

THE SAT IS COMING

Will you be ready?



What is the SAT?

College Board is an American private nonprofit organization with a catalogue of standardized tests designed to prepare students for post-secondary education. Its centrepiece, the SAT, remains a key component of the U.S. college and university admissions process, and a student's results on the test offer would-be destination schools a better overall view of the applicant's academic abilities. It measures an individual's aptitude for English and math by rating his or her skills in evidence-based reading, writing and language, and mathematical problem solving. The SAT is administered five times a year for international (non-U.S.) students: March, May, August, October and December. Students are evaluated on a comprehensive series of scales which give them as many as 15 different scores to report:

- an overall score out of 1600
- a math score out of 800
- an English score out of 800
- seven subcores, each one out of 15 (algebra, problem solving/data analysis, advanced math, editing, vocabulary-in-context, grammar and sentence structure, evidence-based reading comprehension)
- two cross-test scores, each one out of 40 (science, history/social studies)
- three subject scores, each one out of 40 (math, reading, writing)

SAT prep course

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of most SAT test dates in 2020, thus creating increased demand for the 2021 administrations, especially the new August 28 sitting. In preparation for this particular test date, **The Learning Curve Tutoring and Educational Services (TLC)** will be providing a series of online SAT training sessions over the summer for any interested students entering grade 11 or 12 this fall.

1) ONLINE INSTRUCTION: 10 two-hour sessions (exact dates and times TBD)

Each lesson will focus on the three basic test elements of the SAT: Reading, Writing and Language, Math. The course is designed to introduce students to the voice, format and patterns of the test so as to reduce the element of surprise and help them create personalized game plans for each section. The syllabus will include:

Basic Introduction:

- Tour of the SAT (an overview of each section of the test, featuring universal tips and strategies for handling multiple-choice and free-response questions)

Question Types:

- Expression of Ideas (SAT question types that test a student's topic development skills, organization and use of language)
- Standard English Conventions (SAT question types that test a student's knowledge of sentence structure, usage and punctuation)
- Words in Context (SAT question types that test a student's vocabulary and word choice)
- Command of Evidence (SAT question types that test a student's reading comprehension and ability to interpret evidence)
- Heart of Algebra (SAT question types that test for basic mathematical mechanics relating to linear equations and inequalities)
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis (SAT question types that test a student's quantitative reasoning and interpretation of data)
- Passport to Advanced Math (SAT question types that test a student's ability to understand and build more complex equations)

Test-taking skills:

- Pacing and time management (drills that reinforce how to budget and keep track of time)
- Educated Guessing (process of elimination, deductive reasoning)
- Reasonableness (using common sense to determine the validity of possible answers to math questions)
- Prioritizing (determining the order in which a student should answer the questions in each section of the test)

Practice Test:

- full-length sample test, written under proper time restrictions with pacing-related prompts)
- feedback and review (tabulation of results, full explanation of the scoring system, performance evaluation, final Q&A)

OTHER OPTIONS:

i) Private lessons

For those who prefer more flexibility and individualized attention, one-on-one sessions may be an option. This approach is more organic in the sense that lesson plans are developed on the go, determined by whatever progress the student is making. Because sessions are booked based on mutual availability between student and instructor, they don't necessarily take place at the same time every week. Such an arrangement is also convenient for those who need less frequent help because students are not required to commit to a minimum number of sessions - one or two may be enough to shore up a few key skills, as opposed to a series of weekly classes.

ii) Semi-private lessons

Some students may wish to pair up with a friend or schoolmate to create a more collaborative environment. This option provides many of the same benefits as do private lessons, but at a slightly discounted hourly rate.

Scheduling Conflicts

Not surprisingly, when putting together a course for a large group of people, it can be challenging to find days and times that work for everyone. From one week to the next, there are bound to be conflicts with various activities - family commitments, part-time jobs, etc. If a student cannot attend a class for whatever reason, every effort will be made to catch him or her up, as necessary. Course fees will NOT be pro-rated for absences, but recordings will be made accessible after each session.

Registration Information

- 1) **To sign up for the SAT prep course or to book private or semi-private tutoring sessions**, please visit www.learningcurvetutoring.ca or complete the attached registration form
- 2) **The course registration deadline is Friday, June 11 at 12pm.** There is NO such deadline to sign up for private or semi-private sessions.
- 3) Fees for the various SAT prep options are as follows:
 - PREP COURSE(10 sessions): \$1,000**
 - PRIVATE SESSIONS: \$80/hr**
 - SEMI-PRIVATE SESSIONS: \$60/hr, per student**
- 4) Participants will be directed to purchase College Board's Official SAT Study Guide (available from Amazon for approximately \$30).
- 5) For more information, please contact **Colin McMahon**, owner/director of The Learning Curve (e-mail and telephone listed below).



Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the decision has been made to not hold any in-person classes until otherwise advised by national and local health authorities. In the meantime, all courses run by The Learning Curve will take place online. Although the prep course dovetails with the August 28, 2021 test date, they are not mutually exclusive; in other words, the lessons are equally applicable to subsequent SAT administrations.

THE LEARNING CURVE
TUTORING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

35 Wyndfield Crescent, Whitby ON L1N 8L3
416.422.5988

colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca www.learningcurvetutoring.ca

2021 Summer SAT Prep Course Registration Form

Registration Options (*registration deadline is Friday, June 11 at 12pm EDT*):

- 1) online - sign up through The Learning Curve's website (www.learningcurvetutoring.ca)
- 2) by e-mail - save, scan or take a picture of this form and send to: colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca
- 3) by standard mail or courier service - send a printed copy of this form to:
The Learning Curve
35 Wyndfield Crescent
Whitby ON L1N 8L3
Canada

For more information, contact Colin McMahon (owner/director) at 416.422.5988

Student Information

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____
Grade (2021/22 school year): _____ School: _____
Tel.#s: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Parent Information

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____
Mailing address: _____
Tel.#s: (cell) _____ (work) _____ (other) _____

Course Dates - The specific course dates will be selected based on feedback from all participants. With this in mind, please flag the student's availability by identifying his or her program and scheduling preferences.

Program Preferences - check one of the following:

- TEN-WEEK PROGRAM: one 2-hour class per week, for 10 weeks
- TWO-WEEK PROGRAM: one 2-hour class every weekday, for 2 weeks

Scheduling Preferences - rank the following options from 1 (top choice) to 5 (last choice); all times EDT:

- WEEKDAY MORNINGS: 10am to 12pm
- WEEKDAY AFTERNOONS: 1pm to 3pm
- WEEKDAY EVENINGS: 7pm to 9pm
- WEEKEND MORNINGS: 10am to 12pm
- WEEKEND AFTERNOONS: 1pm to 3pm

Payment Options (*course fees \$1,000*)

- CHEQUE: payable to "The Learning Curve"
- E-TRANSFER: use "thelearningcurve.colin@sympatico.ca" to initiate the transaction
- CREDIT CARD:

type of card (circle one) : Visa MasterCard

card number : _____

expiry date (month/year) : ____ / ____

name of cardholder (on the card) : _____

signature : _____