

ONE MONTH STUDY GUIDE



Author: Eillen.

Hi everyone! I'm Eillen and I'm about to be a senior in Orlando, FL. I am also gymnastics coach, a successful student, a runner, a swimmer, an artist, a club leader, a science-enthusiast, an aspiring doctor, a volunteer, a baker, a lover of Chinese food, traditional Venezuelan empanadas, and milkshakes (although not all together), a sister, a cat-owner, and a friend! If I have any advice to impart, it is to never let your mind or those around you limit your aspirations and ambitions; with conviction and will you can truly accomplish anything.

4 weeks until the test

- The first thing you should do is take a full 4-hour timed SAT practice test. You can find these online for free! It is imperative that you understand which areas are your strengths and which are your weaknesses for this exam. That way, you can tailor your study plan to target specific trouble areas. Grade each section, find out:
 - What you did wrong
 - Why you made mistakes:
 - Was it time limitation?
 - Was it that you made a simple math error?
 - Was it that you misread the question?
 - Or was it that you simply had no clue in the world how to answer that particular question?
 - Determine in which area you received your lowest score. Do not be discouraged; this is the area that has the potential to improve the most!
 - Determine your total score. We'll call this score your base score-the score that is bound to improve when you finally take your exam in 4 weeks.
- For the remainder of the week here are some guidelines you may follow to begin your studying (You decide which areas you need to spend more or less time on. Your lowest-scoring area should be the one you spend *at least* 15 minutes *each day* practicing for):
- Reading and Writing:
 - Practice by reading sample SAT passages and answering questions. Khan Academy offers plenty of online practice material!
 - Here are some strategies you may follow while completing this section:
 - Skim over the questions prior to reading the passage. This gives you an idea of what to look for in the passage.
 - Become familiar with the different varieties of passages.
 - For Writing, read the sentence very carefully. This is not a section you want to speed read. Pay attention to point of view, verb tense, and parallelism. Don't just pick an answer choice because you think *well, that's the way I always say it*. Let's face it, the way we speak English isn't always grammatically correct. The best way to improve this section is to practice and understand the reasons behind any mistakes.

- This week, practice sample passages of different types to get an idea of what to expect.
- Math
 - Pinpoint exactly what you have trouble with. For me it was probability and the geometry of circles. I centered my studying on these topics. Khan Academy offers several tutorial videos on specific math concepts.
 - For math, it is important to practice questions that you normally have trouble with. Here's some good news: SAT math doesn't change much from test to test. You will find the same types of questions on each test. Algebraic functions, parallel line concepts, probability, ratios, analyzing data from graphs, angles in triangles-you can count on these concepts being on the test every single time. Here's a secret: master all these concepts, and you can handle anything the SAT math section throws at you.
 - This week, focus on your trouble areas in math. Do practice questions, and make sure you understand how to derive answers.

3 weeks until the test

- Continue to practice passages in critical reading, problems in math, and writing questions.
- If you have a handy dandy smart phone, you can download helpful SAT study apps like the SAT Question of the Day or SAT Up. Use these to work on practice problems and become comfortable with the format of questions.
- You should get so familiar with the format of the test that when test day comes, you don't have to waste precious time carefully reading instructions.
- If you are continuously making the same mistakes, correct them, engrain the accurate solution method or grammar rule into your brain! Practice, practice, practice. Consistent practice is crucial to improving your score, but you must also learn from the mistakes you make while practicing. Don't just do 10 math problems or one writing passage and say *all right I've done my practice for the day!* You must correct your work and understand your errors so you do not repeat these same mistakes.

2 weeks until the test

- This week begin practicing sections with time constraints.
- Mastering your time management on this test is a huge factor when it comes to doing well. You may know how to answer all the questions on the test, but if you don't distribute your time wisely, your score will reflect otherwise. Don't let time be the factor holding you back from improving that base score!
- Begin practicing so that on test day, you understand what pace you should be working at. This will ensure that you finish the test and receive the score you deserve. If you get stuck on a problem, do not waste time trying to figure it out. It is much more efficient to skip it and then return to it once you've finished that section.

1 week until the test

- This week is your last week! You can see the light at the end of the tunnel!
- Every day this week work on a single section. For example, Monday you can work on a few timed Critical Reading passages. Tuesday you can work on a few timed math sections. Wednesday you can dedicate to practicing timed writing sections.

- Make sure you review topics that may have given you any trouble at all these past weeks. Write down any formulas you keep forgetting and grammar rules that seem to constantly slip your mind. Since math is my trouble area, I keep a small notebook where I write down specific math reminders that help me for the SAT (like how to find the arc length of a circle and how to find the sum of interior angles in a polygon).

The day before the test

- Today just relax! You shouldn't stress yourself out! You're ready. You understand the format of the test- that's crucial to succeeding on this exam. You're prepared (believe it or not you've actually been preparing throughout your entire school career).
- Make sure you have everything ready to take with you to your test tomorrow: an approved calculator, number 2 pencils, snacks, water, your SAT testing ticket, and a photo ID.
- I know typically as teenagers we like to stay up on Friday nights, but tonight it is extremely important to get your rest! Your mind needs to be rejuvenated for tomorrow.

The day of the test

- It's the big day!
- Quick tip I usually follow: If I can eliminate at least 3 answer choices, then I guess; there's a better chance at receiving points!
- Be confident!
- Go out there and ACE the SAT!