

SAT EXAM GUIDE

With sample papers



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About the SAT exam

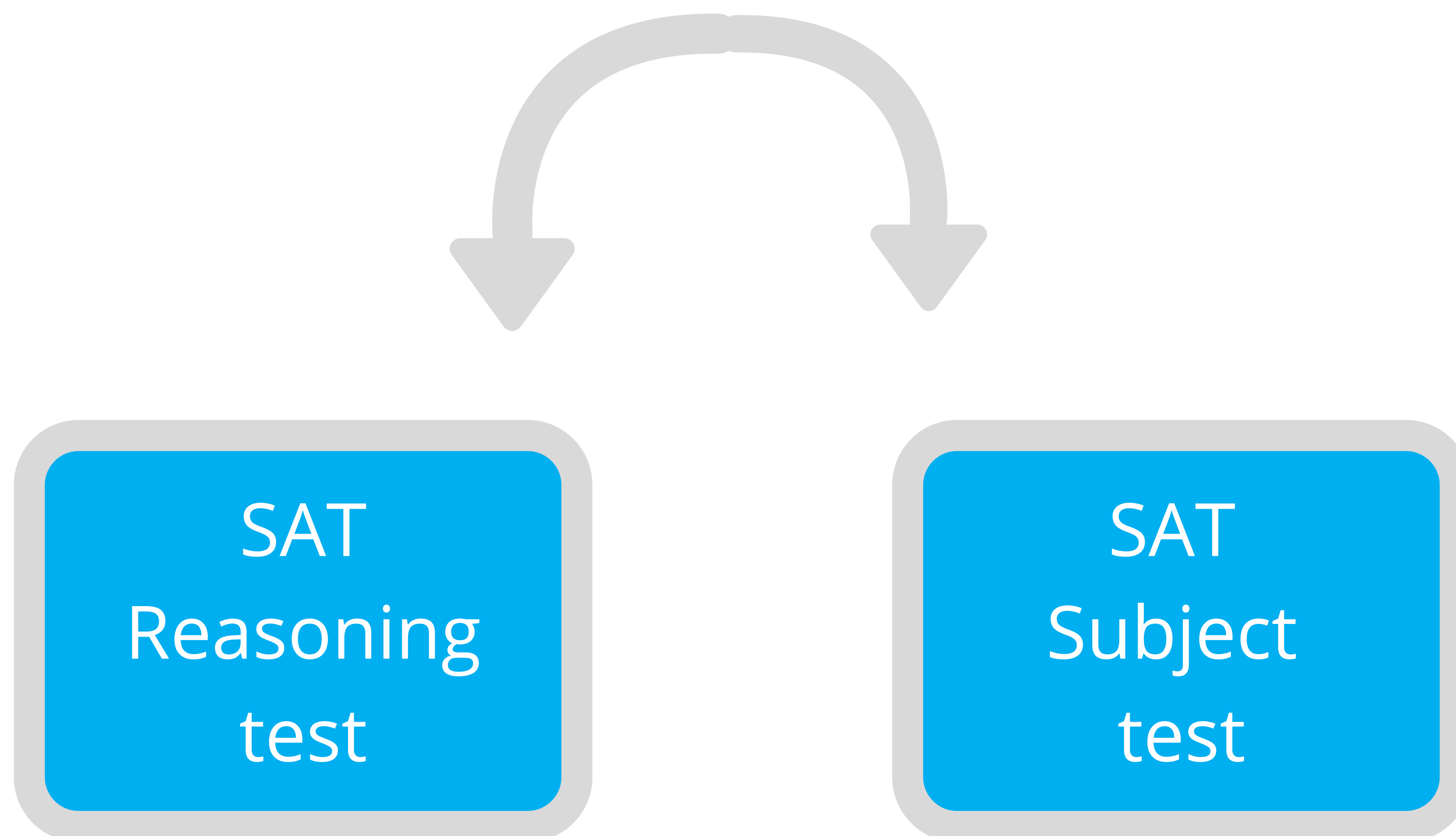


The SATs are an important metric used by institutions to measure a high school student's readiness for college. SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a standardized assessment test created by the College Board (a non-profit US entity) for students applying in colleges and universities. Higher education institutes all around the world now use it along with high-school grades, letters of recommendation, and extracurricular activities to assess the aptitude of applicants.

For all the students planning on applying to undergraduate programs abroad, the SAT exam is an absolute must. Universities in top study abroad destinations like the USA, UK, Canada, and Australia, all measure students' aptitude using their scores for the SAT exam.

If you have just started researching and know nothing about the SAT prep or other details, then read on because we are going to give you an easy-to-understand rundown of what is the SAT exam all about!

