



<http://www.northstarelearning.com>

---

**1. Why do I need a good SAT score?**

Most of the colleges and universities require the SAT I and/or 1-3 SAT IIs for the admission. Your performance on the SATs is one of the most critical factors for the admission officer to make the decision based on your application whether to accept you. You may go the website <http://www.satscores.us> to get a sense of what colleges expect. It lists the middle 50% of the SAT scores for specific colleges.

**2. What is the average SAT score?**

The average SAT for all 2009 seniors is about 1517, but the average SAT score for college-bound students are higher:

For Ivy universities, the average SAT score is from 2100 to 2200.

For top private universities, the SAT average is about 2100

For top public universities, the SAT average is from 1800 to 2000.

**3. I have practiced a lot for the Writing Section's multiple choice questions, but I always scored below 600. How would I score above 700 in SAT Writing section?**

The purpose of SAT is to test your mastery of the knowledge and your ability to apply them. Doing practice without reviewing content or making the connection between the questions and the tested knowledge can only get you so far.

For multiple choice questions in SAT writing section, a few grammar rules are repeatedly tested. Reviewing all these frequently tested grammar rules and knowing strategies on how to handle them correctly will help you to score well on the multiple choice questions. Our one-hour online video course, "SAT I Grammar Review", reviews the 12 frequently tested grammar rules that statistically cover about 99% of the multiple questions each test and shows you strategies for answering them correctly through extensive examples. After taking this course, you should expect to score enough points on the multiple choice section that will most likely land you a >700 score.

For SAT I essay, fully understanding the scoring guide and writing procedures, tips, and strategies should help. Another online video course for SAT 1 essay writing analyzes the College Board scoring guide, review the writing procedures, tips, and strategies to write a high score essay. Follow our advice, and you will most likely receive a score of at least 5 (per reader, for a total of 10) for your essay.

**4. Should I take SAT Math I or SAT Math II or Both?**

You may focus on one of them. Normally SAT Math I has a steeper score curve than SAT Math II. For example a score of 780 on SAT Math I correspond to the 99 percentile, while a score of 800 on Math II corresponds to the 90% percentile. So the chances of getting a higher score on Math II are much higher.

**5. Are there any tips for improving vocabulary for the SAT Verbal Sections?**

A good vocabulary not only helps you get a good score at reading section, but also helps you to score high at writing section. Therefore, you should work on improving your SAT vocabulary as soon as you plan to take the SAT test, because developing a strong vocabulary can take any period from one month to one year depending on your target score.

On our website, you will find online practice for comprehensive SAT word lists that are commonly studied by the SAT takers such as "1000 most common SAT words", "250 most difficult SAT words", "300 high frequency SAT words", and "Barron's SAT words." You may use flashcards to learn these words or simply study the word lists, but you will soon find that the flashcards approach is time consuming and learning from the word list can get monotonous. To help you study the words more efficiently, we have developed a unique method that helps you to learn SAT words by fun practices. Our method has been proved to be effective for hundreds of students. You may try it to see if it works for you.

**6. I took the SAT in my junior year without any studying. My score was 1610 (CR: 510, Math: 500, Writing 600 and essay 10). Is it a good SAT score? My target schools are top public universities such as UC Berkeley.**

Your score of 1610 was slightly higher than 1510 that is the 2009 average for seniors, but the middle 50% SAT scores of the admitted students for Berkeley is about 1840-2190. You can see your SAT score is more than 200 points lower than the low end 1840 and your chances are low. If you really want to increase your chances of getting into UC Berkeley, you should increase your SAT by at least 250 points.

The good thing is that you still have some time to catch up. You may prepare for the SAT in summer after your junior year and take the test in the first few months of your senior year. To reach your goal, however, you need to start now and make it a personal commitment.

**7. I am a freshman and my PSAT score is 151 without any preparation. Can I improve it greatly by senior year?**

Yes, you definitely could improve your PSAT score by a lot. But you need to study in order to make the improvement.

The only truly important PSAT test is the one you will take in your junior year and your score of this test will be used to see if you are qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. So you still have about 2 years to improve your score.

