

Team Tooth Booth's Starter DAT Study Guide

Below are various sections covering the different aspects and topics that are present in both the American and Canadian DAT.

Need more help studying? We are excited to announce we have partnered with DATCrusher & DATBooster providing a 15% off code. Use 'TeamToothBooth' to gain practice so you can ace the DAT!

Dental Admission Test (DAT) Study Guide

What is the DAT?

The DAT is a dental education admissions test for those interested in attending a dental education program, like dental school. The purpose of the DAT is to understand the skill levels of applicants seeking admission to dental school. Below are some characteristics of the test.

American DAT

- 4 hours 15 minutes (excluding breaks)
- Multiple Choice
- Computer-based
- Subjects
 - Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry), Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Reasoning

Canadian DAT

- Offered in English or French (various locations in Canada)
 - English: 3 hours
 - French: 2 hours
- Multiple Choice
- Paper-based
- Subjects
 - English: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry) Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension

How to Register

American DAT

<https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/apply-to-take-the-dat>

1. Obtain a DENTPIN and read the DAT guide
2. Submit an application on the ADA website and input your name as it appears on your official government-issued identification. The current fee is \$415.
3. After submitting the application you will receive an email with instructions on how to schedule your DAT at a Prometric test center (it may take a few days for the email to be sent)

Things to Note!

- Register as early as possible! There is a rescheduling fee that increases closer to the test date
 - \$25 to cancel/reschedule 30 days prior to DAT
 - \$60 to cancel/reschedule 5-29 days prior to DAT
 - \$150 to cancel/reschedule 1-4 days prior to DAT.

- Given most days of the year at specified testing centers
- You can only take the DAT once every 90 days.
- You are allowed to take the DAT up to 3 times, unless you get special permission from the ADA.
- Prior to your test, you will be asked which schools you would like to send your scores to..... SELECT ALL SCHOOLS. Even if you are not sure of which schools you will be applying to, choosing all schools will prevent future fees that come along with sending scores to individual schools. This will be the only opportunity you have to send scores at no cost - but do not worry, only schools you apply to will see your score!

Canadian DAT

https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/register_dat/

1. Review the frequently asked questions page on the CDA website prior to registering in order to get yourself familiar with the registration process and test details
<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/faqs/>
2. Check the [important DAT registrations dates \(click here\)](#) to know when you should register and complete the registration on the CDA website (linked above). The current fee is \$345.
3. You will be assigned a DAT ID number once you register for the DAT.
4. You have the option to purchase a DAT preparation manual, preparation kit and soap (6-pack) for the manual dexterity portion, at additional cost.

Things to Note!

- The Canadian DAT is only offered twice a year: November & February. (Current dates are altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic) It is essential for you to register as early as possible since seats get filled up really quickly!
- You are allowed to take the DAT an unlimited number of times, but only the results from the most recent test and the total number of attempts will be reported on your DAT transcript.
- Canadian DAT test centers:
<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/information/testing/>
- If you decide to cancel your DAT, fees will not be refunded.

Study Resources

<p><i>DAT Bootcamp</i></p> <p>Subscription-based (\$497 for 90 days)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most similar to the actual American DAT and most popular study tool - Provides a question bank for each section as well as 10 full practice tests - A free practice test is offered in each section - Has tutors for every section that are ready to answer your questions any time - Daily warm-ups and questions of the day - "DAT Bootcamp Study Group" on Facebook has thousands of students and is a great resource to ask questions related to the DAT, see other students' test results, and get dental school advice - DAT Bootcamp app allows you to answer questions from the question banks directly on your phone - Can be used for the Canadian DAT but the topics might be different.
<p><i>DAT Destroyer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A bit on the heavy side in terms of information - Can obtain a book containing Organic Chemistry, General Chemistry, and Biology (all in one) - Books can be purchased by using the following link: https://orgoman.com/products/dat-destroyer - Some practice tests can be accessed at http://orgomanonline.com/free-dat-tests/biology-1.html - The DAT Destroyer Facebook Group is a great space to ask questions and practice through its daily questions and problems!
<p><i>DAT Booster</i></p> <p>Membership for \$279</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar to DATCrusher, DAT Booster is designed for students taking the American DAT. - Can be accessed using the following link: https://datbooster.com
<p><i>DAT Ready</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Useful for the Canadian DAT - Includes various practice books <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey of Natural Science (\$60) which includes 5 practice tests. 2. Reading Comprehension (\$60) which includes 5 practice tests. 3. Perceptual Ability (\$50) which includes 3 practice tests. 4. Deluxe package (Natural Science, RC, PAT) for \$170 - Can be accessed using the following link: https://datready.ca
<p><i>DatCrusher</i></p> <p>Subscription based (CAD \$319 for 120 days)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most similar for the Canadian DAT

