



PSAT, SAT, ACT, Digital SAT - Everything You Need to Know

Tom Ehlers
Founder and President
Method Learning



**Method
Learning**

My Story



Method Learning



Tom Ehlers

President and Founder



Tom graduated from Princeton University and completed Princeton's Teacher Preparation Program. Early on, he developed a passion for learning which led to the inception of Method Test Prep. Running this small business allowed Tom to really focus on each student's needs and spend countless hours tutoring with the belief that all students have the ability to succeed. In addition, he has worked as an educational consultant with school districts across the country and advises them on ways to improve the districts' college admission test scores.

Tom is a father to twins Jonathan and Julia and enjoys traveling with his children and wife, Ally. In his down time, he reads, watches sports, and stays active. His motto in life, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows."

What's Our Goal?



**Method
Learning**

Use higher ACT
and SAT scores
to...



Get accepted to
more places/have
more options



Earn more \$\$ in
academic merit
aid



**Method
Learning**

If you only remember
ONE THING from this
presentation...



**Method
Learning**

The ACT and SAT are
predictable.

Predictability warrants
preparation.



**Method
Learning**

If a student gets just 1 more question correct on the SAT, how many points does his or her score often go up?

National Averages



**Method
Learning**

ACT - 20 (Highest - 36)

SAT - 1060 (Highest-1600)

What's a good
score?

What's a good
score?



**Method
Learning**

What are the differences
between the SAT and
ACT? Should a student
take both?



**Method
Learning**

If you get a question wrong
on the SAT or ACT, you lose
how many points?



**Method
Learning**

How much time
should I put in each
week to prepare for
the tests?



Method Learning

What would I do if I had an 11th grader?
(or if I was in 11th grade)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC



**Method
Learning**

SAT Question and Answer Service

- October

ACT TIR (Test Information Release) Service

- September
- April
- June

ACT 2023 -2024 Test Dates



Method Learning

2023-2024 Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024*	June 7	June 21

SAT 2023 -2024 Test Dates



Method Learning

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Regular Cancellation
Aug 26, 2023	Jul 28, 2023	Aug 15, 2023
Oct 7, 2023	Sept 8, 2023	Sept 26, 2023
Nov 4, 2023	Oct 5, 2023	Oct 24, 2023
Dec 2, 2023	Nov 2, 2023	Nov 21, 2023
Mar 9, 2024	Feb 23, 2024	Feb 27, 2024**
May 4, 2024	Apr 19, 2024	Apr 23, 2024**
June 1, 2024	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024**



Method Learning

What would I do if I had a 10th grader?
(or if I was in 10th grade)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Digital SAT Timeline

- For students in the US, the first digital SAT will be in spring 2024
- For US students taking the PSAT, the test will be digital starting this fall
 - students who will be juniors in the fall can familiarize themselves with the format of the test on the PSAT before taking the SAT next spring
- Once the test goes digital, all students will take the digital version
 - students with special testing accommodations that require a paper-and-pencil test can still use that format

Digital SAT Overview

- Students will take the test on a laptop or tablet, using a digital testing app that they'll download prior to test day
- The length of the test will be around 2 hours 15 minutes, compared to about 3 hours for the current test

Test Format

- Reading and Writing/Language Module 1
- Reading and Writing/Language Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)
- 10-minute break
- Math Module 1
- Math Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)

The Test is Adaptive

- A student will need to get roughly half of the first module correct to be routed into the harder second module
- A student's maximum score on a section will likely only be in the low-600s if he or she is routed into the easier second module
- The only way to score in the 650 - 800 range is to get to the harder second module!

Features of the Digital Test

- A way to flag questions to return to them later
- A countdown clock (which can be hidden) that shows how much time is left on that section
- A way to cross out answers that we want to eliminate
- A built-in calculator that can be used on the entire math section; more on this later!
- A reference sheet with math formulas, like the one included on the current SAT
- Scores delivered in days instead of weeks

Test Format

- Reading and Writing/Language Module 1
- Reading and Writing/Language Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)
- 10-minute break
- Math Module 1
- Math Module 2 (easier or harder depending on how student did on Module 1)

The Test is Adaptive

- A student will need to get roughly half of the first module correct to be routed into the harder second module
- A student's maximum score on a section will likely only be in the low-600s if he or she is routed into the easier second module
- The only way to score in the 650 - 800 range is to get to the harder second module!

