

SAT Independent Practice:

Getting the Most Out of Khan Academy and the College Board Book



There's a lot here, but don't get overwhelmed. Just work steadily with the time you have.

For more help, look at “Hints For Practice and Time Management” and “Techniques for Common Questions” under [TIPS and TRICKS](#) on my website at www.yourstepstocollege.com.

Purchase the College Board's [The Official SAT Study Guide](#) on Amazon or in the bookstore. **Don't** print out the complete practice tests from Khan Academy. They are already in the College Board book.

Create an account on the Khan Academy site and make a practice schedule.

1. Retry your PSAT missed questions. On your College Board account, go to your PSAT scores and click the “Questions” button under the score breakdown. You'll see a list of question numbers and answers. Clicking on a question number that does not have a check mark takes you to the question and answers. Retry it, and look at the explanation. If you got it right easily, you may have made a careless error on the test. If you don't know the concept, read the explanation carefully. Make a list of those question types to study. Also look at the recommendations on your PSAT score report.
2. Port your PSAT scores over to the Khan Academy site and work on the recommended problems and the problem on your list. Do practice problems in Parts 2 and 3 of the College Board book. Take the Khan Academy diagnostic quizzes and watch the video tutorials. Study the explanations and keep a separate list of formulas, techniques, or grammar rules that you didn't know. **Re-study the list before every practice session. Take responsibility for learning the material!**
3. As you improve, start to do the complete test sections one at a time in the College Board book Practice Tests 1 and 2. Always use a bubble sheet. If you have an extra-time accommodation, adjust your practice time.

Afterwards, study the explanations for the questions you missed. Then do more practice problems of those types.

NOTE: Most students spend too much time taking practice test sections and not nearly enough time studying what they missed. Analyze carefully to figure out what you need to do to improve.

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4. If you don't finish a section within time, make a mark to indicate how far you got and then finish. If you are slow, analyze problems that took a long time to see how you could be more efficient. For hints on speeding up, check out "SAT and ACT Time Management" on my website.
5. Take Practice Test 3 in the College Board book as complete test. Follow the directions in the book to score your test using the College Board app. With it, you can send results to the Khan Academy for specific recommendations about what to study. The math is harder in this test, so be prepared for more challenge.
6. Study missed problems, follow Khan Academy recommendations, watch video tutorials, and do practice problems on the site and in the College Board book.
7. Take Practice Test 4. If your scores have reached your goal, you could take another complete practice test or just review until you take the real thing. If not, go back to taking individual test sections and studying the results very carefully to know what types of problems you need to practice with.
8. Once your scores on the individual sections have improved, try another practice test.

REMEMBER: Doing more practice tests doesn't automatically make you better. Don't wear yourself out before the test. After you've done the equivalent of about four practice tests, take the real SAT, see how you do, and then troubleshoot and practice more before the next test. Unless you're studying for a test in the fall of your senior year, you may end up taking it again, so save some energy.

Good luck! Getting better at standardized testing is not rocket science or a secret mystical ritual. You can improve with practice, attention to detail, and determination.

Keys to success: *spend time, learn the explanations, work to use them, be accurate!*