The SAT and ACT In a Nutshell

Plan, Prepare, Perform

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About Me

- Grew up in NY, now in PA

- Graduate of Bucknell University (2009), BS Biology

- Brief foray into graduate studies in biomedical science

- Have worked with MTP for nearly 11 years

- Nearly 10,000 hours of tutoring and course experience

Outline

- A bird's eye view of the prep process

- Inside the tests

- Logical prep timeline

- Solutions for prep and a special offer at the end!

Be methodical with your prep

Gain clarity
Reduce stress
Manage expectations

A Bird's Eye View of the Process

Foundation

Academic history

Diagnostic tests

Select exam, prep option(s)

Establish goals, target test

Preparation

Consistent sessions emphasizing *strategy*

Practice with official material

Periodic full-length practice exams

Evaluate and iterate

Execution

Take test

Analyze results

Adjust plan

Diagnostic Tests

- Expose weaknesses, evidence strengths

- Provide reasoning for ACT vs. SAT decision

- Can save immense time & effort

- Suggest appropriate prep types (tutoring/courses)

- Crucial in establishing goals

Practice ACT
Score Report

May 27, 2020
ACT 74F Apr 2017

25	22	23	23	24	30	-	27
COMPOSITE	MATH	SCIENCE	STEM	ENGLISH	READING	WRITING	ELA

Scores are reported on a scale from 0-36; Writing on a scale from 2-12. STEM =avg of Math and Science. ELA = avg of ENGLISH and READING.

Detailed Results

Math 22

Preparing for Higher Math	46%
• Number & Quantity	60%
• Algebra	50%
• Functions	25%
• Geometry	38%
• Statistics & Probability	67%
Modeling	46%

Science 23

Interpretation of Data	56%
Scientific Investigation	75%
Evaluation of Models,	80%
Interferences & Experimental Results	

English 24

Production of Writing	78%
Knowledge of Language	58%
Conventions of Standard English	75%

Reading 30

Key Ideas & Details	76%
Craft & Structure	82%
Integr. of Knowledge & Ideas	100%

Writing -

Ideas and Analysis
Development and Support
Organization
Language Use and Conventions

Score History

May 27, 2020

Composite	Math	Science	English	Reading	Writing
25	22	23	24	30	0

Student Responses & Correct Answers

English

#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor
1	A		21	D		41	B		61	C	
2	G		22	G		42	F		62	J	G
3	A		23	C		43	C		63	D	
4	J	F	24	H		44	G		64	J	
5	C		25	B		45	A		65	A	B
6	F		26	F		46	F		66	F	
7	B	D	27	C		47	D	B	67	B	
8	G		28	H	F	48	G		68	F	
9	C		29	C	D	49	D		69	D	
10	J		30	G		50	F		70	F	
11	C		31	A	C	51	B		71	C	
12	F		32	F	J	52	H	F	72	H	
13	B		33	C		53	D		73	C	D
14	G	J	34	G		54	H		74	J	F
15	B		35	A		55	D		75	C	D
16	G		36	H	J	56	F	H			
17	A	C	37	C		57	C	A			
18	F		38	F		58	G				
19	C		39	A	D	59	A	C			
20	G		40	H		60	J				

Math

#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor
1	C		21	B		41	B	A	1	A	
2	K		22	F		42	K	G	21	C	
3	B		23	C		43	A	C	22	J	G
4	J		24	J		44	K	F	23	D	
5	D		25	A	A	45	C	A	24	H	
6	H		26	J	H	46	K	J	25	D	
7	A	D	27	E	A	47	B		26	F	
8	K	G	28	F	H	48	F	G	27	C	
9	D		29	E		49	B		28	J	
10	G		30	J		50	J		29	A	
11	D		31	D	E	51	D		30	F	
12	H		32	G		52	K	F	31	D	
13	E		33	C	E	53	C	A	32	G	
14	H		34	H		54	K	H	33	A	D
15	D	C	35	D	C	55	B	E	34	H	J
16	K		36	J		56	K	H	35	C	
17	A	B	37	A	B	57	A	B	36	J	
18	K		38	K		58	H	F	37	D	
19	B		39	D		59	D	A	38	G	
20	H	K	40	F	K	60	G	K	39	B	

Reading

#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor
1	A		21	C	
2	J	G	22	J	G
3	A		23	D	
4	J		24	H	
5	C		25	D	
6	G		26	F	
7	D		27	C	
8	H		28	J	
9	C		29	A	
10	F		30	F	
11	A		31	D	
12	G		32	F	H
13	A	D	33	C	B
14	J		34	H	J
15	A		35	C	
16	F	G	36	J	G
17	B		37	A	
18	H		38	G	
19	A		39	A	
20	H		40	J	