As PSAT is basically a shorter version of the SAT, you may start to prepare for the SAT, and your PSAT would rise as your SAT score rises.

**8. I would like to get a tutor and prepare for my SAT in the summer, what should I consider when I select my tutor?**

Getting help from an experienced tutor is a good approach to prepare for the SAT, especially when your target score is above 2000.

When we hire our tutors, we require them to be able to

- identify the student's weakness by reviewing the answers for a practice test

- conduct the target score and target university analysis
- identify the best study strategies to meet the students' needs
- help the students to make a detailed study plan
- recommend the best SAT prep resources
- be available and willing to provide help by email - answer the student's email questions within 24 hours
- be knowledgeable for SAT contents
- have scored 99% percentile on their SAT tests, and
- be responsible and reliable

You may use similar criteria when you hire your tutor.

**9. How can I raise my SAT score by 200 points? My SAT score is in the high 1600s. Last practice test I took was yesterday and I got 1690. I am currently going over the practice test and I am taking the SAT in March, so I have a month to raise my score. I would like to get 1900 and higher on my first try.**

You have very little time to increase the SAT score by 200 points, but it is still possible if you use an efficient approach to your SAT prep and use your time wisely. Instead of reading a lot of SAT prep books, in your case taking a SAT prep course should be more efficient.

First of all, make sure you review the contents (especially the grammar rules in writing section and the concepts in math section) and fully understand them.

For writing section, review the frequently tested grammar rules and the strategies to handle them correctly by taking our one-hour video course "SAT I Grammar Review". Completing this course and mastering the 12 rules should help you to increase your SAT writing score at least 100 points.

Another way to boost your SAT score efficiently is to review concepts and skill requirements for math section. You can take the online video course of "SAT I Math Review" on our website. You should expect to gain another 100 points from the math section if you study this course.

For "long term" preparation, learning vocabulary will definitely help you to increase your score in reading and writing section. You may start from the most important two lists: 300 high frequency SAT words and the most common 1000 SAT words.

If you could make a plan to do the above, you will reach your goal for sure.

**10. How can I prepare for the SAT? I took the PSAT, and got a 62 on Critical Reading, 78 on Math, and 62 on writing. My total index score was 202. I need more help! Please!**

You have a great start point and you may increase your SAT to above 2200 with proper preparation. For example, you could earn at least 100 more points easily in the writing section if you fully study all the grammar rules that are frequently tested on SAT and get another 100 in the reading section after you study the vocabulary.

**11. I am a sophomore; when should I take the SAT?**

You should start SAT prep now. As you will be busy on college application forms in the first half of your senior year, you may want to get the SAT test done as soon as possible, on the first try if you can, in your junior year. For example, you may first take the SAT in January, March, or June, study the SAT prep course in summer if you want to take it again, and take another SAT test in October.

To prepare for the SAT, first set your goals, including which colleges you want to apply to and what score you want to get. Then you should begin with SAT vocabulary and take a practice test (any one from College Board's official guide). After that, you could identify your weaknesses and make a more detailed study plan. Follow the plan! This will help you to reduce stress and at the same time to reach your goal.

To study efficiently, you may need the help from good resource.

<http://www.northstarelearning.com/sat1/> provides vocabulary words, practice, online course, and 1-on-1 tutoring. You may check this out and see if it fits your needs.

**12. Can stressing too much over the revision/exam period hinder your performance for exams?**

Yes. People's productivity tends to be much lower when they are stressed out.

**13. When to stop cramming for SAT?**

At least one week before the test, and try to get enough sleep and nutrition.

**14. How many SAT questions am I allowed to skip?**

Technically, you are allowed to skip any questions that you want.

It really depends on your target score to determine how many you may skip. If you want to score above 2100, you may need to study all the contents and answer all the questions. But if you just want a score of 1900, you may skip several. And if your target is about 1500, you may skip more.

