



**Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of USA, Inc.  
Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir)  
And Community Center**

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**SAT Prep Class**



# This Class – SAT Prep

- ◇ HTCS Education does not charge for this class and the volunteer teachers do not receive any payment for their services
- ◇ On the same token, we cannot guarantee any results of this class
- ◇ The Book We Use: The College Board's–
  - The Official SAT Study Guide with DVD (ISBN: 0874479797)
  - Kaplan SAT 2013 (ISBN: 1609787064)



# What does the SAT Test?

- ◇ The SAT has 10 sections– seven 25–minute sections, two 20–minute sections, and one 10–minute section

Section	Timing	Question Type
1	25 minutes	Essay (always 1 <sup>st</sup> )
2	25 minutes	2 Critical Reading 1 Writing Multiple-Choice 2 Math 1 Unscored Experimental Section
3	25 minutes	
4	25 minutes	
5	25 minutes	
6	25 minutes	
7	25 minutes	
8	20 minutes	1 Critical Reading 1 Math
9	20 minutes	
10	10 minutes	Writing Multiple-Choice



# What does the SAT Test? (cont'd)

- ◇ The test takes 3 hours and 45 minutes
- ◇ The number of questions and sections per content area is always the same, but the order of some of the areas changes.
- ◇ Experimental Section- allows the SAT to test new and old questions and analyze how students respond to certain questions and phrasing



# The Essay

- ◇ Write a Persuasive Essay (usually responding to a quotation)
- ◇ 25 Minutes
- ◇ Always the first on the SAT



# Critical Reading

- ◇ 67 questions total
- ◇ Reading Comprehension- 48 questions
  - Identify main and supporting ideas, determine the meaning of words or phrases in context, understand the authors' purposes, and understand the structure and function of sentences
- ◇ Sentence Completion- 19 questions
  - One and two-blank sentence completions
  - Use context clues to determine correct answer
  - Strong vocabulary is helpful



# Math

- ◇ 54 questions total
- ◇ Multiple Choice- 44 questions
- ◇ Knowledge Areas:
  - Numbers and operations (11-13)
  - Geometry and measurement (14-16)
  - Algebra and functions (19-21)
  - Data Analysis, Statistics, Probability (6-7)
- ◇ Student-Response- 10 questions
  - Note- No penalty for student-response math questions, so answer all these questions even if you have to guess!



# Writing

- ◇ 40 total Writing multiple-choice questions
- ◇ Improve a sentence- 25 questions
- ◇ Identify the error in a sentence- 18 questions
- ◇ Improve paragraphs- 6 questions





# How is the SAT Scored?

- ◇ Raw Score =  $\# \text{ correct} - (.25)(\# \text{ incorrect})$
- ◇ The scaled score is based on the student's raw score
- ◇ Colleges look at the per-section score. Most schools use a student's super-score, or the highest combined per-section score (can come from different test dates)
- ◇ Guessing randomly is NOT recommended



# Pacing Yourself

- ◇ A low-difficulty question is worth as many points as a high-difficulty question- so don't spend too much time on any one question!



# How Should You Prepare?

- ◇ Learn the Test
  - Know what to expect in every section– helps save time and build confidence
- ◇ Learn test-taking strategies
  - The SAT tests problem-solving skills rather than memory– think strategically and creatively
- ◇ Learn the material tested
- ◇ Practice, practice, practice!



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# SAT Resources and Tips



# Free SAT Test Resources

- ◇ College Board (makers of the test)- <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>
  - Question of the Day
  - Free Practice Questions
  - Free Practice Test
- ◇ About.com- [http://testprep.about.com/od/sat/tp/SAT\\_Practice.htm](http://testprep.about.com/od/sat/tp/SAT_Practice.htm)
  - Practice quizzes for Math, Reading, and Writing
- ◇ SparkNotes- <http://www.sparknotes.com/testprep/books/newsat/index.html>
  - Strategies
  - Practice Problems
- ◇ Apps
  - The Official SAT Question of the Day (College Board)
  - IntelliVocab lite for SAT (Faqden Labs)
  - SAT Connect (Watermelon Express)
  - Grockit SAT Flashcards (Grockit)
  - SAT Vocab- MindSnacks (MindSnacks)



# General Study Tips for the SAT

- ◇ Don't get stuck on any one question
- ◇ Learn the directions in advance
- ◇ For the essay, it's important to develop your ideas and express them clearly, using examples to back them up
- ◇ For the writing multiple-choice questions, think about the simplest, clearest way to express an idea
- ◇ For sentence completions, as you read, try to predict what word should go in each blank
- ◇ For reading comprehension questions, skim the passage to see what it's about
- ◇ For the math multiple-choice questions, you're allowed to use a calculator, but it won't help you unless you know how to approach the problems



# What To Do Before Every Class

- ◇ Read the New York Times
  - You will find a lot of “hot” vocabulary words in the NYT. Reading these words in context of articles of interest can help internalize their meanings. This will not only help reading comprehension but may also help you experiment with these new words in your own writing.
  - The reading level of Times writing is comparable to that of the reading passages found on the SAT. And like the SAT, Times articles span a range of subjects- there’s something for everyone!
  - Read at least 3 articles a week. If there is something you find especially interesting, bring into class to share!
- ◇ Do any assigned Homework
  - Each week we will assign different sections within the CollegBoard workbook. It is your responsibility to complete them and come in with any questions. We will go over some (but not all) homework questions along with any questions you have.
  - We will grade the essays via email.
- ◇ Come to Class Willing to Learn
  - This class is for you. We will do our best to help in any way we can and will need your cooperation and feedback to do so.