Science

#	Std	Cor	#	Std	Cor
1	C		21	C	
2	J		22	H	
3	B		23	C	
4	J		24	F	H
5	A		25	C	D
6	J	G	26	G	J
7	C		27	C	
8	J		28	J	F
9	C		29	A	B
10	J		30	J	F
11	D		31	D	
12	F		32	G	F
13	A		33	A	D
14	G	H	34	F	G
15	B		35	A	
16	J		36	J	
17	A		37	D	
18	H		38	J	
19	C	A	39	B	
20	G		40	J	G

Choosing the Right Test

- Concordance tables allow meaningful comparisons

- Factors other than raw numbers will play in
  - Pace/speed
  - Style
  - Low-hanging fruit/greatest potential
  - Schedule

2018 Concordance Tables

Table A1: SAT Total to ACT Composite

SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT
1600	36	1250	26	910	16
*1590	36	*1240	26	900	16
1580	36	1230	26	*890	16
1570	36	1220	25	880	16
1560	35	*1210	25	870	15
1550	35	1200	25	860	15
*1540	35	1190	24	*850	15
1530	35	*1180	24	840	15
1520	34	1170	24	830	15
1510	34	1160	24	820	14
*1500	34	1150	23	810	14
1490	34	*1140	23	*800	14
1480	33	1130	23	790	14
1470	33	1120	22	780	14
*1460	33	*1110	22	770	13
1450	33	1100	22	*760	13
1440	32	1090	21	750	13
*1430	32	*1080	21	740	13
1420	32	1070	21	730	13
1410	31	1060	21	720	12
*1400	31	1050	20	*710	12
1390	31	*1040	20	700	12
1380	30	1030	20	690	12
*1370	30	1020	19	680	11
1360	30	*1010	19	*670	11
1350	30	1000	19	660	11

When are the Tests Offered?

SAT	ACT
March*	February
May*	April*
June	June*
August	July
October*	September
November	October
December	December*

* denotes QAS or TIR month
School day tests may be administered on various other dates

What Do These Tests Measure?

SAT

Reading
-Understanding main idea and author's intent
-Textual evidence
-Making complex connections between pieces of text
-Inference

Writing & Language
-Standard grammar and structure rules
-Ability to distinguish most effective sentences
-Knowledge of idiom and style

Math
-Algebra (understanding terms, manipulating equations)
-Comprehension of concepts (e.g., slope, linear/exponential growth)
-Functions
-Graphs
-Data

ACT

English
-Standard grammar and structure rules
-Ability to distinguish most effective sentences
-Knowledge of idiom and style

Math
-Pre algebra
-Algebra
-Algebra II
-Geometry
-Trigonometry

Reading
-Speed & retention
-Finding detail
-Understanding main idea and author's intent

Science
-Data interpretation (graphs & tables)
-Inference and connections (pattern recognition)

How Are the Tests Different?

SAT

Do you have great analytical reading skills and *deeper-than-surface*-level understanding of math concepts?

Slower-paced

ACT

Have you retained what you learned in high school, and can you be *quick* in showing it?

Fast-paced

Predictability warrants preparation

The exams are *standardized*: they must test the same set of skills in the same way on every administration.

Example Questions

SAT

archaeologist, studies the history of **34** <u>cities.</u> Any New York City construction project using municipal funds **35** <u>are</u> required to consider whether historical artifacts will be affected during construction, and if that possibility **36** <u>exists or is possible,</u> an urban archaeologist must be consulted. Since the South Street

35

A) NO CHANGE
B) have been
C) is
D) were

ACT

away all trees, soil, and sedimentary rock <u>in its</u> path. Left
41
behind is a channel that is composed of granite—and

previously unexposed rhyolite rock—and <u>contain rocks</u>
42
from at least three other geological eras. The menacing
floodwaters also revealed a half-billion-year-old beach

41. A. NO CHANGE
B. on their
C. in their
D. on its

42. F. NO CHANGE
G. have contained
H. are containing
J. contains

How Are Scores Used in College Admissions?

- As one part of a meaningful whole

- To contextualize your transcript

- To set criteria for scholarships, honors programs, and other perks

- What about "test optional" admissions?

A Logical Prep Timeline

Case Study: *Suzie Q. Student*

- Takes October diagnostic tests, SAT is right for her: 570 ERW + 550 Math

- Decides a course is best (small difference between ERW & Math, mid-range scores); possibly follow up with tutoring

- Target test: March SAT

- Prep window: November–February
  - Course time with instructor
  - Homework in between session
  - Two official practice tests

Intelligent prep...

- is proactive.

- is intense and focused.

- is strategy-oriented.
  - Not just problem review

- is an iterative process stretched over time.

Realistic Goal Setting

- Use the data

- Do NOT use social/sibling comparison

- Realize that the ACT and SAT aren't "natural"

- Recognize that learning takes time, effort, and repetition

Which type of prep is best?

