

The New SAT and Spring Branch ISD

2004-2005

Advanced
Academic
Studies



FREE FREE FREE SAT help for all students

- ◆ www.collegeboard.org
- ◆ SBISD web page: Princeton Review
- ◆ SBISD web page: The New SAT:
Argument and Counterargument

The New SAT Focuses on College Success Skills

- ◆ Time changes: 3 hours 36 minutes
- ◆ Perfect score: 2400 points

$$800 + 800 + 800 = 2400$$

(NEW!) Writing Section 200–800 Points

- ◆ **A 25-minute timed writing (persuasive argument) that counts 1/3 will be scored by two readers using a rubric of 1–6 points for a total sub-score of 12 points**
- ◆ **Multiple-choice questions that count 2/3**
 - **Improving Sentences**
 - **Improving Sentence Errors**
 - **Improving Paragraphs**

Improving Sentences

Example:

**Laura Ingalls Wilder published her first book
and she was sixty-five years old then.**

- (A) and she was sixty-five years old then**
- (B) when she was sixty-five**
- (C) at age sixty-five years old**
- (D) upon the reaching of sixty-five years**
- (E) at the time when she was sixty-five**

Improving Sentence Errors

Example:

The other delegates and him immediately

(A)

(B)

(C)

accepted the resolution drafted

(D)

by the neutral states. No error

(E)

Improving Paragraphs

1) Many times art history courses focus on the great "masters," ignoring those women who should have achieved fame. (2) Often women artists like Mary Cassatt have worked in the shadows of their male contemporaries. (3) They have rarely received much attention during their lifetimes. (4) My art teacher has tried to make up for it by teaching us about women artists and their work. (5) Recently she came to class very excited; she had just read about a little-known artist named Annie Johnson, a high school teacher who had lived all of her life in New Haven, Connecticut. (6) Johnson never sold a painting, and her obituary in 1937 did not even mention her many paintings. (7) Thanks to Bruce Blanchard, a Connecticut businessman who bought some of her watercolors at an estate sale. (8) Johnson is finally starting to get the attention that she deserved more than one hundred years ago. (9) Blanchard now owns a private collection of hundreds of Johnson's works — watercolors, charcoal sketches, and pen-and-ink drawings. (10) There are portraits and there are landscapes. (11) The thing that makes her work stand out are the portraits.

(12) My teacher described them as "unsentimental." (13) They do not idealize characters.

(14) Characters are presented almost photographically. (15) Many of the people in the pictures had an isolated, haunted look. (16) My teacher said that isolation symbolizes Johnson's life as an artist.

Example:

In context, which is the best revision to the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

They have rarely received much attention during their lifetimes.

- (A) In fact, they had
- (B) Too bad these artists have
- (C) As a result, these women have
- (D) In spite of this, women artists
- (E) Often it is the case that the former have

Example:

In context, which of the following is the best version of sentence 10 (reproduced below)?

There are portraits and there are landscapes.

- (A) (As it is now)
- (B) You can see both portraits and landscapes.
- (C) Therefore, both portraits and landscapes are among her works.
- (D) Johnson painted both portraits and landscapes.
- (E) Among them Johnson has portraits and landscapes.

College Board Research

- ◆ **74% of college respondents say they will use the new SAT writing score in admissions decisions**
- ◆ **68% of college respondents plan to download and print applicants' essays**
 - **35% of these say they will read all essays**
 - **19% of these say they will read most essays**
- ◆ **32% of college respondents will use the essay for course placement**

25-Minute Persuasive Essay (with argument & counterargument)

Students must think critically about the issue presented in the essay assignment:

- ***Define and support* their position.**
- ***Use reasoning and evidence* based on their own experiences, readings, or observations.**

Essay Prompt

You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below. DO NOT WRITE ON ANOTHER TOPIC. AN OFF-TOPIC ESSAY WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO. Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and assignment below.

Essay Prompt (continued)

A sense of happiness and fulfillment, not personal gain, is the best motivation and reward for one's achievements. Expecting a reward of wealth or recognition for achieving a goal can lead to disappointment and frustration. If we want to be happy in what we do in life, we should not seek achievement for the sake of winning wealth and fame. The personal satisfaction of a job well done is its own reward.

