

## THREE MONTH SAT STUDY GUIDE



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Hi! My name is Tiffany and I'm currently a high schooler in Palo Alto, California, where I'm on the robotics team and in choir. When I have free time I love drawing and watching The Flash. In the future, I'd like to work in product design or engineering.

### **3 months until the test**

- Download any helpful apps and locate any helpful prep Websites, like Google Calendar, the College Board Question of the Day app, freerice.com, and - of course - Khan Academy
- Research the format of the test and make sure you're comfortable with the order and length of the different sections
- Read up on some test-taking best practices, like reading questions before the Reading passage, bubbling in answers five at a time, etc.
- Take a diagnostic SAT test and identify skill areas in which you need the most practice
- Begin brushing up on some topics, especially those that the diagnostic showed you need the most work in
  - Re-learn math formulas for the skills on the SAT
  - Review English grammar rules
  - Get comfortable with long reading passages

### **2 months until the test**

- Continue brushing up on topics through regular practice
- Start taking untimed practice sections
  - Spend 1 week each on Math, Reading, and Writing & Language
  - Spend the last week of the month doing a mix of all three subjects
- Take 2 full timed SATs during this month (including the Essay, if you plan to write it)
  - Try to spread these out - take one during the beginning of the month and the other during the end of the month
  - At least one of these should be in one full sitting - I would suggest taking at least one on a Saturday morning to get a "real" test experience
- Continue evaluating and practicing your problem areas

### **4 weeks until the test**

- Begin taking timed practice sections to get a feel for how much time you should be spending on each question
- Focus on a different subject each day,

- Take a full-length SAT on Saturday, and carefully diagnose why you got questions wrong (Careless mistake? Didn't know the content? Solved incorrectly?)
  - Focus on addressing these trends in your studying: study material you don't know, practice carefully reviewing answers to make sure you haven't made a mistake, etc.

### **3 weeks until the test**

- Take practice timed sections daily
  - Take a different subject each day
  - Begin giving yourself around 5 minutes less per section than you will get on the actual test so you can force yourself to review your answers and get used to being as efficient in your answers as possible
- Take full SAT on Saturday, and compare your results to previous tests to understand any addressable trends in how you answer and approach different skill areas

### **2 weeks until the test**

- Continue taking daily timed practice sections
  - Focus particularly in the areas you're still weak in
  - Continue trying to give yourself less time to build up stamina in case you get nervous on test day (these nerves can suck up your precious time!)
- Take full SAT on Saturday, and continue diagnosing your performance and comparing against previous full practice tests

### **1 week until the test**

- Take timed practice tests and / or do a series of mixed practice questions every day until Thursday
- **Do not** take a practice section the day before the test; instead, get some rest
- Make sure you have everything you need for test day laid out in advance so you avoid last-minute stress - this includes your ID, a snack, your test ticket, and layers of clothing in case the test room temperature is hot or cold.