



SAT

***TEST CONFIDENCE
PROGRAM***



Manchester Valley Test Center

- Administering the SAT on the following dates:
 - November 5, 2011
 - May 5, 2012
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What to expect on test day:

□ **SCHEDULE:**

- Arrive no later than 7:45 a.m.
 - Doors close at 8:15 a.m.
 - Testing starts between 8:45.
 - There are three five-minute breaks.
 - Test length is 3 hours 45 minutes.
 - Testing ends at 12:45
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Average SAT Scores

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Total
Carroll County	519	530	507	1556
Maryland	499	502	491	1492
Nation	497	514	489	1500



Approaches and Strategies

- All questions count the same. Answer easy questions first.
 - Make educated guesses.
 - Skip questions that you really can't answer
 - Limit your time on any one question.
 - Keep track of time.
 - Use your test booklet as scratch paper.
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Approaches and Strategies

- In your test booklet, mark the questions that you skipped and to which you want to return. Mark your answers in the correct column of your answer sheet.
 - Check your answer sheet to make sure you are placing your answers correctly.
 - Always use a No. 2 pencil.
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What is on the SAT?

- Composed of three sections:
 - Critical Reading (3 sections)
 - Mathematics (3 sections)
 - Writing (3 sections)
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Critical Reading

- Sentence Completion (19 questions)
 - Tests vocabulary and understanding of sentence structure.
 - Passage-based reading (48 questions)
 - Tests comprehension of what is stated in or implied by the passage.
 - You need 30 Correct Answers out of 67 Questions to score a 500.
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Approaches to Critical Reading Section

- Work on sentence completion first.
 - Mark your test booklet
 - Difficulty of sentence completion questions increase as you move through the set.
 - Use the process of elimination.
 - Consider related words, familiar sayings, roots, prefixes, suffixes.
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Sentence Completion

- Read the entire sentence, saying “blank” for the blanks.
 - Introductory and transitional words are extremely important for figuring out logic of the sentence (but, although, however, yet, even though)
 - Figure out what sort of word(s) should fill the blanks before looking at the choices.
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Sentence Completion

- With 2-blank questions, try eliminating some answers based on just one blank.
 - Remember that the instructions for all the sentence completion questions ask you to choose the best answer.
 - Check your choice by reading the entire sentence with the answer you have selected to make sure it makes sense.
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Passage-based Reading

- Mark the passages or make short notes.
 - Use your knowledge and experience carefully. (No matter what you know, questions are based on what the writer has written.)
 - Read actively. (Ask yourself, Is the writer trying to inform, amuse or influence?)
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Passage-based Reading

- Answers come from the passage.
 - Remember, every word counts.
 - Read questions and answers carefully.
 - Don't forget that an answer choice can be both true and wrong.
 - Make sure the passage supports your answer.
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Passage-based Reading

- Try eliminating choices
 - Double-check the other choices
 - Don't jump from passage to passage.
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Mathematics

- Multiple choice questions (44 questions)
 - Answer the questions you know first, then go back to the others.
 - You need to correctly answer 24 questions to score a 500.
 - Student-produced response (appear without answer choices)
 - You get no points off for wrong answers on this section. TRY solving each problem.
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Writing

- The SAT begins with a 25-minute essay.
 - Improving sentences (25 questions)
 - Identifying sentence errors (18 questions)
 - Improving paragraphs (6 questions)
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Identifying Sentence Errors

- ❑ Read each sentence quickly but carefully
 - ❑ Examine the underlined choices A to E
 - ❑ Develop the habit of looking for the most common mistakes people make in grammar. (subject/verb agreement, pronoun agreement, adjective/adverb confusion)
 - ❑ Some sentences have no error.
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Improving Sentences

- ❑ Read the entire sentence before you look at the choices.
 - ❑ The right answer will be the ONE correct version among the 5 choices.
 - ❑ Read each choice along with the entire sentence.
 - ❑ Read more slowly than you normally do.
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Improving Paragraphs

- Read the essay thoroughly to determine overall meaning before you look at questions.
 - Pay close attention to what you read.
 - Try all of the options before you decide on your answer.
 - Make sure your answer makes sense within the context of the paragraph.
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What to bring on test day:

- **Admission ticket**
 - **Acceptable photo ID**
 - **Two No. 2 pencils and a good eraser.**
 - **Acceptable calculator with fresh batteries.**
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Also bring:

- ❑ Snacks (to eat during breaks)
 - ❑ A watch (without an audible alarm)
 - ❑ A backpack or bag (to be kept under seat)
 - ❑ Extra batteries.
 - ❑ Extra #2 pencils.
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Do NOT bring:

- ❑ Cell phone, pager, iPod, MP3 player or other digital or electronic equipment.
 - ❑ Scratch paper
 - ❑ Notes, books, dictionary.
 - ❑ Compass, protractor, ruler, or other aid.
 - ❑ Highlighter or colored pencils
 - ❑ Portable listening or recording device.
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Do NOT bring:

- ❑ Camera or other photographic equipment.
 - ❑ Timer or watch with audible alarm.
 - ❑ ***Students are not permitted to use a cell phone during breaks. Leave cell phones at home or in your car so you will not be tempted to use them.
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Practice

- Use the Test Gear (Bridges) website and others to take practice tests, tutorials, and micro courses, particularly in the subjects you are weakest.
 - Take SAT practice tests on Collegeboard.com and Sparknotes.com.
 - Do SAT question of the day on Collegeboard.com.
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Sending Score Reports

- ❑ Most colleges require that you send scores directly from CollegeBoard
 - ❑ You are given 4 free score reports
 - ❑ Log-on to your CollegeBoard account.
 - ❑ Use the Get and Send Score link
 - ❑ Select the scores you want to send and where you want to send your scores
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Relax.....

- Get a good night's sleep the night before your test.
 - Eat a good breakfast the morning of the exam.
 - Relax during testing.
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