

ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus Summer SAT/PSAT Intensive Workshop

Course Description

The 2016 SAT provides students with an opportunity to show their readiness for college by testing Reading, Language and Writing, Math, and the ability to critically analyze arguments in an Essay. Top universities expect students to demonstrate considerable ability in these areas. The Summer SAT/PSAT Intensive Workshop teaches students how to prepare for the SAT and PSAT and potentially earn the scores required by the most selective colleges.

Traditional SAT courses offer lectures to teach students test strategies, which are important. However, after the students have mastered these strategies, they still need to increase their familiarity with the test in order to increase not only their accuracy but also their speed. Based on this understanding and our experience with a variety of standardized tests, we developed our own intensive training program. For the last five years, we have employed the method in our Summer and Winter SAT/PSAT Intensive Workshops and achieved dramatic results. The method works.

The Summer SAT/PSAT Intensive Workshop provides a thorough preparation for both the SAT and PSAT, since the questions in these two tests are so similar. The workshop meets for four weeks, Monday through Friday, 7 hours a day. Class time is divided equally between lectures and lessons, practice tests, and review of problems from the practice tests, including a thorough analysis of any missed problems. The first weeks focus on the Reading section, Writing and Language section, and the Essay, while the last week covers math. Students take actual test sections in both the morning and afternoon, while Fridays are reserved for full practice tests, where classes follow the exact script, timing, and limited break-times of the official SAT test.

What we have seen from past years' classes:

- A drastic increase in students' scores.
- Students' reading speed and accuracy significantly increase after about 10 practice tests and improve the more they take. Since actual test questions are used, instead of simulated questions from non-official sources, they are precise indicators of the students' skill levels.
- Group discussion as well as some degree of peer pressure in the group makes students not repeat the same mistakes, and memory greatly improves. However, the overall environment is collaborative, so there is no competition among the students but only improvement.
- Less idle time: Students are constantly engaged in doing the problems because of time constraints as opposed to lectures where students often don't pay attention.
- Since the teacher fully analyzes and explains the test questions after each section, students can understand where they are struggling and create goals for the next test they take. When students are aware of their weaknesses on the test, it is easier for them to know where to focus their energy in preparation and to know what pitfalls to be aware of.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

1. Learn and review key test-taking strategies and test content material
2. Develop sufficient speed and accuracy to achieve a top score.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topics	Content and Strategies
Week 1	Diagnostic Test 2016 SAT Format, Question Types, and Scoring Reading Strategies	Sections of the 2016 SAT and new PSAT, Calculating Scores, Cross-test scores, and Subscores; Differences in the old SAT and the 2016 SAT Command of Evidence: Determining the Best Evidence, Interpreting Data in Informational Graphics, How an Argument Uses Evidence
Week 2	Reading Strategies (Cont.) Essay Strategies I	Words-in-Context: Phrases in context, Analyzing rhetorically, examples from Literature, Social Studies, and Science Expression of Ideas: Analyzing arguments
Week 3	Writing and Language Test Strategies	Command of Evidence: Interpreting data presented in informational graphics; Improving a passage's structure, support, and focus Standard English Conventions
Week 4	Essay Strategies II Math (Calculator and Non-calculator) Final Practice Test	Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math Strategies: Substitution, Elimination, and Graphing