

How Much Do You Know About Taking the SAT?

An amazing number of myths about the SAT have circulated over the years, sometimes spread by well-intentioned teachers. Let me warn you, if you take the test armed with misconceptions, you won't achieve your maximum score.

The following quiz will give you a chance to see whether any test-taking myths are interfering with your success on the SAT. For each of the following questions, choose the option that best indicates what you think about the SAT (or yourself). It's possible that none of the choices precisely reflect your thinking; still, choose only from these options given (no, you can't write in your own answer).

This quiz is for your benefit; nobody's grading it. Choose the answer that is closest to your real opinion, not the one you think you're supposed to choose. There are no trick questions in this quiz, so you shouldn't need to spend too much time on any particular question.

1. Since the SAT includes easy, medium, and difficult questions, on which type do you usually spend the least amount of time?
 - A. easy questions
 - B. medium questions
 - C. difficult questions
2. On which type of SAT question do you usually spend the most amount of time?
 - A. easy questions
 - B. medium questions
 - C. difficult questions
3. Since you lose points on the SAT for errors, if you're unsure after trying to solve a question it's usually better to leave that question blank rather than to answer it and risk losing points.
 - A. true
 - B. false
4. When in doubt on an SAT question, go with your first hunch.
 - A. true
 - B. false

5. Most SAT questions have trick answers.
- A. true
 - B. false
6. Most students should try to answer every question on the SAT to achieve their highest possible score.
- A. true
 - B. false
7. It's a good idea to finish each section a few minutes early so you'll have enough time to look over your work.
- A. true
 - B. false
8. When analyzing a question, you generally try to work out as much as you can in your head rather than waste precious time writing things down – especially on the easy questions.
- A. true
 - B. false
9. If you're not sure whether you can solve an SAT math problem, you shouldn't necessarily skip the question immediately because maybe you can figure it out with a little time.
- A. true
 - B. false
10. What is the last thing you should do before selecting the answer to an SAT math question?
- A. check your solution
 - B. reread the question
 - C. rework the problem
 - D. check your calculations

11. If you're not sure what an SAT vocabulary word means, you should try to figure it out.
- A. true
 - B. false
12. How do you pace yourself on an SAT reading passage and the questions that follow it?
- A. slowly on the passage, quickly on the questions
 - B. quickly on the passage, slowly on the questions
 - C. slowly on the passage, slowly on the questions
 - D. quickly on the passage, quickly on the questions
13. On the SAT essay, quality is more important than quantity.
- A. true
 - B. false
14. On the SAT grammar questions, relying on your ear is generally advisable.
- A. true
 - B. false
15. Compared with your scores on classroom tests, how do you do on standardized tests like the SAT?
- A. You do better on the standardized test because you know it counts.
 - B. You do about the same.
 - C. You tend to freak out.