

SAT Tips

Answer all questions. Do not leave any answers blank!

Reading Passages: Strategies

There are a total of five reading passages which include four single passages and one paired passage.

- 65 minutes in length/52 questions
- **Passage subjects:** literature, literary nonfiction, history/social studies, science, and humanities
- **Types of questions:** Command of Evidence, Words in Context, Rhetoric: Author's Craft, Synthesis, Information and Ideas
- When asked about words in context, you must read a few lines above the stated line number and a few lines below in order to define the word.
- The answer to questions asking about the author's argument, central claim, or main idea will be found in the first 15 lines of the passage.
- With the time allotted, it is advisable to read the questions first. You will not be able to read the passages in entirety and answer all of the questions in the time allotted.
- Group/chunk the questions according to their location in the passage. Use line numbers and paragraph numbers to group questions.
- When a question is solely devoted to analyzing a graph, table, or chart, answer those questions first. They require no information from the passage.
- You do not have to do the passages in order. Complete the questions for the passage that you may feel more comfortable with first.

Writing and Language Strategies:

The writing section has 44 questions embedded in reading passages.

Completion time: 35 minutes

- It is not necessary to do **all** of the reading that is part of the writing portion of the exam.
- Answer all questions on sentence structure, conventions of usage, and conventions of punctuation without reading anything more than the actual sentence with the error.
- Pay attention to questions about using the appropriate transition word. Read the sentence above in order to select the correct answer.
- Pay attention to the most concise answer choice when asked how to combine or clarify sentences.
- When asked about adding/deleting sentences, you should read the full paragraph.

For added practice, download the SAT Daily Practice App onto your Smartphone.