Types of SAT exam



SAT exams are conducted 7 times a year in different regions at different intervals. Particular centers in nearly every country get to conduct at least 5 tests in a year. The exam pattern for the SAT exam includes two sets of exams. The first is the SAT Reasoning Test and the second is the SAT Subject Test.

The SAT Reasoning Test

This is the exam that is opted for students looking to pursue higher education in countries abroad. This is one of the most sought-after competitive exams, the scores of which are vastly recognized in the universities/ colleges abroad.

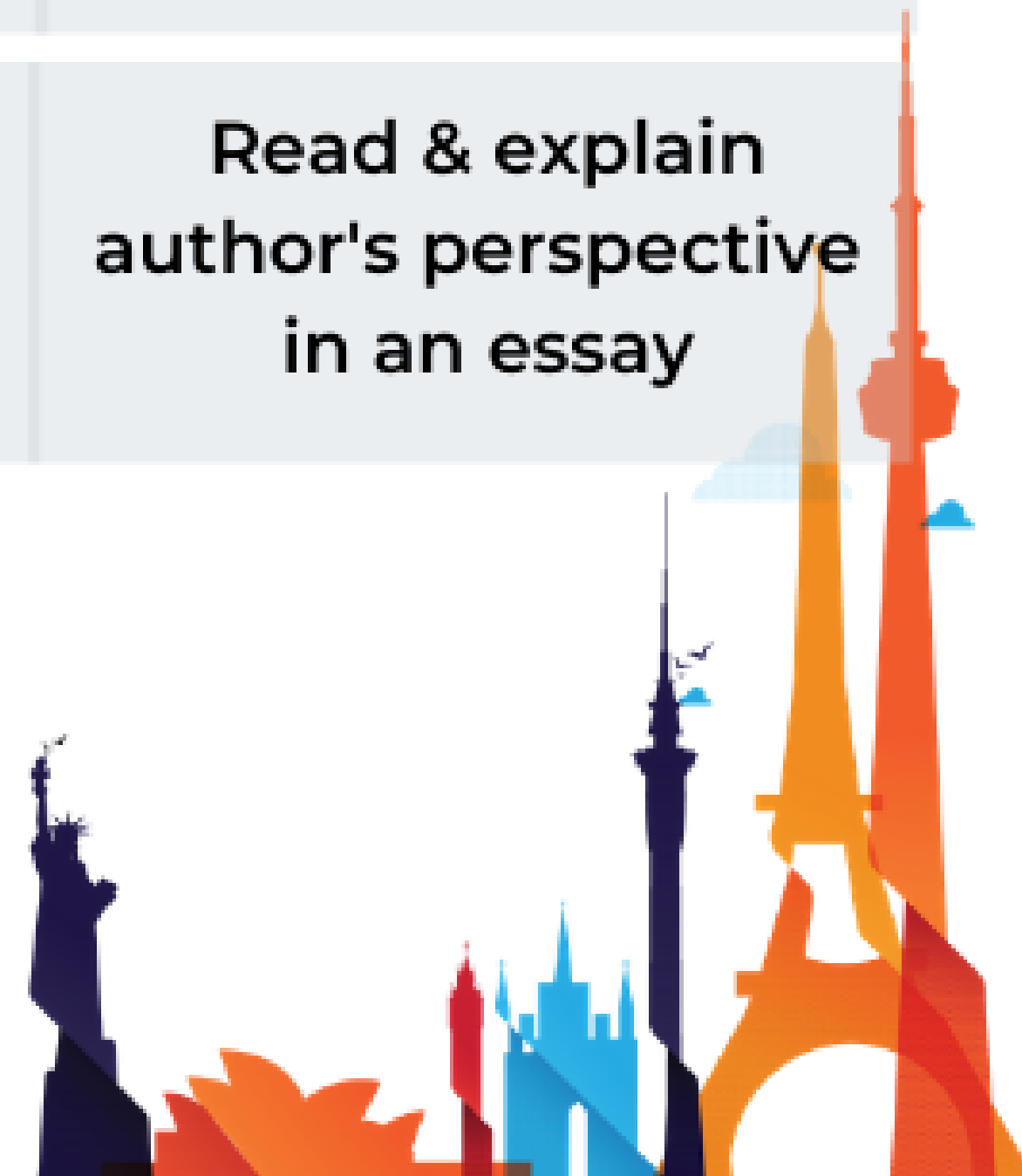
SAT Subject Test

This is the test which is opted by students who are looking to study a particular subject in great detail. Some universities need you to pass the SAT Subject test to show your eligibility for certain of their programs. There are 20 SAT Subjects available in five broader areas. These include History (US History, World History), Languages (Latin, German, Hebrew, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, Italian, French, and Chinese), Mathematics (Level 1, Level 2), English, and Science (Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics).

