



Structure of the test

The SAT covers three main topics: Math, Reading, and Writing. These topics are split into two sections: Evidence Based Reading and Writing, and Math. Each section is divided into two modules: one “Placement Module” and one “Secondary Module.”

The “Placement Module” is designed to analyze your performance and adjust the difficulty of the problems for your Second Module. Your performance in the Placement Module will determine what type of secondary module you will get.

There are two types of secondary modules: an easy module and a hard module. The easy module will be given to students who score less than 66% on the placement module and will include easy questions. The hard module will be given to students who score above 66% and will only include medium and hard questions.

Math Scenario 1:		Math Scenario 2:	
Module 1: You correctly answered 13 questions (59%)	Module 2: Easy module Includes easy, medium, and hard questions	Module 1: You correctly answered 20 questions (90%)	Module 2: Hard Module Includes medium and hard questions, but not easy ones

It is advantageous for students to get the harder module because the College Board puts a limit on the maximum score you can achieve if you get the easier module. If you were to get the easy module on both the Reading and Writing and Math sections, the maximum score you can achieve is 1200.



Why is it important to understand structure?

Proper strategies should do two things: increase your problem accuracy/consistency and increase the speed that you work a problem. Therefore, to best understand and apply any strategies, you must know the structure of the test.

EBRW: Mod. 1	EBRW: Mod. 2	Math: Mod. 1	Math: Mod. 2
• 27 questions • 32 minutes • 1:11 per problem	• 27 questions • 32 minutes • 1:11 per problem	• 22 questions • 35 minutes • 1:36 per problem	• 22 questions • 35 minutes • 1:36 per problem

EBRW: Evidence Based Reading and Writing

The image above gives you a brief idea of what to expect when pacing yourself on the test. However, the difficulty of each individual problem will also have a bearing on how long it takes you to solve it.

For example, in the reading and writing sections, there will be passages that are 300 words long, and contain condensed information. Do not expect this problem to take the same amount of time as a simple vocabulary problem. This is essential to remember. The College Board places the majority of the reading problems before the writing problems. Reading problems generally take longer to work, consequently makes students feel behind halfway through the module.

Work problems quickly, but do not sacrifice accuracy to do so.

The best way to achieve a sufficient pace, with great accuracy, is to understand the concepts that are covered in the SAT. The following is a list of every topic that is in the SAT. Later in this course you can see a topic-by-topic breakdown that includes examples, strategies, and general information. You should use those examples to understand the mistakes you made on the test. Remember: if you struggle with concepts, you need to study concepts, and if you struggle with pace or inconsistency then you must study strategies.



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Reading and Writing

- Central Ideas and Details
- Inferences
- Command of Evidence
- Words in Context
- Text Structure and Purpose
- Cross-Text Connections
- Rhetorical Synthesis
- Transitions
- Boundaries
- Form, Structure, and Sense

Math

- Linear equations in one variable
- Linear Functions
- Linear equations in two variables
- Systems of two linear equations
- Linear inequalities in one or two variables
- Nonlinear functions
- Nonlinear equations in one variable and systems of equations in two variables
- Equivalent expressions
- Ratios, Rates, Units and proportions
- Percentages
- One-variable data
- Two-variable data
- Probability
- Models and Scatterplots
- Inferences: margin of error, statistics
- Volume and area
- Lines, angles, and triangles
- Right Triangles and trig
- Circles

This information is also available on the College Board's website and the Bluebooks application.