


# How to tutor students using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy

2017

A blurred background image of a classroom where several students are seated at desks, using tablets. The text is overlaid in the center.

**Khan Academy's mission:  
to provide a free, world class education  
for anyone, anywhere.**



# We have videos, articles, and practice exercises across math, science, history, and more

Subjects ▾

Q

KHANACADEMY

Math by subject

Early math 13%

Arithmetic 25%

Algebra

Geometry

Trigonometry

Statistics & probability 4%

Calculus

Differential equations

Linear algebra

Math for fun and glory

Math by grade

K–2nd 13%

3rd 6%

4th 7%

5th 7%

6th 9%

7th

8th 1%

High school

Science & engineering

Physics

Chemistry

Organic chemistry

Biology

Health & medicine

Electrical engineering

Cosmology & astronomy

Computing

Computer programming

Computer science

Hour of Code

Computer animation

Arts & humanities

Art history

Grammar

Music

US history

World history

Economics & finance

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

Finance & capital markets

Entrepreneurship

Test prep

SAT

MCAT

GMAT

IIT JEE

NCLEX-RN

College Admissions

## We've reached millions of learners so far



190

countries

50,700,000

registered users

1,800,000

registered educators

6,800,000,000

problems answered

# Introduction to Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy

Khan Academy and College Board have partnered to develop the world's best SAT prep — that just happens to be free.

Our goal is to level the playing field so that all students, regardless of background, have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams. College readiness should be about merit, not money.

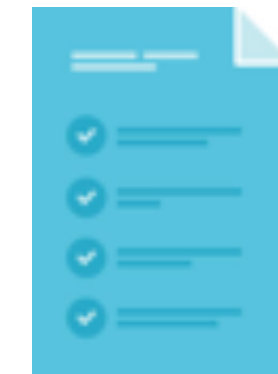
## Quick start-guide: how to start tutoring with Official SAT Practice (OSP)

- ☐ Review this guide to learn about Official SAT Practice (30 min)
- ☐ Create your own Khan Academy account so you can try out OSP (5 min)
- ☐ Review sample lesson plans in the SAT [Teacher/Coach Implementation Guide](#) (30 min)
- ☐ Do a practice run through of a lesson using OSP (30 min)
- ☐ Teach your first real lesson or assign homework on OSP (TBD)

# An overview of Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy



**Personalized recommendations**  
based on each student's strengths & weaknesses



**7 official, full-length SAT practice tests**  
from The College Board, the creator of the SAT



**Thousands of practice questions & videos** covering every SAT concept and practice for the essay



**Tailored practice schedule** mapping out each student's path to Test Day



**SAT tips and strategies** revealing information about each part of the test



# Personalized practice recommendations tailored to each student

## Personalized practice recommendations

PSAT/SAT scores or  
diagnostic quizzes



**Your Math practice recommendations**

OVERALL Math

LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT  
Table data

Practice this skill

Table data

Solving linear equations and linear inequalities

Center, spread, and shape of distributions

TIMED MINI-SECTION Math (Calculator OK)

**Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations**

OVERALL Reading & Writing

LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT  
Reading: Science

Practice this skill

Complete the earlier tasks to unlock this timed mini-section

Reading: Science

Writing: Argument

Effective language use: Precision and concision

TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading

# 7 official, full-length SAT practice tests

The screenshot displays the Khan Academy SAT Pilot interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Subjects', a search icon, the Khan Academy logo, and 'SAT Pilot'. Below this is a secondary bar with 'Official SAT® Practice', 'Dashboard', 'Practice', 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests' (highlighted), and 'Review'. The 'Full Tests' section shows a list of 'Tests' on the left, including 'Practice test 1' (0 of 4 sections complete) and 'Practice test 2' through 'Practice test 6', each with a lock icon and the text 'Complete previous tests to unlock'. The main area is titled 'Start Practice test 1' and includes the instruction 'After completing a section, you can stop or review'. A vertical timeline shows the test structure: Reading (65 min, 52 questions) with a 'Start this section' button, Writing and Language (35 min, 44 questions), Math (No calculator) (25 min, 20 questions), and Math (Calculator OK) (55 min, 38 questions). Each section has a lock icon and the text 'Complete previous sections to unlock'. A footer note states: 'These practice tests were written by the College Board and provided exclusively to Khan Academy.'