Features of the Digital Test

- A way to flag questions to return to them later
- A countdown clock (which can be hidden) that shows how much time is left on that section
- A way to cross out answers that we want to eliminate
- A built-in calculator that can be used on the entire math section; more on this later!
- A reference sheet with math formulas, like the one included on the current SAT
- Scores delivered in days instead of weeks



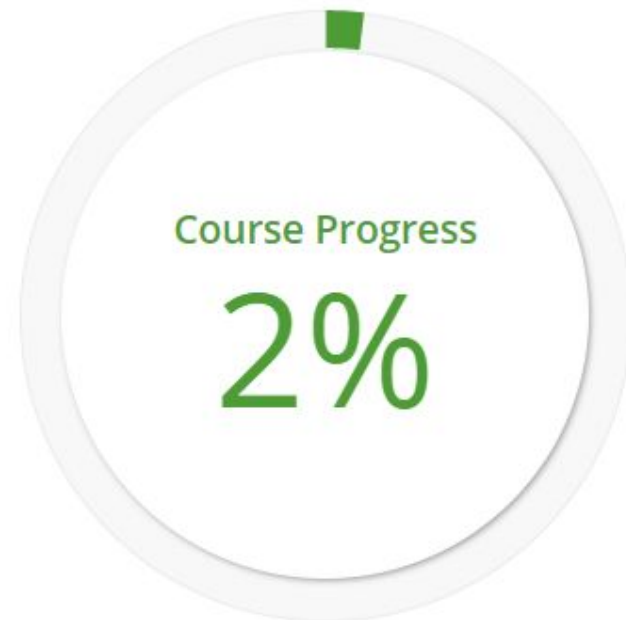
**Method
Learning**

So what is the next step? How can I improve my score most efficiently?



SAT

The SAT course provides students with a comprehensive overview of the most effective strategies and most relevant content for raising their SAT scores. It also offers robust features for teachers looking to improve their students' SAT skills and performance in math, reading, and English.

[Continue →](#)

Units

1/17

[View Units](#)

Lessons

1/51

[View Lessons](#)

Quizzes

0/59

[View Quizzes](#)

Test Sections

0/11

[View Tests](#)



Understanding Functions

Think of a function like you think of software: it takes an input (something you type in) and gives you an output (a result) according to a program. Typical notation gives the function a name like f , an input, and an output.

$$f(\underbrace{x}_{\text{input}}) = \underbrace{2x^2 + 5x}_{\text{output}}$$

Once the function is defined (just like f is defined above), anything that shows up in the "input" variable (here, that's x) gets plugged in whenever the variable shows up in the output. *No matter what the input is—a number or another variable—it gets plugged in.* Here are a few examples using the function above. Inputs are shown in blue.

$$f(4) = 2(4)^2 + 5(4)$$

$$f(4) = 52$$

$$f(a) = 2(a)^2 + 5(a)$$

$$f(a) = 2a^2 + 5a$$

$$f(p+q) = 2(p+q)^2 + 5(p+q)$$

$$f(p+q) = 2(p+q)(p+q) + 5p + 5q$$

$$f(p+q) = 2p^2 + 4pq + 2q^2 + 5p + 5q$$

Now, give the basic function question below a try.



Catch All Geometry

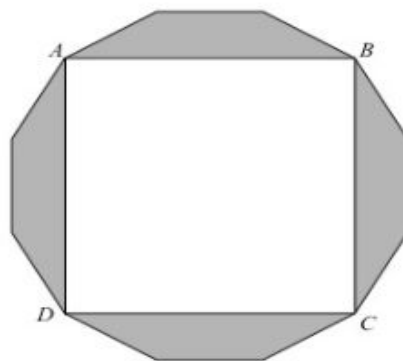
Report Issue

Questions 1 of 8

00:01:14

View Results

QUESTION 1 OF 8



In the figure above, square ABCD is inscribed in a regular dodecagon (12 sides). Each side of the dodecagon has length 10. What is the area of the square?

A $200\sqrt{3} + 300$

B 700

Incorrect

C $200\sqrt{3} + 400$

Correct

D 900

[View Explanation](#)[Next Question](#)

An ice-cream truck driver's monthly profit can be modeled by the equation $p = 2k + m + 3n$, where p is the monthly profit in dollars, k is the number of ice-cream cones sold, m is the number of ice-cream sandwiches sold, and n is the number of ice pops sold. What is the ice-cream truck driver's monthly profit if he sells 200 ice-cream cones, 100 ice-cream sandwiches and 50 ice pops?