SAT exam pattern

Sections	Duration	Questions	Section details
Math	80 minutes	57 questions	Tests math skills (mainly algebra & geometry)
Reading	65 minutes	52 questions	Read passages and answer questions
Writing & Language	35 minutes	44 questions	Tests grammar & vocabulary
Essay (optional)	50 minutes	1 task	Read & explain author's perspective in an essay

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SAT General Test is more common between the two SAT tests and is generally used by the undergraduate colleges for admissions. The Scholastic Assessment Test assesses the written, verbal and mathematical skills of the candidates.

SAT Syllabus includes courses that students have already covered in their school curriculum over the years. The syllabus for SAT exam includes:

- Reading section
- Writing
- Mathematics

SAT exam syllabus

Are there any particular course books you need to cram? One single SAT study guide to follow? The answer is no.

The idea of the SAT exam is to test the intelligence and understanding of students in a broader, universal manner that can't be realized by confining it to some particular books.

Nonetheless, these are some elements and themes that are part of the SAT exam syllabus.

1. The Reading section

It has five passages: one from fiction, one from philosophy and general themes of daily life, one from economy/sociology/psychology, and two from everyday science. Aspirants are required to read the passages and answer the set of questions in the given context with reasoning and arguments.

2. Writing and Language Test

It comprises of 44 MCQs from 4 passages (science, careers, history, humanities, and social sciences) where students need to articulate and express their ideas by taking care of the language conventions. Some questions also ask aspirants to fix grammatical and syntax errors in the given passages.

3. Essay

Lastly, the optional part of the essay is used for a more in-depth examination of a candidate's thought process, their understanding of the world, and their set of beliefs. On the other hand, it is also a combined test of a student's reading, writing, and analytical skills.

SAT exam syllabus

4. Mathematics

The SAT syllabus for mathematics includes questions from a couple of basic sub-sections: a 25-minute section (no calculator) and a 55-minute section (calculator allowed). List of topics for Mathematics section include questions from topics such as:

- Solving linear equations and linear inequalities
- Interpreting linear functions
- Linear inequality and equation word problems
- Graphing linear equations
- Linear function word problems
- Systems of linear inequalities word problems
- Solving systems of linear equations
- Solving quadratic equations
- Interpreting nonlinear expressions
- Quadratic and exponential word problems
- Radicals and rational exponents
- Operations with rational expressions and polynomials
- Polynomial factors and graphs
- Nonlinear equation graphs
- Linear and quadratic systems
- Structure in expressions
- Isolating quantities
- Functions

SAT scoring system

While the score range of 400-1600 is for absolute marking, SAT percentiles tell how you have excelled in comparison to other aspirants. The figure of 70 percentile indicates that you have done better than 70% of the candidates. Colleges and universities also evaluate a student from their SAT percentiles instead of composite scores.

Percentiles are determined by the cumulative score of students in each test. Therefore, SAT scores for colleges can change every year. For instance, a university with a 75 percentile requirement can have a closing composite score of 1340 in 2018 and 1450 in 2019, depending on how candidates, in general, have performed in that particular year.

Any seasoned consultant can update you regarding the current percentile and composite score requirements of the universities and colleges you want to apply in.

New Changes in the SAT Exam Pattern

The changes in the SAT exam pattern are actually not that new. They were implemented from March 2016 onwards. In the current SAT exam syllabus, the reading and writing sections have been merged into one more comprehensive EBRW. Moreover, the max score range in the new pattern drops to 1600 (previously, it was 2400).

The most noteworthy change in the new pattern, however, is the annulment of the guessing penalty. Now, 0.25 marks are not deducted on every incorrect answer. This change has slightly increased the composite score ranges for given percentiles.

SAT sample papers

The test of an individual is how they perform under pressure. The only way to score well in any exam is to prepare well and attempt mock tests or sample papers beforehand. For that purpose, Collegeboard, the official entity hosting the SAT exam has created sample papers that students need to attempt before they main test.

- [Practice Test 1](#)
- [Practice Test 2](#)
- [Practice Test 3](#)
- [Practice Test 4](#)
- [Practice Test 5](#)
- [Practice Test 6](#)

SAT exam fees

As of now, the cost of the SAT exam is \$96.50 without the essay and \$113.50 with an essay. You can register online at the College Board's website. Acing your SAT exam and choosing the right university can be a scary experience unless you take the right approach and consult the right people.

**Want to ace your SAT exam?
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