Survey of Natural Sciences Portion

American DAT: General Chemistry + Biology + Organic Chemistry (90 minutes total)

- *Do not have to spend exactly 30 minutes on each subject -> Would recommend starting with your strongest subject(s) to spend as much time on your hardest subject(s)

Canadian DAT: General Chemistry + Biology (70 minutes total)

BIOLOGY
<p>FORMAT: 40 Biology questions</p> <p>FREQUENT TOPICS <u>American DAT</u>: Cellular Mechanisms, Genetics, Plants, Physiology <u>Canadian DAT</u>: Cells, Cellular Respiration, Photosynthesis, Cell Division, Heredity, Molecular Genetics, Evolution, Biological Diversity, Plants, Physiology, Animal Reproduction and Development, Animal Behavior and Ecology</p> <p>STUDY MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ***Utilize Anki (online flashcards service). There are many practice DAT sets already uploaded onto Anki that can be used. - For Dat Bootcamp and Dat Destroyer, biology notes are provided at no cost and can be accessed through the Facebook group. - Feralis Notes and destroyer's biology notes are beneficial for the Canadian DAT.
GENERAL CHEMISTRY
<p>FORMAT: 30 General Chemistry questions</p> <p>FREQUENT TOPICS <u>American DAT</u>: Acid-base, Kinetics, Solubility, Thermochemistry <u>Canadian DAT</u>: Atoms and Molecules, Chemical Reactions and Stoichiometry, Trends of the Periodic Table, Solutions, Thermochemistry, Solubility, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, Electrochemistry, Nuclear Chemistry, Good Laboratory Practices</p> <p>STUDY MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ***Practice problems - Connect concepts by understanding the reasoning behind them (Useful for Kinetics and Thermodynamics)
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
<p>FORMAT: 30 Organic Chemistry questions</p> <p>FREQUENT TOPICS: Stereochemistry, Mechanism, Reactants/products, Nomenclature, Bonding</p> <p>STUDY MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice problems - Review class notes from when you took the class - Review reaction types and problems that you struggle with the most - ***Make a study guide of all the reactions you're expected to know

Perceptual Ability Test

Perceptual Ability Test (PAT)
<p>FORMAT: 90 PAT questions with a time limit of 60 minutes</p> <p>TOPICS: Keyhole, Top-Front End, Angle Ranking, Hole Punching, Cube Counting, Pattern Folding</p> <p>STUDY MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice DAILY using free generators from DAT Bootcamp (free!! Not just for those who purchase DAT Bootcamp) long in advance before exam date - Takes time to master, won't happen overnight (practice is key to success!!) -> ESPECIALLY for the PAT Portion - Make use of the tips/tricks provided by DAT program of choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remember to review the explanations for the answers you get wrong (will 100% help you bump up your future scores) - Printable worksheets available on DATCrusher