Full-length

From College Board, the creator of the SAT

Can be taken online & offline on paper and graded by the Daily Practice App

Practice PSAT also available

# Thousands of practice questions & videos

The screenshot displays a digital reading interface. On the left, a passage is shown with line numbers 5, 10, and 15. The text discusses the relationship between caloric intake, aging, and cellular processes, mentioning enzymes SIRT3 and SIRT4. On the right, a question titled 'Question 1 of 11' asks about the author's indication regarding caloric reduction and its effect on a mammalian cell. Four multiple-choice options (A, B, C, D) are provided, each with a radio button. Option A is selected. The interface includes a 'Video' icon and a 'Report' icon at the top right of the question area.

You can select text to highlight it.

Passage adapted from Nikhil Swaminathan, "Eat (Less) to Live (Longer)," ©2007 by [Scientific American](#).

Scientists have known for more than 70 years that the one surefire way to extend the lives of animals was to cut calories by an average of 30 to 40 percent. The question was: Why?

Now a new study begins to unravel the mystery and the mechanism by which reducing food intake protects cells against aging and age-related diseases.

Researchers report in the journal *Cell* that the phenomenon is likely linked to two enzymes—SIRT3 and SIRT4—in mitochondria (the cell's powerhouse that, among other tasks, converts nutrients to energy). They found that a cascade of reactions triggered by lower caloric intake raises the levels of these enzymes, leading to an increase in the strength and efficiency of the cellular batteries. By invigorating the mitochondria, SIRT3 and SIRT4 extend the life of cells, by preventing flagging mitochondria from

Reading: Science questions Video Report

Question 1 of 11

The author indicates that caloric reduction extends the life of a mammalian cell by

☒ A turning off those genes involved in apoptosis, or cell death.

☐ B forcing the mitochondria to utilize different energy sources for fuel.

☐ C reducing the production of NAD (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide).

☐ D initiating a series of steps that results in the increased production of certain enzymes.

Thousands of practice problems with:

- Step-by-step explanations & answers
- Fully worked-out examples

The screenshot shows a video thumbnail from Khan Academy. The title 'SOLVING LINEAR EQUATIONS PART 1' is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, there are several mathematical inequalities:  $l \geq \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $l \geq \frac{14}{3}$ , and  $l \geq 14$ . A large, dark blue play button icon is centered over the text. The background is a solid purple color. At the bottom left, the 'KHANACADEMY' logo is visible, and at the bottom right, the 'YouTube' logo is present.

Which of the following best describes the solutions to the inequality shown above?

**SOLVING LINEAR EQUATIONS PART 1**

$l \geq \frac{2}{3}$

$l \geq \frac{14}{3}$

$l \geq 14$

**KHANACADEMY**

YouTube

Videos on every SAT concept that are:

- Engaging and focus on 1 concept at a time
- Easy to understand

# Tailored practice schedule

Practice schedule

[Delete](#)[Edit](#)

NEXT PRACTICE

THURSDAY 9:30 AM  
40 questions (1 hour)

YOUR TEST DATE

SATURDAY OCT 1  
SAT

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						OCT 

## Personalized

Students create a practice schedule based on their SAT test date

## Automatic

Students get automatic reminders sent straight to their inboxes

## Flexible

Students pick the days of the week when they have time to practice and take practice tests



# SAT tips and strategies

Overviews of each part of the test from the test-makers

Articles and [videos](#) that demonstrate how to apply the best SAT strategies for all parts of the test

Tips and checklists for test day

Why you should tutor using Official SAT  
Practice?

