

How to Get a Good Score on the English Section of the SAT

The SAT is one of the most important tests required to be accepted by the universities or colleges you like. It is divided by three parts: math, evidence-based reading, and writing. Among these, evidence-based reading and writing are testing students' English skills. This aspect of the test takes a large portion of the exam. Here is a common question that many students ask: How can I get a good grade on the English section of the SAT?

Let's overview this part. The first one is evidence-based reading. It focuses on students' comprehension and reasoning skills when presented with challenging extended prose passages taken from a variety of content areas. There will be 4 single passages and 1 set of paired passages, and the common types of them are U.S. and world literature, history/social studies and science. There are 10 to 11 multiple-choice questions for each reading, and they will be arranged in order from the more general to the more specific. The test questions will test a student's skill to find information and ideas, summarizing, rhetoric and synthesis. The second part is writing. This will focus on students' ability to revise and edit text from a range of content areas. There are 4 single passages with 11 questions each, and the common types of them are careers, humanities, history/social studies and science. A passage can also be an argument, an informative or explanatory text or a nonfiction narrative. Skills tested by the writing part are expression of ideas and standard English conventions.

Now that we understand the structure of the English section of the SAT, let's move toward learning how to solve these questions.

For the reading section, you should read the questions and take notes of the passage while reading at first. Make sure to take note of the central idea of this passage, the transition in a passage's logic, different characters, author's opinions and author's tone and purpose. Following that, you can understand the main point of the passage and find the answers faster. Second, circle the keywords from the questions, so that you can identify the type of question and find the best way to solve it. Third, predict your answer before looking at the choices. This can help you eliminate some wrong choices to increase your accuracy.

The second part is the writing section. First and foremost, when you see a number while reading the passage, stop reading and look at the question. If you can answer it with what you've read so far, do so. If you need more information, keep reading until you have enough context to answer that. Second, eliminate the obviously incorrect answer choices as much as possible. Third, put your answer in the blank and read it quietly to see if the sentences make sense.

Last but not least, when you are stuck on a question, never spend more than one minute on it before moving onto the next question. Mark this question and keep answering your test. After the whole part has finished, go check the marked questions. If you are in doubt, eliminate as many choices as you can and guess one of the answer choices. Don't leave it blank!

That's all, thank you for reading. I hope the above context can improve your score on the English section of the SAT!

- Yixin Xie