- A) 350
- B) 450
- C) 650
- D) 800

$$\begin{aligned} p &= 2(200) + 100 + 3(50) \\ &= 400 + 100 + 150 \\ &= 650 \end{aligned}$$

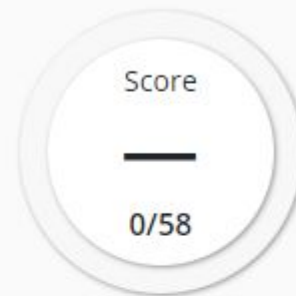




SAT Evaluation

No Attempts

Evaluation/Diagnostic Test



Section 1 < >

Reading

Score
—
0/18

Time Allowed **25 min** Completed —

[Start Section →](#)

Section 2 < >

Writing and Language

Score
—
0/20

Time Allowed **20 min** Completed —

[Start Section →](#)

Section 3 < >

Math Evaluation

Score
—
0/20

Time Allowed **25 min** Completed —

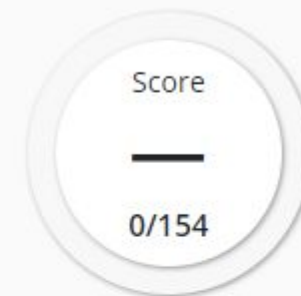
[Start Section →](#)



SAT Full Length #1

No Attempts

SAT Full Length #1



Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Reading	Writing and Language	Math No Calculator	Math Calculator Section
<p>Score — 0/52</p>	<p>Score — 0/44</p>	<p>Score — 0/20</p>	<p>Score — 0/38</p>
Time Allowed 65 min	Time Allowed Unlimited	Time Allowed 25 min	Time Allowed 55 min
Completed —	Completed —	Completed —	Completed —
Start Section →	Start Section →	Start Section →	Start Section →



Course ▾

Classes

Assignments

School

 Tom 

Missed and Mastered Vocabulary Words

A vocabulary word is considered "mastered" when you have correctly defined it more than one time in the vocabulary quiz.

Filter:

All Time

This Year

Words Missed	Total: 7
scrupulous	1
vitriolic	1
perspicacious	1
resolve	1
voracious	1
vapid	1
monotony	1

Words Mastered	Total: 0
----------------	----------

[Practice Vocabulary Words](#)

Smithtown provides access to all students!

The Methodize SAT/ACT program costs \$250 but Smithtown provides access to all high school students!

Students access through their Castle Learning accounts.



Method Learning

The Language Game Plan: Become a More Competitive College Applicant While Building Career Assets & Critical Soft Skills

Tue, Oct 3, 2023 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM EDT

[Show in My Time Zone](#)



Taking your language-learning seriously demonstrates to universities that you understand and are open to other people, cultures and ways of thinking. It also means you possess social-emotional maturity, an understanding of our globalized society and that language skills can lead to wider career opportunities and expanded relationships. In this webinar, join LanguageBird founder and CEO Karyn Koven to learn how to develop your language-learning game plan to get and stay on track. Let us show you how to demonstrate these skills on applications and explain why you should start language courses as early as possible and continue throughout high school.





Private tutoring and classes



**Method
Learning**

- For students and families who want/prefer live instruction:
 - we offer many **class** and **private tutoring** options at MethodLearning.com



Method learning

Navigating College Credit in High School: Your Roadmap to Success



Tue, Oct 24, 2023 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM EDT

[Show in My Time Zone](#)

Are you a high school student looking to get a head start on your college journey? Join us for an informative webinar where we'll dive deep into the world of college credit opportunities available during your high school years. From dual enrollment to advanced placement (AP), Cambridge AICE, and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, we'll guide you through the intricacies of each option and demonstrate how they can pave the way for a successful college experience and future career pathways.



Webinar Highlights:

Dual Enrollment Demystified: Learn how dual enrollment programs allow you to take college-level courses while in high school. Discover the benefits, potential challenges, and how to ensure these credits transfer seamlessly to the college of your choice.

Unlocking Credit-by-Examination Programs: Explore the world of credit-by-examination courses and programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge AICE, and International Baccalaureate, with an in-depth dive into how colleges view these programs and use them as college credit.

Connecting College Admissions and Credit: Uncover how participating in these programs can enhance your college applications. Get tips on showcasing your achievements, credits, and the skills you've developed through these rigorous curricula.

Mapping Your Career Pathways: Explore how early exposure to college-level coursework can guide your career choices. Understand how your chosen credit pathway aligns with different fields of study and future professions.

Q&A Session: Engage with our expert panelists during a live Q&A session to address your specific questions and concerns about college credit options, admissions, and



Private Tutoring



**Method
Learning**

If you are interested, scan this QR code for information on packages and prices:



Questions?



**Method
Learning**

Call: 1-877-871-PREP

Email: tom@methodlearning.com



**Method
Learning**

How many questions are on
the 45-minute ACT English section?

An Example: "Red Flag" Words



**Method
Learning**

Where's the error?

The congressional panel issued their findings after conducting an investigation that lasted for over a year.

The **congressional panel** issued **their** findings

The **congressional panel** issued **its** findings



**Method
Learning**

**SAT vs. ACT: on which
test do you have more
time per question?**



How many sections are on the SAT? the ACT? (putting aside the optional essay section)



**Method
Learning**

Poll: True/False: The
ACT Science Section
test students on science
knowledge?