# Why you should tutor using Official SAT Practice

## Benefits for you:

- ☐ Pinpoint students' problem areas quickly and easily through OSP
- ☐ Get access to hundreds of free, official practice problems and practice tests
- ☐ Work through official questions with your students side-by-side or for homework
- ☐ Articles, videos, tips and strategies, vetted by the makers of the test, to supplement your tutoring

## Benefits for your students:

- ☐ Practice personalized to each student
- ☐ Easily revisit past problems and mistakes in the 'Review' section
- ☐ Get hints as refreshers or full, step-by-step explanations
- ☐ Practice all SAT topics in 1 place; no need to carry multiple books
- ☐ Built-in timers help students practice under pressure, just like the real thing

## 2.6 million students have used Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy

50% of students who took the re-designed SAT in March used Official SAT Practice

10% fewer students paid for commercial test prep in Spring 2016 than in Spring 2015



How to get the most out of Official SAT  
Practice features as a tutor

# How do I start tutoring with OSP?

## 1. Create a Khan Academy account and ask your students to do so too

Go to [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org) and create a free account to begin exploring the platform and features

## 2. Get personalized recommendations for your students

Ask your students to link their Khan Academy account to their College Board accounts to import past PSAT/SAT data, or take diagnostic quizzes to get personalized recommendations

## 3. Create a practice schedule with your students

Select an SAT test date and set up a practice schedule on OSP that will automatically email your students to remind them to practice each week

## 4. Teach using recommended topics, do practice problems, repeat

Practice topics focused on each student's weak areas, review what was missed, repeat

# What tools and technology do I need to get started?



Computer access at home, at the library, or at school



Internet access

# Get your students practicing: follow practice recommendations

**Follow the practice recommendations** since they are based on your students' weaknesses and the concepts that show up most frequently on the SAT

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy Practice interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Practice', 'Dashboard', 'Practice' (highlighted), 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests', 'Review', and 'In partnership with'. Below this, there are two tabs: 'MATH' and 'READING & WRITING'. The 'READING & WRITING' tab is active, displaying 'Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations'. On the right, there is a section for 'OVERALL Reading & Writing' with a purple icon. Below this, a large purple box highlights 'LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT Reading: Science' with a 'Practice this skill' button. At the bottom, a row of four recommendation cards is shown: 'Reading: Science' (highlighted with a blue border), 'Writing: Argument', 'Effective language use: Precision and concision', and 'TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading' (locked).

KHANACADEMY

Practice Dashboard Practice Tips and Strategies Full Tests Review In partnership with

MATH READING & WRITING

Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations

OVERALL Reading & Writing

LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT  
Reading: Science Practice this skill

Reading: Science Writing: Argument Effective language use: Precision and concision TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading



# Get your students practicing: use timed mini-sections

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy Practice interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Practice', 'Dashboard', 'Practice' (highlighted), 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests', 'Review', and 'In partnership with'. Below this, there are tabs for 'MATH' and 'READING & WRITING'. The 'READING & WRITING' tab is active, showing 'Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations'. A large purple box highlights 'LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT Reading: Science' with a 'Practice this skill' button. Below this, a row of four practice recommendations is shown: 'Reading: Science', 'Writing: Argument', 'Effective language use: Precision and concision', and 'TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading'. The 'TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading' option is highlighted with a blue border.

KHANACADEMY

Practice Dashboard Practice Tips and Strategies Full Tests Review In partnership with

MATH READING & WRITING

Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations

OVERALL Reading & Writing

LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT  
Reading: Science

Practice this skill

Reading: Science Writing: Argument Effective language use: Precision and concision TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading

Use timed mini-sections to get students used to practicing under time pressure

**Get your students practicing: use the ‘Review’ tab to see what your students practiced and go over missed problems**

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for 'Dashboard', 'Practice', 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests', 'Review', and 'In partnership with'. The 'Review' tab is highlighted with a blue box. Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: 'MATH' and 'READING & WRITING'. The 'READING & WRITING' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'Your Reading & Writing practice recommendations'. On the right side of this section, there is a gauge icon and the text 'OVERALL Reading & Writing'. Below this, there is a purple box with a gauge icon and the text 'LAST MISSED ON YOUR PSAT Reading: Science'. To the right of this box is a button that says 'Practice this skill'. Below the purple box, there are four recommendation cards: 'Reading: Science', 'Writing: Argument', 'Effective language use: Precision and concision', and 'TIMED MINI-SECTION Reading'.