- Long-form courses
- Short-form review
- Tutoring
- Books/software
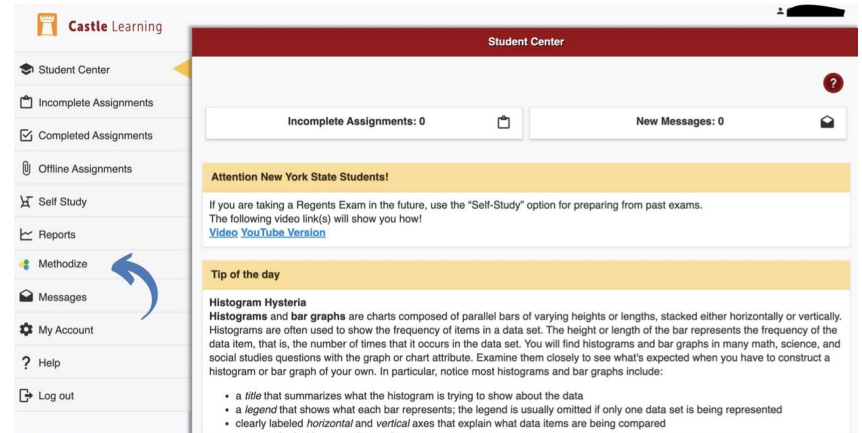
What kind of student are you & what did your diagnostics show?

What is your budget?

How much time do you have to dedicate?

Our Options for Levittown Students

- SAT prep course starting on March 21
  - 18 hours
  - (Monday/Wednesday, 7:30–9:30 PM), $350
  - https://www.methodlearning.com/school/levittown/ to learn more and register!

- Access to Methodize, the most up-to-date version of our prep platform
  - All Levittown students access Methodize through their Castle Learning accounts

Methodize

Methodize

Method Learning

SAT

Unit 1

✓ General Things to Know About the SAT

Unit 2

Best Reading Practices	Reading
Subject-Verb Agreement	Writing & Language
Plugging in Numbers	Math
Word Problems	Math

Unit 3

Annotating Reading Passages	Reading
Parallelism	Writing & Language
Parallel Verb Tense	Writing & Language
Linear Relationships	Math

Methodize

When a new large-scale public policy proposal emerges, the media almost immediately separate the substance of the idea from its optics—that is, how the politics of the issue will play out between political parties and their electorates. Related news
5 segments tend to be short on the policy's content but long on its implications for political operators. The result is a populace that is both poorly informed and increasingly polarized.

The tendency of news organizations to focus on the political consequences of policies rather than on the policies' merits and
10 drawbacks is called *tactical framing*—a term coined by Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. In her research, Jamieson has found that print articles and broadcast segments written to include elements of tactical framing not only fail to adequately inform viewers of the issues
15 at hand, but also simultaneously make them more pessimistic about the potential effectiveness of the policy meant to address the given challenges, even though they may lack a basic understanding of what those challenges are or what the proposal intends to do about them.

20 To some observers of media and politics, this phenomenon comes as no surprise. "By encouraging an 'us versus them' mindset and pushing consumers further into their opposite political corners, news organizations create content that keeps consumers engaged and advertisers paying the bills," says Ken
25 Felderson, a media critic. The daily *battle royale* that takes place

politics not policy

bad
def.

no understanding but still neg.

Lines 1–19

Topic sentences are generally important, and this is no exception. The passage's main idea is established right away. We take a note to summarize that main idea. Note that instead of writing a detailed note about the "result" of the media's handling of news, we circle the word "result," underline some key results, and write "bad." This helps us solidify that what's happening is no good—even if we don't remember the details, we'll be able to go back and see the specifics; the idea, however, will still be solidly in our brains.

The second paragraph expands on the point made before (this is common). We draw an arrow from our first note to the term used to describe the phenomenon (tactical framing). A note of *def* for *definition* helps us remember that this is the definition of the way news organizations present news. Our final series of underlining, along with our final note, show us that when people are exposed to tactical framing, they don't understand the news, yet still feel negatively about it.

Methodize

Several species of bacteria known as extremophiles occupy Earth's most inhospitable environments. The bacteria's natural habitats—volcanic craters that can reach thousands of degrees Fahrenheit, seafloor regions where pressures could crush solid steel, and geyser mouths whose pH is akin to that of stomach acid—would quickly kill most other organisms. **1** <u>Therefore</u>, extremophiles survive amidst the forbidding conditions. They have evolved unique physical and biochemical traits for doing so. Such adaptations have attracted researchers' attention for decades.

Select the best option for the underlined portion.

Ⓐ NO CHANGE

Ⓑ Beyond this,

Ⓒ Furthermore,

Ⓓ Nevertheless,

Methodize

QUESTION 1 OF 10

The sum of two numbers, x and y, is 40, and the positive difference between the numbers is 10. What is the value of xy?

(A) 50

(B) 375

(C) 400

(D) 555

$$x + y = 40$$
$$x - y = 10$$

This question first requires us to translate words to math. The first sentence features two statements that can be translated fairly easily.

The sum of two numbers, x and y, is 40: $x + y = 40$

The positive difference between the numbers is 10: $x - y = 10$

(Note that we assumed x is the larger of the two numbers to get a positive difference, but we just as easily could have assumed y was larger.)

Thanks for joining us!

Questions?

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