Essay Prompt (continued)

- ◆ **Assignment: Are people motivated to achieve by personal satisfaction rather than by money or fame? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observation.**

Top Score of Six

Even though we live in a capitalistic society, I still cannot help but believe, despite my own cynicism, that people are more motivated to achieve something for personal satisfaction rather than monetary gains. Look at Chekov's short story, "The Bet." A man agrees to sacrifice fifteen years of his life in prison in exchange for a million dollars. Obviously his motivation for such an extreme bet is wealth, but by the end of the prison sentence, the man could care less about the money. After years of introspection, of reading Shakespeare, the Bible, and textbooks, the man actually comes to despise the money he once sought, the money he signed away fifteen years of his life for. He does not collect his money from the banker, he runs away to be on his own and continue the life of solitude he has learned to love, free of money and possessions.

Top Score of Six (continued)

Also, in a psychology class, one of the first things students study when they come to the topic of motivation, is external stimulus versus personal drive. Any textbook will tell one that studies show that a child is more likely to put as much energy as possible into completing a task when it is something that makes him happy, than if he was doing it for a physical reward. A child is more likely to get good grades, if it makes him feel good about himself, than if his parents offer to pay him every time he makes the honor roll. I agree with this theory on motivation because I see it play out everyday in my life. If my older sister had been concerned with money and fame, which reality television tells us every night is important, she would have gone to college after graduating high school. She knew though, that school and learning did not make her happy, and she was not going to suffer through four more years of school just because a college degree could lead to a more successful job.

Top Score of Six (continued)

Right now she does not make as much money at her job, but she likes her life and the way she lives, she has more fun answering phones and dealing with other people at work than she would behind a desk in a classroom. This past year I myself have been forced to look at my priorities as well. I have worked hard in school all my life and have made honor roll semester after semester, because I enjoy it. I have not filled up my schedule with classes I did not want because calculus and economics look good on a college transcript. I had a high enough GPA to join the National Honor Society, but I chose not to join because even though it might have impressed some admissions officers, it was not something that was going to make me happy. Instead I spend my time studying Creative Writing, Art History, and the other subjects I feel truly passionate about.

Top Score of Six (continued)

There is a pleasure principle in psychology, which basically means that one will do whatever will make them most happy or least unhappy. I think that is true, and I feel that the happiness most people seek out is not about money or luxury; Maybe it looks like that from the media, because advertising says that people want to be like Donald Trump, but that is not real life. Real life is my next door neighbor who gardens as a second job for small fees because he loves to be outside, working with his hands in the nice weather. I am sure no one would mind winning the lottery, but to say that it is our primary motivator in life is sad and untrue. A person who is happy and making minimum wage is likely to live longer than someone who spends his or her life working sixty four hour weeks at a stressful job to make money hand over fist. Are some people very driven by money? Yes. Is that more important than the personal satisfaction that comes from doing something good? Literature, psychology, and our personal lives tell us no, and I hope it stays that way.

Why This Essay Received a Score of 6

This outstanding essay insightfully and effectively develops the point of view that, “Even though we live in a capitalist society, I still cannot help but believe...that people are more motivated to achieve something for personal satisfaction rather than monetary gains.” The writer demonstrates outstanding critical thinking by focusing on clearly appropriate examples from “literature, psychology, and our personal lives” to support this position. The essay begins by describing Chekov’s “The Bet” as a short story that, though its main character’s changed priorities after “years of introspection” in prison, ultimately places higher value on a “life of solitude...free of money and possessions” than on wealth. The writer continues to demonstrate critical thinking by offering as evidence the psychological example of “external stimulus versus personal drive” and several examples of how this principle has

Why This Essay Received a Score of 6 (continued)

been borne out in a sister's and the writer's own lives. The essay concludes by once again drawing on psychology. This time the concept of the "pleasure principle," as well as an additional example of the writer's neighbor, to reinforce the idea that "the happiness most people seek out is not about money or luxury" but is "the personal satisfaction that comes from doing something good." This well-organized and clearly focused essay demonstrates coherence and progression of ideas. The essay consistently exhibits skillful use of language and demonstrates meaningful variety in sentence structure ("After years of introspection, of reading Shakespeare, the Bible, and textbooks, the man actually comes to despise the money he once sought, the money he signed away fifteen years of his life for"). This essay demonstrates clear and consistent mastery and is scored 6.