**Use the ‘Review’ tab to see what your students practiced and to home in on problems that they missed**

# Simulate the real SAT using full-length practice tests

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy website's SAT practice section. At the top, the Khan Academy logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Practice', 'Tips and Strategies', 'Full Tests' (which is highlighted with a green underline), and 'Review' are in the center. To the right of these links is a partnership logo for 'College Board'. Below the navigation bar, the heading 'Start Practice test 1' is on the left, and a note 'After completing a section, you can stop or' is on the right. The main content area is a large purple rectangle. Inside this rectangle, on the left, is a box containing '65 min' and 'Reading 52 questions'. To the right of this box is a button labeled 'Start this section'. Below the purple rectangle, there is a section for 'Writing and Language 44 questions'. To the left of this section is a box containing '35 min'. Below the 'Writing and Language' section, there is a lock icon and the text 'Complete previous sections to unlock'.

Students should take their first practice test early and continue taking tests every few weeks

The first practice test can be taken in chunks to make it less daunting

Later practice tests should be taken to simulate the real thing in every way.

For tips on the best way to take a practice SAT, check out this [article](#)

# How to effectively assign homework on Official SAT Practice

## Homework should be measurable

For example:

- Raise 5 topics by 1 skill level
- Complete 25 math problems
- Complete 4 timed mini sections
- Spend 2 hours practicing

Ask your students send you screenshots of their 'review' tab to track their homework

## Homework should be scheduled

Require your students to pick when / where they will do their homework

e.g., “I will practice 20 minutes a day from 3:30pm-3:50pm, Mon-Fri, when I get home from school”



# How to effectively structure your tutoring on Official SAT Practice

# Use the lesson plans to help you structure your tutoring

<div><div>WEEK 1</div><div>BUILDING A FOUNDATION</div></div> <div><div>Objectives:</div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Get to know each other and understand the importance of practice.</li><li>▪ Help students set goals for the next week and for the whole program.</li></ul></div>	
Topic	Coach Notes
<div>Getting to know you</div> <div>(5–8 minutes)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tell the students a little about yourself and get to know them with activities like those described below.</li><li>▪ Begin with an ice-breaker activity such as "Two Truths and a Lie." (One person tells three things about himself/herself. Two should be true, and one should be a lie. Another person has to guess which was the lie and explain why they thought so.) Or try Four Cs (Choose a cartoon character, color, car, and cuisine that best describe your personality and explain why).</li></ul>
<div>Establish the "why"</div> <div>(10–15 minutes)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Briefly introduce the idea of <b>growth mindset</b> and why practice is important.</li><li>▪ Discuss academic goals and help students connect those goals to the SAT.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which colleges or universities are the students interested in?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ask students to make individual lists of these colleges and universities.</li><li>- They can visit <b>BigFuture™</b> for help.</li></ul></li><li>• Do students know the average SAT score required at those schools? (if not, help them find out).</li><li>• Do the students have a goal SAT score?</li><li>• Are the students opting to take the SAT Essay?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If a student is unsure, help them <b>determine</b> whether it's required by your state/district or the colleges/universities on their list.</li></ul></li><li>• Do the students have academic goals beyond the SAT?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If so, help them to see how regular SAT practice will help with those goals as well.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
<div>Expectations</div> <div>(5 minutes)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Share your expectations for the coming weeks.</li><li>▪ Ask the students to share their expectations of themselves, of you, and of the coming weeks.</li></ul>
<div>The program</div> <div>(3 minutes)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Give a general overview of the next six weeks (or duration of the course/program).</li><li>▪ Be sure to include the information that one of the goals is to take two full practice tests (at least once in a testlike setting).</li></ul>
<div>Create a study plan</div> <div>(5 minutes)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Help students decide how they should complete their 2 hours of practice time per week (e.g., two 30-minute sessions and one 1-hour session; four 30-minute sessions; during class; outside of class; etc.).</li><li>▪ Help students log on to Official SAT Practice, or create an account if they don't have one, and create a study plan on the platform.</li></ul>
<div>Homework:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read "Tips for managing your study time" and "Building your growth mindset" in the <b>Tips and Strategies</b> section of Official SAT Practice.</li><li>▪ Review the overview videos and articles about the Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests and the Essay in <b>Tips and Strategies</b>, if needed.</li><li>▪ Review <b>Scoring on the redesigned SAT</b>, if needed.</li><li>▪ Think about a date and time to take the first practice test.</li><li>▪ Practice for 2 hours total.</li><li>▪ Write down any questions you have for your coach.</li></ul>	