**Method
Learning**

College admissions
today is more
competitive than ever
before

Acceptance rates 2022



**Method
Learning**

MIT: 4%

Duke: 6%

Johns Hopkins: 6%

Vanderbilt: 6%

Colby: 6%

CalTech: 6%

Pomona: 7%

Swarthmore: 7%

Barnard: 7%

Northeastern: 7%

U. of Chicago: 7%

Northwestern: 7%

Rice: 9%

Bowdoin: 9%

Tulane: 10%

USC: 13%

UCLA: 9%



**Method
Learning**

**Strong test scores give
strong grades more
credibility**



**Method
Learning**

The less information an applicant gives, the more the college will scrutinize the information the applicant does give



**Method
Learning**

A high score is better
than no score



**Method
Learning**

Anything that a college says is optional,
(if you are serious about going to that
college), you do.



**Method
Learning**

Students who submit strong test scores are offered more generous academic merit aid packages.



**Method
Learning**

The SAT and ACT test students on skills they will need for success in college: reading comprehension, fundamental math and grammar concepts.

Not as optional as you might think...

- At very competitive institutions, students who submitted scores were **accepted at much higher rates** than those who decided to take the option.
 - Therefore, if they think test scores will give them an edge, it makes sense that they will usually want to do so.

College/University	Admit Rate with Tests	Admit Rate without Tests	Testing Advantage
UVA	26%	14%	89%
Notre Dame	22%	11%	99%
Boston College	29%	11%	169%
Fordham	63%	49%	29%
Tufts	13%	9%	44%
Barnard	10%	6%	56%
Wellesley	17%	9%	83%
Emory	17%	9%	98%
Colgate	25%	12%	108%
Georgia Tech	22%	10%	120%
Vanderbilt	7%	6%	20%

<https://is.gd/P4qJtu>

Institutions Requiring Standardized Test Scores

Despite COVID, several popular colleges and universities require test scores, including:

- ✓ All state-sponsored universities in Florida
- ✓ University of Georgia at Athens
- ✓ Georgia Institute of Technology
- ✓ Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ✓ University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- ✓ United States Service Academies
 - Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Military Academy, Naval Academy





**Method
Learning**

Students can and will be
successful on these exams with
the right preparation

College admissions



- Dramatic increase in number of applications. Admit rates way down.

	Applications	Admitted	Admit Rate
Class of 2020	1,200,000	196,000	16%
Class of 2021	1,500,000	205,000	13.6%
Class of 2022	1,600,000	188,000	11.8%
Two-year change	31%	-4%	-26%

- Data from the websites of 40 selective colleges and universities



There is a “**Submitter Advantage**”
(Students who submit strong test scores have
a greater chance of being accepted)



**Method
Learning**

For parents/students who
want/need something in
addition to the web-based
program...



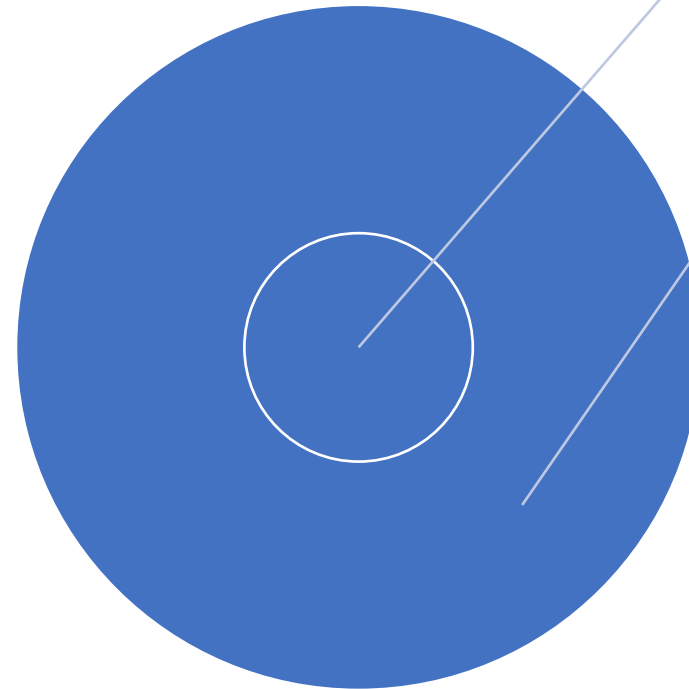
**Method
Learning**

1. Use Methodize
2. Take one of our classes
3. Private tutoring

Polls: How many times?



**Method
Learning**



Ideal number
of times?










How many
times can a
student take
these exams?



**Method
Learning**

Can you mix and match
your best scores?

Digital SAT Timeline

	International SAT	PSAT-Related Assessments	U.S. SAT and SAT School Day
Spring 2023			
Fall 2023			
Spring 2024			

 Paper and Pencil  Digital