each area by creating a Build Your Own quiz in study mode.
- Create a Build Your Own quiz in exam mode to test yourself.
- Increase your Prep Points by 7,000 points.

Vocabulary

- Print off the vocabulary flashcards. Review four cards each day.
- Learn and use one new word each day.

BTP Prep Points
+ 7,000 points



Writing: Multiple-Choice Question Types

This Week's Focus

This is the week to learn about the types of multiple-choice questions you will encounter on the Writing sections of the SAT. Learn the strategies for each and continue to improve your understanding of the rules of standard written English.

Assess and build your skills.

Begin by taking a Diagnostic Writing Quiz to assess your skills. Note your results for each of the three question types. Review the lesson for each type and to learn the strategies for each. As you finish each lesson, take a quiz to practice these strategies and familiarize yourself with the question type. Test your skills when you are ready.

1. Error Recognition Questions

Review the lesson and then create a Build Your Own quiz containing only Error Recognition questions. Include each of the three areas – pronouns, verbs, and usage.

2. Sentence Improvement Questions

Review the lesson and then build a quiz containing only Sentence Improvement questions. Take three questions from each of the three areas – pronouns, verbs, and usage.

3. Paragraph Improvement Questions

Review the lesson and then launch a Paragraph Improvement quiz. Use the Quick Quiz button for this topic area.

Test your skills.

- At the end of the week, take another Diagnostic Writing Quiz and compare your results.

Lessons & Tools

- Error Recognition Questions
- Sentence Improvement Questions
- Paragraph Improvement Questions

BTP Prep Points
+ 6,000 points

Checklist

- Take a Diagnostic Writing Quiz.
- Review the lesson for each of the three question types.
- Create a Build Your Own quiz in study mode after each.
- Take another Diagnostic Writing Quiz and compare your results.
- Increase your Prep Points by 6,000 points.



Writing: Learning About the Essay

This Week's Focus

This is the week to learn about the written essay and the criteria by which your essay will be scored. Strive to understand what SAT readers will be looking for and how they will be evaluating your essay. Learn to think like a reader.

Learn about the written essay.

- Begin by reviewing the lesson The Essay & the Scoring Rubric to learn about the written essay section of the SAT and how essays are scored.

Review sample essays.

- Next, review the Examples of Scored Essays to get a better understanding of what essays at different levels look like.
- Print off the three essay evaluation guides using the links provided:
 1. Guides for Holistic Reading
 2. Criteria Considered for Holistic Scoring
 3. Questions to Consider When Evaluating Essays
- Review each of the scoring aids.

Test your essay scoring accuracy.

- Use the guides to score the sample essays provided in the Essay Scoring Practice exercise to see how well you understand and are able to apply the criteria.

Prepare your reader.

- If you will be asking a friend, parent, or teacher to help you score your practice essays, print off a copy of the essay evaluation guides and review these materials with this person.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ The Essay and the Scoring Rubric
- ___ Examples of Scored Essays
- ___ Essay Scoring Practice
- ___ Guides for Holistic Reading
- ___ Criteria Considered for Holistic Scoring
- ___ Questions to Consider When Evaluating Essays

Checklist

- Review the Essay and the Scoring Rubric.
- Print off Essay Writing Sheets.
- Print off the essay evaluation guides.
- Review the Examples of Scored Essays and practice scoring essays on your own.
- Ask a friend, parent, or teacher to be your reader and provide him or her with copies of the essay evaluation guides.

Note: Although SAT Prep areas can be taken in any order, it is strongly recommended that you complete this checklist for Learning About the Essay tasks BEFORE moving on to the Essay Writing Practice checklist.



Writing: Essay Writing Practice

This Week's Focus

This is the week to practice writing an SAT essay. Go through the process of writing an essay, step-by-step, and then practice on your own. Ask a friend, teacher, or parent to help you evaluate your writing.

Learn how to write an SAT essay.

- If you have not done so, print off your Essay Writing Sheets and grab a No.2 pencil and timer.
- Review the Step-by-Step Essay Writing lesson .

Note: Because this lesson is significantly longer than the others you have reviewed, you may wish to tackle this lesson in two parts.

- In your first session, learn how to prepare you essay.
- In the second session, learn how to write your essay.

Practice on your own.

- Practice writing an essay on your own. Use the sample reading assignment provided on this page, and give yourself 25 minutes to write a practice essay.
- When you are finished, ask your reader to evaluate your essay using the information you have given them.

Note: Although SAT Prep areas can be taken in any order, it is strongly recommended that you complete the checklist for Learning About the Essay tasks BEFORE moving on to the Essay Writing Practice checklist.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ Step-by-Step Writing
- ___ Essay Practice Question

Practice Essay Question

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.”

- Helen Keller

Assignment: What is your view of the idea that great change is often the result of many small steps? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ESSAY ON THE PAGES PROVIDED.

Checklist

- Review Step-by-Step Writing.
- Write a practice essay.
- Ask your reader to evaluate your essay.



Final Countdown

This Week's Focus

This is the week to see how far you've come and to get yourself ready for test day!

Get ready for test day.

- Print off the SAT Countdown Checklist.
- Make sure you have your admissions ticket, No.2 pencils, and the other things you will need on test day.
- If you plan to use a calculator, replace the batteries.
- Take an hour or so and review the SAT tips provided. Pay particular attention to the Exam Prep Tips.

Do some last minute prep.

Before re-taking a diagnostic test in each of the three areas, do some last minute prep work.

- Review your diagnostic results for each area.
- Revisit important lessons and review past quizzes.

Retest your skills.

When you are ready, retest your skills:

- Take another Math Diagnostic Quiz.
- Take another Critical Reading Diagnostic Quiz.
- Take another the Writing Diagnostic Quiz.

Lessons & Tools

- ___ SAT Countdown Checklist
- ___ SAT Test Prep & Content Tips
- ___ Math Diagnostic Quiz
- ___ Critical Reading Diagnostic Quiz
- ___ Writing Diagnostic Quiz

Checklist

- Print the SAT Countdown Checklist.
- Review the SAT Exam Prep and Content Tips for each of the three SAT areas.
- Gather your materials for test day.
- Change the batteries in your calculator.
- Review results, past quizzes, and lessons.
- Retake Math Diagnostic.
- Retake Critical Reading Diagnostic.
- Retake Writing Diagnostic.
- Increase your Prep Points by 6,000 points.

BTP Prep Points
+ 6,000 points