Click [here](#) to view the six week lesson plans

## Lesson plans come with:

- Sequenced and specific objectives
- Tips for you as you walk through the lesson
- Timeline for when your students should take practice tests
- Suggestions for how long to spend on each objective
- Recommended homework assignments

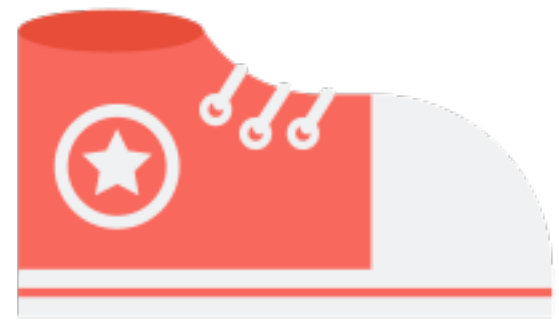
# How a one hour lesson might be structured

DURATION (MINUTES)	TOPIC
5	Catch up on how last week went
15	Discuss homework, missed problems, and highlights from the past week Revisit missed problems, troubleshoot challenges
20	Introduce and teach new topic for the week (e.g., a reading strategy, math concept, etc)
20	Do practice problems to apply the new topic and reinforce it

# Build a strong foundation with your students upfront



Build a strong relationship with your students early on by understanding their goals, motivations, and challenges they face



Emphasize that success on the SAT is about practicing—the more they practice, the better they'll do



**Starting early and practicing often can't be beat**

- Practicing will be a journey with successes and setbacks along the way
- Try to start practicing at least 6 weeks before your test and create a daily practice “habit” even if it’s just for 10-20 minutes a day
- Make sure practice tests are part of the journey so you experience the real thing

# Support your students as they practice



Consider sending 2-3 reminders a week (e.g., phone, text, emails) to encourage your students to practice



**Remember to celebrate effort, persistence, and successes along the way**

- It is crucial to celebrate effort, as scores may fluctuate
- A score drop on the 2nd practice test often happens as students learn and attempt to apply new strategies



**Keep notes on what you covered each time to:**

- Plan future sessions
- Make it easier to spot patterns, progress, or consistently weak areas



# Sort out logistics and processes upfront



## Scheduling, reminders, and time zones

- Establish rules for how to schedule / reschedule / cancel sessions
- Send reminders to students 24-48 hours before each session
- Send a lesson and homework recap after each session
- If you work across time zones, communicate using the student's time zone



## Tech issues

- If you tutor online, allow 20 minutes in your 1st session to fix tech issues
- Use the program that is easiest for your student (e.g. Skype, Google Hangout, phone, FaceTime, etc)



# What should I NOT do using Official SAT Practice?

Do NOT use Official SAT Practice to charge students more money

Official SAT Practice is a free resource for all students and educators



# Thanks!

FOR MORE HELP, VISIT KA'S CLASSROOM [ARTICLE](#), KA'S [HELP CENTER](#), OR THE COLLEGE BOARD'S [EDUCATOR RESOURCES](#)