

SAT REVIEW

SLOW DOWN!!!

- ⦿ Remember... the easiest way to make your score go up is to slow down and miss fewer questions
- ⦿ You're scored on total points, not the percentage of questions you get correct
- ⦿ The more time you take on a question, the more likely you are to get it right
- ⦿ Don't get stuck for too long on any one problem, however... they're all worth the same amount of points

The Essay

- ◎ What you're graded on:
 - 1) Length – Use at least 1.5 of the 2 pages they give you
 - 2) Structure – Intro Paragraph, 2 or 3 Body Paragraphs, Conclusion Paragraph
 - 3) Appropriate Examples – Make sure to use examples from History, Literature, Current Events, or Personal Experience (remember: you can MAKE THOSE UP!)
 - 4) Spelling & Grammar – Duh...

Intro Paragraph

- ⦿ Short and sweet... No more than three or four sentences (one is a thesis).
- ⦿ It won't score you points; it can only cost you.
- ⦿ You need to do three things:
 1. State your position
 2. Interpret the prompt
 3. List the examples that you're going to use

Body Paragraphs

- ⦿ Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that also works as a transition sentence.
- ⦿ Make sure it connects back to your position (thesis) in your intro.
- ⦿ Use only one example per paragraph

Depth is the key!!!

- ◎ You must make sure that you develop your ideas if you want to score well.
- ◎ Spend two or three sentences explaining the example.
- ◎ Use three or four sentences to connect the example to your position.
- ◎ Then move on to the next paragraph!

Conclusion

- ⦿ Make sure you have one!
- ⦿ Again, you're not going to gain too many points here, but you can lose them.
- ⦿ It should be around three sentences.
- ⦿ Wrap up your idea and leave the reader thinking about the brilliant lesson on life that you have just pointed out.
- ⦿ Cheesy is okay!

The Grammar Section

- Three types of questions
 - 1) Error ID – They give you a sentence and ask you to find the error; E is always NO ERROR
 - 2) Sentence Improvement – They give you a sentence with four revisions and ask you to select the best revision of that sentence; A is always NO ERROR
 - 3) Improving Paragraphs – They give you a paragraph and ask you questions about how to make that paragraph better; most of these questions have to do with the flow of the writing and the best way to clearly express information

Verbs Are Pretty Tricky

- Agreement
 - Is the verb singular or plural? Is its subject singular or plural? Do they match?
- Parallelism
 - Is it part of a string or list? Are there other verbs that it needs to link up with? Are they all in the same form?
- Tense
 - Is there anything in the sentence that indicates which tense the verbs should be in? Are the verb tenses consistent?

Nouns Annoy

⦿ Agreement

- Is the noun singular or plural?
- Is it attached to a verb? Is that verb singular or plural?
- Is there a pronoun connected to it? Is the pronoun singular or plural?

Pronouns Are Always Crazy

- **Agreement**
 - Is the pronoun singular or plural?
 - Is it attached to a verb? Is the verb singular or plural?
 - Is it related to any nouns? Are they singular or plural?
- **Ambiguity**
 - Is it clear what the pronoun refers to? Could it refer to more than one thing in the sentence?
- **Case**
 - Should the pronoun be a subject (I, you, he, she, they) or an object (me, you, him, her, them)?

Prepositions Irritate

- ◎ Idioms: “Because that’s just the way it is.”
 - You just have to know whether or not the sentence is using the correct preposition
- ◎ Prepositional Phrases
 - They love to separate subjects from verbs via a prepositional phrase to trip you up in terms of subject agreement, so watch for the word “of”
 - Ex. One of the boys is (*not are*) young

Adjectives/Adverbs

- Adjective or Adverb?

Sentence Completions

- ◎ In order from Easy to Medium to Hard
- ◎ **DON'T PUT THE WORDS IN THE BLANK!!!**
(They know you're tempted to do that...)
 1. Cover the answers
 2. Underline context clues that tell you about the blank
 3. Put your own word in the blank
 4. Compare your word to the answer choices and select the one that is the closest match
 5. If you eliminate every answer choice, go back to step 1 and simply choose another word

Long Reading Passages

- Always read the 'blurb' first; it tells you what the whole passage is about
- Read the entire passage before reading the questions (but don't read too specifically; just skim it to get the GIST... you'll read specifically when you're looking for answers to the questions)
- The questions aren't in any specific order of difficulty
- Some question types are easier than others; do those first

The Process

1. Cover the answers
2. Read the question and translate it into your own words
3. Find the answer in the passage
4. Uncover the answers and compare your answer from the passage to the answer choices

Reading Questions

- ◎ In order from Easiest to Hardest:
 1. Line Reference (They tell you where to look)
 2. Vocab In Context (Turn it into a Sentence Completion)
 3. Lead Word (Look for some kind of key word from the question; remember, the questions are in roughly the same order as the answers appear in the passage)
 4. Main Idea/General Questions (Do these last of all)

Math Basics

- ▶ Break the word problems down... draw lines to separate each individual piece of information and handle them one at a time, step by step
- ▶ The questions go in order from Easy to Medium to Difficult
- ▶ **SLOW DOWN!** Make sure you get the Easy and Medium ones correct, and then try as many of the Hard ones as you have time for
- ▶ Play to your strengths... if you're better at Algebra than Geometry, skip the Geometry questions until you've done all the Algebra ones

Plugging In

- If you see a variable (or multiple variables) in the answer choices, PLUG IN for that variable
- DO NOT plug in 1, 0, the same number for two variables, or a number that appears in the question

Plugging In The Answers

- ⦿ If you don't see variables in the answer choice but the question asks you "How many..." "How much..." or "What is the value of..." you can plug the answer choices into the question
- ⦿ Start with answer choice C and simply test the answer out, step by step, according to the information in the problem
- ⦿ If C is wrong, you should be able to figure out if it is too small or too big and then rule out two more answer choices

More Math

- ▶ Simultaneous Equations? Stack them and then either add or subtract them to find whatever the question is asking you for
- ▶ Does the question involve averages? Draw the Average Pie... the Total goes on the top, the # of things goes on the bottom left, and the average goes on the bottom right
- ▶ Does the question involve ratios? Draw the Ratio Box... the 1st line is your labels, the 2nd line is your ratio, the 3rd line is your constant multiplier, and the 4th line is your actual numbers

Geometry Bits

- ⦿ You can always use ballpark estimates
- ⦿ If they don't give you a diagram, draw your own
- ⦿ Remember, they give you the formulas in the beginning of the section!
- ⦿ Don't forget your Pythagorean Triples for right triangles (3-4-5, 6-8-10, 5-12-13)
- ⦿ You can plug in on Geometry too, as long as there are variables in the answer choices