**15. I barely have time to study for the SAT on weekdays because of schoolwork. Should I sacrifice school grades for the SAT?**

No. Your school transcript is also one of the most important factors for your college admission. Moreover, it can impact on your recommendation letters from your school counselor and teachers. To work on both the school work and SAT, you need to apply some time management techniques and identify the more efficient approach to divide your time.

You can

- Pay as much attention as you can in class.
  - This could reduce your study time.
- Take SAT prep course instead of reading a book, or self-studying.
  - Self-studying may take more time than taking a course. If someone has already done the work to summarize contents and provide examples to understand those concepts, why not take the course to make your life easier?
- Reduce the number of SAT practice tests you take, but gain more from each practice.
  - One technique is trying to figure out how your results from your practices are similar by examining the required knowledge behind each of the questions. Do not

know how to do this? Our online video courses "SAT I Grammar Review" and "SAT I Math Review" show you how.

- Only study the SAT words you need to learn
  - Filter out the words you already know and only study the SAT word lists. Our SAT words training packages are provided to help you to achieve this exactly.

**16. I will take the SAT in a week; my current score from practice test is in the range of 1800 to 1900. How could I increase my SAT score by 200 points? Please help.**

If you contact us a year, two months, or even three weeks earlier, we would have loved to help you out. But now it is too late. Now all you can do to maximize your SAT score is to summarize the question types, review the strategies for each type, and get enough sleep and enough nutrition.

**17. I will take a SAT preparation program in the summer, what is the advantage of your SAT one-on-one training program vs. the other local SAT summer courses?**

The intention of the our SAT prep program is provide an efficient and affordable SAT prep program to help the students to prepare the SAT and yet still want the students to have some time for other activities. Students who have not only high SAT scores but also rich extracurricular activities are far more interesting than those who only have the high SAT scores and thus have much higher chance to be admitted.

The advantages of our SAT one-on-one training program include:

- **Exclusive attention and assistance** – all our program are one-on-one and this guarantees the highest efficiency from your side
- **High quality courses** – all our courses are targeted to help you understand the questions from the SAT test-marker point of view and the strategies to answer them correctly
- **Great SAT tutors** – all our SAT tutors are experienced and scored 99% on their SAT tests
- **More affordable** – you save your money and time for the transportation, and pay much lower program fee
- **More convenient** – you could take the course anywhere anytime
- **More flexible** – you are able to take the course over and over again and select the videos you want to watch
- **More accessible** – you are encouraged to ask any questions by email and get the answer within 24 hours
- **More resources** – you have the access to all our SAT prep resources such as the vocabulary practice, online video course, and monthly practice tests

**18. I rarely have time to study for the SAT, but I really need a high score like 2200+. How do I prepare it most efficiently and reach my goal? Any tips?**

That is a very good question. For busy students like us, we do need to study and prepare the SAT more efficiently.

There are usually three components for the SAT preparation:

1. Master the SAT words
2. Learn the content that is tested on the SAT
3. Do the SAT practice tests

The completion of the above three components normally needs a lot of effort. The students could

complete them much faster if they use the right approach and the available learning tools.

Here are four examples that are developed by NorthStar Learning Express (a North America Company) to help its students to get the most from their time.

1. Online word practice for over 5000 SAT words

This SAT word practice is integrated with a learning method, helping the students to identify and isolate their problematic SAT. It also provides tools for them to learn and practice these problematic words exclusively.

2. SAT I Video courses 28 unit video courses that review all the subjects/concepts/skills on the SAT I

It is more fun and effective to review the by watching the TV than by reading books.

3. Explanation for practices tests - Full explanation for the practice tests in the book "Official SAT Study Guide" helps the students to understand the concept/skills/strategies better.

4. SAT I: Identify weakness - Full access to its online tool "SAT I: identify weakness"

This tool works as the students' personal SAT trainer and tutor that guides the students to prepare the SAT thoroughly and effectively at their own pace, schedule, and location.

Luckily, the today's SAT takers could get all the above from <http://www.northstarelearning.com/sat-self-training-kit> for only \$299 if they use the promotion code "PUBSUM10". Since it is an online self training program, everyone could take it and study the SAT at his/her pace, schedule, and location.