

SIX MONTH SAT STUDY GUIDE



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Hello, my name is Lili and I major in Creative Writing at an arts school in California. My interests lie primarily in the humanities and I enjoy writing, cooking, and drawing. Best of luck studying for your SAT!

6 months until the test

- Take a diagnostic test online or in print.
 - Use the test to understand strengths and weaknesses: algebra, vocabulary, grammar, geometry. Focus in on the weak areas while still keeping up with strengths.
 - Additionally, use the test to estimate how much help you need based on your target score.
 - Will a few practice books be fine? Are classes necessary? What is most affordable in my situation?
- Start doing an SAT question a day. This can be done through the the SAT Question of the Day app.
- Make some flashcards for any important math formulas you don't recall.

3 months until the test

- Take another diagnostic test and, once again, use it to understand your strengths and weaknesses. If your score hasn't improved, seek new ways of studying that might better suit your needs and learning style.
 - Visual: Concentrate on books and flashcards for math principles
 - Auditory: Khan Academy Videos
 - Kinesthetic: Write out materials/notes
- If you have chosen to take a longer prep class, sign up for it now.*
- Make sure you've nailed the basics of each section: what's in it, what skills are tested, how much time you have, etc.

1 month until the test

- Take another practice test.
- Take Khan Academy's quizzes two to three times per week.
- If you have chosen to take a shorter prep class, sign up for it now.*

1 week until the test

- Take a final practice test.
- Make a quick-look study sheet for the concepts that you trip up on the most. The sheet should be no longer than a page. Study this while chewing gum -- chewing the same gum that you chewed while studying while taking the test helps stimulate memory.
 - Make a personalized quiz on Quizlet.com if necessary.

The day before the test

- Put the study books down. Watch your favorite television show, listen to some music, eat a good meal, whatever makes you happy. You are prepared.
- Sharpen a few pencils. Put them away in a bag along with your calculator, a jacket, some snacks, gum, and a bottle of water.
- Sleep.

The day of the test

- Wake up with enough time to spare to get ready and get to your testing center.
- Eat a good breakfast -- protein is particularly helpful.
- Wear comfortable, layered clothing (it can either be 100 degrees below or above zero).
- Chew the memory-stimulating gum on the ride there.
- Good luck! -- Or as my Zoology teacher says "We don't need luck, we have skill!"

** There is an abundance of over the summer prep courses. If you chose one of these, take the SAT in October.*