Critical Reading Section

200–800 Points

- ◆ Measures knowledge of genre, cause/effect, rhetorical devices, comparative arguments, relationships among parts of text.
- ◆ Uses long and short reading passages from natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and literary fiction.
- ◆ Eliminates analogies; adds short-paragraph reading passages.
- ◆ Uses sentence completions.
- ◆ Uses passage-based questions.

Example:

Hoping to _____ the dispute, negotiators proposed a compromise that they felt would be _____ to both labor and management.

- (A) enforce...useful**
- (B) end...divisive**
- (C) overcome...unattractive**
- (D) extend...satisfactory**
- (E) resolve...acceptable**

Example:

Some questions ask you to recognize the meaning of a word as it is used in the context of the passage.

In line 5, “surveying” most nearly means

- (A) calculating the value of**
- (B) examining comprehensively**
- (C) determining the boundaries of**
- (D) polling randomly**
- (E) conducting a statistical study of**

Example:

**It can be inferred that Hou Xianguang's "hands began to shake"
(line 11) because he was**

- (A) afraid that he might lose the fossil**
- (B) worried about the implications of his finding**
- (C) concerned that he might not get credit for his work**
- (D) uncertain about the authenticity of the fossil**
- (E) excited about the magnitude of his discovery**

Mathematics Section 200–800 Points

**Content level raised to include
advanced topics:**

- **Number and Operations**
- **Algebra and Functions**
- **Geometry and Measurement**
- **Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability**

Number and Operation

- ◆ Arithmetic word problems (including percent, ratio, and proportion)
- ◆ Properties of integers (even, odd, prime numbers, divisibility, etc.)
- ◆ Rational numbers
- ◆ Logical reasoning
- ◆ Sets (union, intersection, elements)
- ◆ Counting techniques
- ◆ Sequences and series (including exponential growth)
- ◆ Elementary number theory

Algebra and Functions

- ◆ Substitution and simplifying algebraic expressions
- ◆ Properties of exponents
- ◆ Algebraic word problems
- ◆ Solutions of linear equations and inequalities
- ◆ Systems of equations and inequalities
- ◆ Quadratic equations
- ◆ Rational and radical equations
- ◆ Equations of lines
- ◆ Absolute value
- ◆ Direct and inverse variation
- ◆ Concepts of algebraic functions
- ◆ Newly defined symbols based on commonly used operations

Geometry and Measurement

- ◆ Area and perimeter of a polygon
- ◆ Area and circumference of a circle
- ◆ Volume of a box, cube, and cylinder
- ◆ Pythagorean Theorem and special properties of isosceles, equilateral, and right triangles
- ◆ Properties of parallel and perpendicular lines
- ◆ Coordinate geometry
- ◆ Geometric visualization
- ◆ Slope
- ◆ Similarity
- ◆ Transformations

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

- ◆ Data interpretation
- ◆ Statistics (mean, median, and mode)
- ◆ Probability

Example:

If k is divisible by 2, 3, and 15, which of the following is also divisible by these numbers?

(A) $K+5$

(B) $K+15$

(C) $K+20$

(D) $K+30$

(E) $K+45$

Example:

NOONTIME TEMPERATURES IN HILO, HAWAII

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
66	78	75	69	78	77	70

The table above shows the temperatures, in degrees Fahrenheit, in a city in Hawaii over a one-week period. If m represents the median temperature, f represents the temperature that occurs most often, and a represents the average (arithmetic mean) of the seven temperatures, which of the following is the correct order of m , f , and a ?

- (A) $a < m < f$
- (B) $a < f < m$
- (C) $m < a < f$
- (D) $m < f < a$
- (E) $a = m < f$

Example:

A special lottery is to be held to select the student who will live in the only deluxe room in a dormitory. There are 100 seniors, 150 juniors, and 200 sophomores who applied. Each senior's name is placed in the lottery 3 times; each junior's name, 2 times; and each sophomore's name, 1 time. What is the probability that a senior's name will be chosen?

- (A) $1/8$
- (B) $2/9$
- (C) $2/7$
- (D) $3/8$
- (E) $1/2$

Advanced Academic Studies

- ◆ **Dr. Keith Yost, Administrator**
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- ◆ **Linda Eppich, TOSA, 6–12**
- ◆ **Helen Wehring, Administrative Assistant**

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