

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 standardized 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)

NOTE:

College Board provides detailed performance reports after each test so that students can adjust their study plans accordingly. Writing the SAT more than once gives students the opportunity to "super-score" their results, which means pairing their best English scores from one administration with their best math scores from another.

SAT prep course

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to fuel demand for SAT test date bookings. This trend is expected to continue throughout the 2021/22 school year, especially leading into the always popular May 7 administration. 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 in the new year for all interested grade 10 and 11 students.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION: 10 Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm (Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 26, Mar 5, Apr 2, 9, 23, 30)

Each of these two-hour sessions will focus on the three basic test elements of the SAT: Reading, Writing and Language, and 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 individual 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)

* Students who qualify for accommodations will have a chance to write the practice test with appropriately modified timing prompts.



OTHER OPTIONS:

i) Private lessons (flexible schedule, online or in-person, as per recommended health restrictions at the time)

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, based on 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 (flexible schedule, online or in-person, as per recommended health restrictions at the time)

Some students may wish to pair up with a 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Private and semi-private lessons are subject to the instructor's availability.

Scheduling Conflicts

When organizing a course for any 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 all kinds of activities - family vacations, weekend jobs, etc. If, for whatever reason, a student is unable to attend a class, every effort will be made to catch him or her up, as necessary. Course fees will NOT be prorated for absences, but recordings will be 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 complete the online registration form, which can be found by visiting www.learningcurvetutoring.ca.
- 2) The course registration deadline is Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6pm. 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 required 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).

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