

6-Session SAT Verbal Prep Program

Student Syllabus



North
Avenue
Education

CORE MATERIALS

- SG ***The Official SAT Study Guide 2020 Edition***
- PT Official SAT practice tests
- NA Proprietary North Avenue review packets and strategies manuals

****Additional learning materials and resources (including official practice tests) may be provided by tutor.***

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- MW ***The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar***, by Erica Meltzer
- MR ***The Complete Guide to SAT Reading***, by Erica Meltzer
- IR 1 fiction book and 1 nonfiction book (chosen by student and tutor); books should match the density and rigor of SAT Reading passages

North Avenue believes reading is an essential skill that requires diligent practice. Building strong reading fluency early in students' academic careers will provide a foundation upon which nearly all other academic skills are built. While tutors will not *require* independent reading of students, North Avenue strongly advises students to work on their own to develop robust reading habits through independent reading.

We also strongly recommend that students spend time with these recommended resources. Videos, practice problems, and detailed explanations can supplement the lessons students receive at North Avenue to build skills that need extra support.

OVERVIEW

North Avenue's SAT program offers complete coverage of the SAT Verbal sections: Reading, Writing, and, optionally, the Essay. You'll work through each area of the test with your tutor, addressing content gaps and building an adaptive, intuitive test-taking strategy. Homework should be completed in the order presented below and according to the level of importance specified by your tutor. During test review sessions, your tutor will debrief your performance, impart test-taking methods, and recalibrate the syllabus (if necessary) based on your current needs and stated goals. This program includes six official practice SATs, five of which will be self-administered by the student and reviewed with the tutor, and one of which will be a proctored practice test administered on-site at North Avenue featuring full scoring and analysis. Proctored practice tests should be taken before Session 5 and under the advisement of your tutor. Once you have decided which proctored test to sit for, you can sign up for your chosen test by contacting the Student Services team at info@northaveeducation.com.

BEFORE COMMENCING TUTORING

Baseline scores are an essential part of developing a test prep strategy. If you have already taken the SAT and did not bring your scores to your consult, please send a PDF or hard copy of your score report to Student Services. If you have not taken the SAT before, Student Services can sign you up for a proctored practice SAT (administered at North Avenue).

ONGOING SUPPORT

You'll receive post-session updates from your tutor, informing you and your parents of tasks accomplished, topics explored, insights gleaned in tutoring sessions—and briefing you on any action items necessary to complete before the next session. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding your program, you may email Student Services at info@northaveeducation.com. They also handle all scheduling and billing inquiries.

ON TEST DAY

The SAT usually begins at 8 a.m. Plan to arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. to allow time to check in and get settled. Bring your admission ticket, two #2 pencils, your Testing Timers watch, and a snack. It is recommended that you not bring cell phone, smartwatch, or fitness tracker. If you do bring your cell phone, you will be asked to keep it turned off and kept at the front of the room. You will not be allowed to access your phone during the test or during breaks. During the test, you'll have one 10-minute break after the Reading test and one 5-minute break after the No Calculator Math test to eat your snack and use the restroom.

AFTER THE SAT

Your SAT scores will be available approximately two weeks after your official test date. You will be able to view your score report online. Your essay score might take longer to arrive. When you receive your report, please message your tutor and/or email Student Services to let us know how you did!

Session 1: Global Strategy // Writing 1 – Standard English Conventions

In Session

Introduction + Global Strategy

- Discuss syllabus, college list, score goals, and test timeline with tutor
- Tour all Verbal sections of the SAT, observing how test organization and structure informs preparation
- Learn the fundamentals of elimination and pacing
- Formulate a daily reading schedule (either choosing independent reading books with tutor or designating blogs/news outlets to visit daily)

SAT Writing: Standard English Conventions

- Introduce passage flow, question types, and reading methodology
- Review commonly tested fundamentals of English grammar, punctuation, and usage
- Practice diagnosing grammar errors based on auditory cues, logical flow, and sentence/paragraph architecture
- Earmark specific grammar topics for independent review with MW and online at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Homework

SG	Chapter 10 (pp. 103–110)	Read + take notes
	Chapter 12 (pp. 121–130)	Read + take notes
NA	Guide to SAT Writing	Read, take notes, and prepare specific questions
SG	Test #10: Writing (pp. 316–331)	Complete (untimed)

Recommended Assignment

MW	pp. 71–94, 113–238	Read + complete
IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes

Session 2: Reading 1 – Information and Ideas

In Session

- Address questions regarding previous session’s homework, cataloging Writing topics for future review
- Explore SAT Reading section format, passage types, and question types
- Close reading of various passages to distill unique characteristics and develop techniques for mapping out structure, key insights
- Introduction to progressive reading, a strategy designed to streamline the problem-solving process and avoid overloading your working memory
- Introduce comprehension skills pertaining to Information and Ideas, including identifying main ideas, interpreting facts, and drawing logical conclusions
- Introduce funnel technique for classifying questions according to scope of passage analysis

Homework

NA	Guide to SAT Reading	Read, take notes, and prepare specific questions
SG	Chapter 5 (pp. 43-48)	Read about the Reading test
	Chapter 6 (pp. 49-55)	Complete all sample problems
	Test #10: Reading (pp. 298-314)	Complete (untimed)

Recommended Assignment

MR	pp. 1-153	Read + complete
IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes

Session 3: Writing 2 – Expression of Ideas

In Session

- Address questions regarding previous session's homework, cataloging Reading topics for future review
- Review commonly tested rhetorical skills, elements of organization, and eloquence in writing
- Discuss further strategies for pacing and efficient reading of English passages
- Drill various methods for eliminating answers on the SAT Writing test
- Recap all relevant grammar topics, as well as strategies for discerning rhetorical cues and keeping pace with passage's logical flow

Homework

SG	Chapter 11 (pp. 111-120)	Read
	Chapter 13 (pp. 131-148)	Read + complete all sample problems
	Test #9: Writing (pp. 442-457)	Complete (timed)

Recommended Assignment

MW	pp. 16-70, 95-112	Read + complete practice problems
IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes

Remember to sign up for a proctored SAT!

Session 4: Reading 2 – Rhetoric + Higher Text Complexity

In Session

- Address questions regarding previous session’s homework, cataloging Writing topics for future review
- Introduce key concepts of Rhetoric, including word choice, voice and tone, and passage structure
- Explore how dramatic renderings of Reading passages can distill author’s tone and point of view
- Discuss what constitutes reasonable inferences and learn concrete skills for how to navigate infer/imply problems
- Drill meat words elimination techniques to solidify active reading of answer choices and deep comprehension of answer set characteristics
- Continue to track performance and catalogue passage/question types to address during test review

Homework

SG	Test #9: Reading (pp. 426-441)	Complete (timed)
	Test #8: Writing (pp. 572-589)	Complete (timed)

Recommended Assignment

MR	pp. 154-283	Read + complete practice problems
IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes

Session 5: Reading 3 – Synthesis + Paired Passages

In Session

- Address questions regarding previous session’s homework, cataloging Reading topics for future review
- Extended practice and review of the subtlest questions on SAT Reading
- Introduce comprehension concepts pertinent to the Synthesis questions, including analyzing support for claims, infographics, and comparing two passages
- Recap all elimination and problem-solving strategies for SAT Reading
- Earmark specific Reading topics for continued independent review with MR and online at <http://www.thecriticalreader.com>
- Reassess goals and recalibrate syllabus/timeline based on feedback from student

Homework

SG	Test #8: Reading (pp. 556-571)	Complete (timed)
SG	Test #7: Full test	Complete in full + timed

Recommended Assignment

MR	pp. 284-346	Read + complete practice problems
IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes

Session 6: Test Review // Essay // Game-Day Strategies

In Session

Test Review

- Debrief full practice SAT, including questions concerning topics not heretofore covered with tutor
- Review missed problems and further support weak content areas

Essay

- Collaboratively revise first practice essay responses
- Learn how to develop a compelling thesis, generating insightful commentary on the text, and explore common strategies for literary analysis, incl. the triad of pathos-ethos-logos

Game-Day Strategies

- Recap of all major techniques, including section-specific tactics and global test-taking strategies
- Discussion of applied psychology, including test-day strategies for stress management, sustained focus, and mental fatigue prevention
- Devise plan for student's continued independent study until test date, identifying additional resources or practice tests as needed

Homework

NA	Guide to SAT Essay	Read and take notes
SG	Chapter 14 (pp. 149-187)	Read, analyze, and outline Essay response for prompts in Chapter 14. Examine SAT's scoring rubric for the essay as well as sample perfect-score essays.
	Test #9 and #8: Essay (pp. 488-489 and 626-627)	Plan Essays
	Test #6	Complete sections as determined by student and tutor in the final session

Recommended Assignment

IR	Book/Article of your choice	Read continuously for 30 minutes
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REST UP + GOOD LUCK!!