

CLIFFS

SAT **PREPARATION**
GUIDE

SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

Including Test of Standard Written English

By Jerry Bobrow, Ph.D.
and
William A. Covino, Ph.D.

CLIFFS

Scholastic Aptitude Test

PREPARATION GUIDE

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PREFACE

YOUR SAT SCORE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! And because of this, we know that your study time is most valuable. You need the most comprehensive test preparation guide that you can realistically complete in a reasonable time. It must be short, direct, precise, compact, easy to use, and thorough, giving you all of the information that you would need to do your best on the SAT. In keeping with the fine tradition of Cliffs Notes, this guide was developed by leading experts in the field of test preparation specifically to meet these standards. The testing strategies, techniques, and materials have been researched, tested, and evaluated, and are presently used at SAT test preparation programs at many leading colleges and universities. This book emphasizes the **BOBROW TEST PREPARATION SERVICES** approach, which focuses on the six major areas that should be considered when preparing for the SAT:

1. Ability Tested
2. Basic Skills Necessary
3. Understanding Directions
4. Analysis of Directions
5. Suggested Approaches with Samples
6. Practice-Review-Analyze-Practice

These major areas include important mathematical terminology, formulas, and a helpful list of prefixes, suffixes, and roots, followed by two complete practice exams with answers and in-depth explanations.

This guide was written to give you the edge in doing your best by giving you maximum benefit in a reasonable amount of time and is meant to augment, not substitute for, formal or informal learning throughout junior high and high school. If you follow the Study Guide Checklist in this book, and study regularly, you will get the best test preparation possible.

STUDY GUIDE CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Read the SAT Information Bulletin.
- _____ 2. Become familiar with the Test Format, page 3.
- _____ 3. Familiarize yourself with the answers to Questions Commonly Asked about the SAT, page 5.
- _____ 4. Learn the techniques of Two Successful Overall Approaches, page 7.
- _____ 5. Carefully read Part II, Analysis of Exam Areas, beginning on page 11.
- _____ 6. Review lists of Common Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots, page 20.
- _____ 7. Review math Terminology, Formulas, and General Information, page 33.
- _____ 8. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test No. 1, section-by-section, beginning on page 53.
- _____ 9. Check your answers and compute your score, page 98.
- _____ 10. Analyze your Practice Test No. 1 results, page 100.
- _____ 11. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Problems Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 104.
- _____ 12. While referring to each item of Practice Test No. 1, study ALL the Answers and Explanations that begin on page 107.
- _____ 13. Review as necessary Basic Skills, Terminology, Formulas, and General Information given in Part II of this book.
- _____ 14. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test No. 2, section-by-section, beginning on page 151.
- _____ 15. Check your answers and compute your score, page 201.
- _____ 16. Analyze your Practice Test No. 2 results, page 203.
- _____ 17. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Problems Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 207.
- _____ 18. While referring to each item of Practice Test No. 2, study ALL the Answers and Explanations that begin on page 211.
- _____ 19. Again, selectively review as needed Basic Skills, Terminology, Formulas, and General Information given in Part II of this book.
- _____ 20. CAREFULLY READ "FINAL PREPARATION" on page 245.

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Part I: Introduction

COMMON FORMAT OF A RECENT SAT EXAM

Section I	Verbal Ability	40 Questions
30 Minutes	Antonyms	8–15 Questions
	Analogies	8–12 Questions
	Sentence Completion	8–12 Questions
	Reading Comprehension (two or three Passages)	10–15 Questions
Section II	Math Ability	35 Questions
30 Minutes	Math Ability	17–18 Questions
	Quantitative Comparison	17–18 Questions
Section III	Test of Standard Written English	50 Questions
30 Minutes	Grammar and Usage	30–35 Questions
	Sentence Correction	15–20 Questions
Section IV	Verbal Ability	40 Questions
30 Minutes	Antonyms	8–15 Questions
	Analogies	8–12 Questions
	Sentence Completion	8–12 Questions
	Reading Comprehension (two or three Passages)	10–15 Questions
Section V	Math Ability	25 Questions
30 Minutes	Math Ability	25 Questions
Section VI	Math Ability	25–35 Questions
30 Minutes	or Verbal Ability	40–45 Questions
Total Testing Time 180 Minutes = 3 Hours		Approximately 215–235 Questions

NOTE: The order in which the sections appear and the number of questions in each may vary, as there are many different forms of the SAT. ONLY TWO OF THE VERBAL SECTIONS AND TWO OF THE MATH SECTIONS ACTUALLY COUNT TOWARD YOUR SAT SCORE.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The SAT is used along with your high school record and other information to assess your competence for college work. The test lasts $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and consists entirely of multiple-choice questions.

The verbal section tests your reading comprehension and the breadth of your vocabulary. The math section presents problems in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.

The Test of Standard Written English (TSWE) is a 30-minute supplement to the SAT. It tests your ability to recognize Standard Written English. The TSWE score is used differently by different colleges; some use it to decide what level of Freshman English you should enroll in.

QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED ABOUT THE SAT

Q: WHO ADMINISTERS THE SAT?

