



The Guide

Fall 2015

REDESIGNED SAT PRACTICE

IN THIS ISSUE

Free, Personalized Practice for the Redesigned SAT® Now Available for All Students on KhanAcademy.org

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. - Today Official SAT® Practice for the redesigned SAT goes live on KhanAcademy.org, making free, world-class, personalized online practice available for all students. Today's launch comes just over a year after the College Board announced a landmark partnership with Khan Academy, a leader in online education. The partnership announcement was a part of the College Board's introduction of sweeping changes to the SAT, including a move away from obscure "SAT vocabulary words" to the use of relevant vocabulary words in context, an in-depth focus on essential areas of math, and the elimination of the guessing penalty.

The interactive practice tools are designed to help level the playing field for students who are interested in taking the SAT and preparing for college-level courses. Unlike traditional high-priced test prep that focuses on strategies for taking the test and quick cramming, Official SAT Practice supports and reinforces what students are learning in classrooms by helping them focus on the knowledge and skills most essential for college readiness. Official SAT Practice is available today for free, exclusively from the College Board and Khan Academy. It is designed to easily be used by students, families, schools, community organizations, and after-school programs - anytime, anywhere.

"The College Board redesigned the SAT to better deliver to students the opportunities

they have earned through hard work in their classes," said College Board President and CEO David Coleman. "We are equally committed to enhancing instruction and providing resources for students who are behind. There's no better practitioner of world-class, high-quality instruction for all students at all levels than Khan Academy - and their material just happens to be free. That's why we are partnering for the first time ever to level the college assessment practice field, and to go beyond test prep by offering content that will also reinforce classroom work and enhance college readiness."

"Our mission at Khan Academy is a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere, and college readiness is a crucial part of that," said Khan Academy Founder and Executive Director Sal Khan. "We want to help as many students as possible prepare for college and for life, and since the SAT measures preparedness for college, our partnership with the College Board is a natural fit. We're excited to join the College Board in empowering all students with world-class tools. And we're committed to building the best SAT resource available - not just the best free resource, but the best resource, period."



Tips for Writing a College Essay

The number one piece of advice from admission officers about your essay is "Be yourself." The number two suggestion is "Start early." Check out these other tips before you begin.

Page 2



Which Test is Right for You?

Compare the ACT, current SAT and redesigned SAT to best decide which test you should take and when you should take it.

Page 3

Tips for a College Application Essay

Article originally appeared on:
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/tips-for-writing-an-effective-application-essay-college-admissions>

When you apply to college, you'll need to complete an essay as part of your application. This is your opportunity to show admission officers who you are and to provide information about yourself that didn't fit in other areas of your application. The essay also reveals what you can do when you have time to think and work on a writing project.

The number one piece of advice from admission officers about your essay is "Be yourself." The number two suggestion is "Start early." Check out these other tips before you begin.

Choose a Topic That Will Highlight You

Don't focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school.

Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that aren't covered in other parts of the application, like your high school records.

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Don't try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a résumé that doesn't provide any details about you.

Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the readers must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask a parent or teacher to read just your introduction and tell you what he or she thinks your essay is about.

Show, Don't Tell

Don't simply state a fact to get an idea across, such as "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests."

Do include specific details, examples, reasons and so on to develop your ideas. For the example above, describe a situation when you were surrounded by various types of people. What were you doing? Whom did you talk with? What did you take away from the experience?

Use Your Own Voice

Don't rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people." Avoid overly formal or business-like language, and don't use unnecessary words.

Do write in your own voice. For the above example, you could write about a real experience that you had and how it made you



feel you had to take action. And note that admission officers will be able to tell if your essay was edited by an adult.

Ask a Teacher or Parent to Proofread

Don't turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don't rely only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes. A spell-check program will miss typos like these:

- "After I graduate *form* high school, I plan to get a summer job."
- "From that day on, Daniel was my best *fried*."

Do ask a teacher or parent to proofread your essay to catch mistakes. You should also ask the person who proofreads your essay if the writing sounds like you.

ADAPTED FROM THE COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY BY SARAH MYERS MCGINTY



Meeting with Your Counselor for College Planning and Preparation

Make the Most of Your Time with Your Counselor (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>)

College application season is an especially busy time for high school counselors. You can help your counselor help you by staying on top of the application process. Here's how.

- **Be early.** If you start doing tasks — researching colleges, collecting ideas for application essays, making requests for recommendation letters — well ahead of time, you'll make it easier for your counselor to give you timely answers when you need help.
- **Be organized.** Figure out a system for keeping track of application components and deadlines yourself.
- **Be responsible.** Your counselor can help in many ways, but this is your project and your responsibility. It's up to you to ask your counselor for the help you need. Schedule appointments when you need to talk to him or her.
- **Be prepared.** When you do meet with your counselor, have a list of questions ready and know what you want to discuss.

