

SAT Tips

- ✓ Memorize the directions for the different types of questions before you go to take the test. It will save you valuable time if you don't need to read them on test day.
- ✓ Don't divide your time evenly between all the questions in a section. Even though all the questions are worth the same number of points, they appear in order of difficulty. So leave more time for the questions towards the end.
- ✓ Answer all non-multiple-choice questions, even if you have to guess. You don't get points taken off your score for a wrong answer on these, and you just might get them right.
- ✓ If you have absolutely no idea what the answer is to a multiple-choice question, skip it. But if you can eliminate at least one of the choices, guess away! Probability says your score will improve.
- ✓ When several answers seem equally possible to you, go with your gut instinct. However, if you later think you need to change your answer, go ahead. Studies show that students who go back and change answers generally gain more points than they lose.
- ✓ Put a mark next to questions that you'd like to come back to – that way they'll be easy to find if you have extra time at the end.
- ✓ Read questions carefully. Missing one important word can make a big difference.

Math:

- ✓ If you have no idea how to get the correct answer, plug in each of the possible answers to see if it works. Start with choice "C" – it will be the middle number, and once you've calculated it, you'll know whether you need to try a larger or smaller number.
- ✓ Make good use of your scrap paper or test booklet.

Verbal:

- ✓ For sentence completions with two blanks, work on one blank at a time. You can probably eliminate some answers before you even need to look at the second word.
- ✓ For sentence completions, try to figure out whether the missing word is a good thing or a bad thing. For example: "The lake was the most _____ thing the man dying of thirst had ever seen." A thirsty man would probably see a lake in a positive way, so look for choices that have a positive connotation. Even if you don't know precisely what an answer means, you may be able to eliminate possibilities.
- ✓ Try to come up with an answer yourself before looking at the choices. If one of them is similar to your own answer, there's a good chance that it's right.
- ✓ For the reading comprehension, read the questions before you read the text samples. You'll then be able to focus your reading efforts.

Essay:

- ✓ Make an outline of your essay before you begin writing. Then write your introduction first. One of the major things the scorers will notice is how well an essay is structured.
- ✓ Be sure to give specific support for any position you take.
- ✓ Remember to save time to review and edit your writing.