Reading Comprehension Test

Reading Comprehension
<p>FORMAT American DAT: 50 questions with a time limit of 60 minutes. Canadian DAT: 50 questions with a time limit of 50 minutes.</p> <p>TOPICS EASIER THAN SAT/ACT READING COMP</p> <p>Questions are more based on finding the answer in the paragraphs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ex: Which animal was not part of the reptilian family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snakes, crocodiles, frogs, turtles - Sometimes the answers are easy to find because they are grouped together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some members of the reptilian family include snakes, crocodiles, and turtles - Sometimes answers are split across paragraphs/sentences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragraph 1: Snakes are ----- and are part of the reptilian family. - Paragraph 2: Crocodiles are one of the biggest reptiles in the Amazonian rivers ----- - Paragraph 3: Turtles can often be found in warm waters and off the coast of Hawaii. -----Although they may not look the part, they are actually members of the reptilian family. - Sometimes answers are a little inferred, but easy to spot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragraph 1: All reptiles lay their eggs on land and breathe only through their lungs - Paragraph X: Turtles come onto shore to lay their eggs every year and can only breathe through their lungs. - Occasional questions on tone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ex: How do you think the author feels about this topic? - Reassured, Doubtful, Angry, Nonchalant

STUDY MATERIALS

- Practice reading different scientific articles on various topics every day
- Slowly increase speed over time, while still making sure that you're understanding what's being discussed
- Various strategies
 1. Read entire paragraph at once -> look at questions -> search for answers
 2. Make mini notes of what the paragraph's talking about while reading -> look at questions and use notes to get a good idea of where is where -> search for answer
 3. Look at questions first -> read through paragraphs and search for answers

Quantitative Reasoning Test

Quantitative Reasoning

FORMAT: 40 QR questions with a time limit of 45 minutes

FREQUENT TOPICS: Probability, exponents and logarithms, fractions and inequalities, word problems, functions, and expressions, ratios and proportions, quadratics and polynomials, statistics, dice and card problems

STUDY MATERIALS

- Make a study guide of all the equations you're expected to know
- Utilize DAT Bootcamp question bank and practice questions that you need additional practice on
- ***Practice problems -> questions from DAT Bootcamp practice tests were extremely similar to the real test

How is the DAT Scored?

- The DAT is scored on a scale from 1-30. It is a standardized test, which indicates that you are scored depending on the number of correct answers you provide. A student is not penalized for leaving a question blank!
- The score is broken down into sections: academic average (AA), total science (TS), organic chemistry, general chemistry, biology, reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning (QR), and perceptual ability (PAT)
- A competitive score is considered to be an academic average of 19-20. Any score of 20+ will put you in the top percentage of test-takers.
- You should aim to score at least an 18 in every section because that is the minimum score for some schools.
- ALL TESTS ARE DIFFERENT
 - One student may have more thermodynamic questions than another student and etc. This is why it is important to have a solid understanding of all the topics, even though there are a few topics that are generally more focused on than others.

Test Tips

Courses

It is best to take the DAT after completing all general chemistry, organic chemistry, and biology courses at your college. Additional recommended courses such as anatomy, physiology, and microbiology are also helpful for taking the DAT but are not required.

Most students take the DAT during the end of the spring semester or the start of summer after their junior year or during the summer following their sophomore year.

- Taking the DAT following junior year provides students more time to take those additional recommended courses that they might not be able to take earlier, which provides supplemental knowledge that may be useful for the DAT. However, students may need to study and take the DAT while also focusing on getting their applications ready at the same time. Furthermore, taking the DAT close to when the application cycle opens makes re-taking it difficult due to time constraints.
- Taking the DAT following sophomore year allows students to take the test while all the knowledge from their biology and chemistry courses is fresh in their minds. In addition, it gives one the chance to retake the test if needed since there is much time left before applying; if you don't need to retake it then you have that additional time to prepare your application. The cons to this are that since most students won't have the time to take those additional recommended courses then they would need to do more studying on their own to cover the information that is presented in these courses.

Test Day

Download the test day checklist from the ADA website to make sure you will be ready on test day! [linked here](#)

Review the DAT tutorial prior to taking the DAT in order to see sample items and information on how to navigate through the test (including a preview of the DAT format) [linked here](#).