Counselor Caseloads

A-Br: Ms. Wexler

Bu-Da: Mr. Rivera

De-Ga: Ms. Grossman

Gb-Jac: Ms. Leonetti

Jad-Maq: Ms. Musacchio

Mar-Op: Ms. Comunale

Or-Ror: Ms. Pustizzi

Ros-Te: Ms. Theophall

Th-Z: Ms. Duffy

SAC: Ms. DiMattia

SAC: Ms. Yacovelli

Compare the ACT, Current SAT, and Redesigned SAT

Chart courtesy of: KAPLAN Test Prep (<http://www.kaptest.com/college-prep/test-information/sat-vs-act-vs-new-sat>)

Both the ACT and the SAT are nationally administered standardized tests that help colleges evaluate candidates. Also important to consider, a new SAT will debut in March 2016. As you begin to think about college and creating the best application package possible, your admissions plan should begin with the question, "Which test should I take?"

Test Structure and Format	ACT	SAT	New SAT
Length	3 hours, 35 min (with optional Writing Test)	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours, 50 minutes (with optional Essay)
Structure	4 sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) plus an Optional Essay	10 sections (3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 2 Writing, 1 Essay, and 1 unscored Experimental section)	4 sections (Evidence-Based Reading, Writing, Math without a calculator, Math with a calculator) plus an Optional Essay
Scoring	ACT	SAT	New SAT
Score	Composite of 1-36 based on average scores from the 4 test sections 4 scores of 1-36 for each test Optional Writing Test score of 0-12 (not included in the overall)	Total score range of 600-2400 based on adding scores from 3 subjects 3 scores of 200-800 for each subject Score of 0-12 for the Essay	Score is out of 1600: 800 for Math, 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Optional Essay receives a separate score Subscores and insight scores available
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers	$\frac{1}{4}$ point subtracted from your raw score for each wrong answer (except for Math Grid-Ins)	No penalty for wrong answers
Sending Score History	You decide which score is sent	Generally, you decide which score is sent, but some colleges require you send all scores	Not yet known
Content	ACT	SAT	New SAT
Reading	Reading Comprehension	Reading Comprehension Sentence Completions	Reading Comprehension Words in Context Evidence Based
Math	Arithmetic Algebra Geometry Algebra II Trigonometry	Arithmetic Algebra Geometry Algebra II	Algebra Data Analysis Geometry Trigonometry Algebra II
Science	Analysis Interpretation Evaluation Basic Content Problem Solving	Not applicable	Science Insight Score Provided
Writing and Language	The Essay: Writing Test English Test: Writing & Language multiple-choice questions	Writing Tests	Tests grammatical and rhetorical skills
Essay	Optional final section 40 minutes Not included in composite score Topic of importance to high school students	Required - first section of exam 25 minutes Factored into overall More abstract topic	Optional final section 50 minutes Separate score Tests Reading, Analysis, and Writing Skills Topic comes from a 750-word passage to be read on Test Day

In addition to test structure and content, it's also important to think about your college admissions timeline when making your exam decision. The current SAT will only be available until January of 2016. So if you are in the class of 2017 and plan to take the current SAT, you need to plan ahead.



Getting In is a real-time podcast following a diverse group of New York-area high school seniors through the exhilarating and harrowing process of applying to college. Over the next school year, the show will chronicle all the important steps along the way, from applications to (we hope) acceptances.

It's hosted by Julie Lythcott-Haims, the former dean of freshmen at Stanford University. *Check out the first episode* <http://slate.me/1NHilg6>

Bachelor's Degree Programs Through ACCC

Students can earn four-year or graduate degrees without leaving Atlantic Cape's campuses.

Atlantic Cape has partnerships with Rutgers University and Fairleigh Dickinson University to provide opportunities for local residents to continue their education while staying close to home. Courses are offered at Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing Campus.

These partnerships create a seamless education from high school through the bachelor's degree for selected programs and increases the pool of well-educated workers able to contribute to southern New Jersey's economic expansion.

For more information go to <http://bit.ly/1OIJcgu>

ACCC Jumpstart Program

Jump Start is Atlantic Cape's premiere high school recruitment/enrollment program graduating seniors.

Through Jump Start, Atlantic Cape recruiters visit all high schools throughout Atlantic and Cape May Counties to talk about Atlantic Cape's admissions procedures, programs offered, student services, financial aid and other education and career opportunities.

The Jump Start process occurs in three phases: presentation; placement exam and course scheduling.

If you are a senior interested in attending ACCC, see your Guidance Counselor for an application. All applications are due by December 1st.

EHTHS NEWS & INFO

- 8th Grade Information Night- Monday, November 9th @ 6:30pm in the HS Auditorium. Come discover all EHTHS has to offer!
- Free Full-length Practice NEW SAT - November 21st @ 8:00 am- HS Café; Register @ http://kaplan.formstack.com/forms/newsatpt_eht
- Atlantic City National College Fair @ the AC Convention center - Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 6-9pm
- ACCC Jumpstart Deadline is December 1st. See your counselor with questions.
- Financial Aid Night - December 7th @ 6:00 pm - HS Café
- NHS Induction Ceremony - December 14, 2015

