

THREE MONTH STUDY GUIDE



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Hi team - I'm Aneesh and I'll be attending Stanford University in the fall, where I'm planning on studying a combination of biomedical engineering, computer science/biomedical computation, and economics. Some of my hobbies include slam poetry, beatboxing, and reading. I would say I'm a confused individual who isn't good at answering the question, "What do you want to do?" but am a bit better at answering, "What problems are you interested in?"

Before you start

- First thing's first, take a diagnostic. Pinpoint what areas of the exam you need to work on
- Create a study plan that lays out the amount of time you'll allocate to each and, importantly, when you'll take your next diagnostic
 - I would suggest another diagnostic between month 2 and 3

3 months until the test

- Allocate this portion of time to learning concepts that you're struggling with as evident from the diagnostic. Say, for example, you're struggling with various concepts in writing, reading, and math, but you especially struggle with writing. Get an SAT prep book and read through the relevant sections, and use Khan Academy to fill in the gaps
 - Make sure to focus on concepts and strategies, not the specifics of problems.
 - If you struggle with reading, THIS is the time to identify the reading strategy that works for you. There is no golden, 'best' strategy - some people read questions first, some read the passage first, some annotate, some do not. You have to figure out which strategies help you be in the zone the most.
- Do every practice problem that uses that skill that's listed in the book. If you need more problems to practice the skills with, google the skill followed by the words Khan Academy and practice and something useful should come up
- Repeat for all skills

2 months until the test

- Results of your understanding of the skills won't translate to the SAT unless you simulate real test situations. I've found the best way to do this is to try to do a practice section as opposed to full test every other day to avoid burning out.

- It's absolutely crucial that you go through every single problem that you missed and understand not only how the correct answer was arrived at but also the concept itself that the problem tested.
 - Compile a list of skills that you continue to mess up on - no worries if progress seems slow, some skills take a long time to understand well enough to apply correctly consistently!
 - Identifying what you struggle with so you can hone in on it is what will serve you immensely
- This phase should take about two weeks - the next two weeks will be allocated towards improving the skills that need work identified in the previous step
 - If needed, go back and reread/rewatch the relevant section to review the difficult skill.

1 month until the test

- Diagnostic exam
- Once again, identify your skills that need work. Rinse and repeat with earlier formula. Practice is the real key to nailing the SAT.
- Practice daily (take weekends off and relax)

The week of the test

- Take it easy! Review concepts if you'd like, but by now you've put in the hours to know you're going to do well. Definitely treat yourself to a relaxing evening the night before and sleep well.
- Make sure to hydrate and eat well in the morning.