A: The SAT is part of the entire Admissions Testing Program (ATP), which is administered by the College Entrance Examination Board in conjunction with Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey.

Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS APTITUDE TEST AND THE ACHIEVEMENT TEST?

A: Yes. The Scholastic Aptitude Test measures the general intellectual abilities you have developed over your lifetime. Achievement Tests, another component of the ATP, indicate your proficiency in specific subject areas.

Q: CAN I TAKE THE SAT MORE THAN ONCE?

A: Yes. But be aware that ATP score reporting is cumulative. That is, your score report will include scores from up to five previous test dates. It is not uncommon for students to take the test more than once.

Q: WHAT MATERIALS MAY I BRING TO THE SAT?

A: Bring your registration form, positive identification, a watch, three or four sharpened Number 2 pencils, and a good eraser. You may not bring scratch paper, calculators, or books. You may do your figuring in the margins of the test booklet or in the space provided.

Q: IF NECESSARY, MAY I CANCEL MY SCORE?

A: Yes. You may cancel your score on the day of the test by telling the test center supervisor, or you may write or telegraph a cancellation to College Board ATP. Your score report will record your cancellation, along with any completed test scores.

Q: SHOULD I GUESS ON THE SAT?

A: If you can eliminate one or more of the multiple-choice answers to a question, it is to your advantage to guess. Eliminating one or more answers increases your chance of choosing the right answer. To discourage wild guessing, a fraction of a point is subtracted for every wrong answer, but no points are subtracted if you leave the answer blank.

Q: HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE SAT?

A: Understanding and practicing test-taking strategies will help a great deal, especially on the verbal section. Subject-matter review is particularly useful for the math section. Both subject matter and strategies are fully covered in this book.

Q: WHAT SUBJECTS ARE COVERED BY THE ACHIEVEMENT TESTS?

A: There are Achievement Tests in the following areas: English composi-

tion, Literature, Mathematics Level I, Mathematics Level II, American History and Social Studies, European History and World Cultures, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, German, Hebrew, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. You may take up to three Achievement Tests on one test date.

Q: WHEN IS THE SAT ADMINISTERED?

A: The SAT is administered nationwide six times during the school year, in November, December, January, March, May, and June. A special October administration is given in limited locations.

Q: WHERE IS THE SAT ADMINISTERED?

A: Your local college testing or placement office will have information about local administrations; ask for the *Student Bulletin*. The SAT is administered at hundreds of schools in and out of the United States.

Q: HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER?

A: A registration packet, complete with return envelope, is attached to the *Student Bulletin*. Mailing in these forms, plus the appropriate fees, completes the registration process. You should register about six weeks prior to the exam date.

Q: IS WALK-IN REGISTRATION PROVIDED?

A: Yes, on a limited basis. If you are unable to meet regular registration deadlines, you may attempt to register on the day of the test. (An additional fee is required.) You will only be admitted if space remains after preregistered students have been seated.

Q: CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A: Yes. If you require information which is not available in this book, write or call one of these College Board Regional Offices.

Middle States: 65 East Elizabeth Ave., Bethlehem, PA, 18018. (215) 691-5906

Midwest: 990 Grove St., Evanston, IL, 60201. (312) 869-1840

New England: 470 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA, 02154. (617) 890-9150

South: Suite 200, 17 Executive Park Dr., N.E., Atlanta, GA, 30329. (404) 636-8465

Southwest: Suite 119, 3810 Medical Parkway, Austin, TX, 78756. (512) 454-7791

West: 800 Welch Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94304. (415) 321-5211
Suite 23, 2142 South High St., Denver, CO, 80210. (303) 777-4434

TAKING THE SAT: TWO SUCCESSFUL OVERALL APPROACHES

I. The "Plus-Minus" System

Many who take the SAT don't get their best possible score because they spend too much time on difficult questions, leaving insufficient time to answer the easy questions. Don't let this happen to you. Since every question within each section is worth the same amount, use the following system, *marking on your answer sheet*:

1. Answer easy questions immediately.
2. Place a "+" next to any problem that seems solvable but is too time-consuming.
3. Place a "-" next to any problem that seems impossible. Act quickly; don't waste time deciding whether a problem is a "+" or a "-".

After working all the problems you can do immediately, go back and work your "+" problems. If you finish them, try your "-" problems (sometimes when you come back to a problem that seemed impossible you will suddenly realize how to solve it).

Your answer sheet should look something like this after you finish working your easy questions:

1. A ● C D E
+ 2. A B C D E
3. A B ● D E
- 4. A B C D E
+ 5. A B C D E

Make sure to erase your "+" and "-" marks before your time is up. The scoring machine may count extraneous marks as wrong answers.

II. The Elimination Strategy

Take advantage of being allowed to mark in your testing booklet. As you eliminate an answer choice from consideration, *make sure to mark it out in your question booklet* as follows:

- ~~(A)~~
? (B)
~~(C)~~
~~(D)~~
? (E)

Notice that some choices are marked with question marks, signifying that they may be possible answers. This technique will help you avoid reconsidering those choices you have already eliminated and will help you narrow down your possible answers.

These marks in your testing booklet do not need to be erased.