

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
SAT Preparation Course

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Texts:

- Kaplan, *SAT Prep 20XX*.
- Kaplan, *8 Practice Tests for the SAT*.
- [Download Available Practice Tests from SAT Website](#) (Free)
- [Khan Academy SAT Practice Online](#) [Free]

Optional Texts:

- [SAT Android/iOS daily practice App](#) (requires tablet/smart phone device)
- [Top 200 SAT Word Vocabulary Flashcards](#)

Course Description:

The SAT Course is work-intensive course designed to familiarize and prepare the students for the SAT, based upon the newly revised format in effect March 20XX. This course focuses primarily on the Reading and Math Sections and it offers preparation for the optional Essay section as well. This course focuses on the following areas:

- **SAT Reading Section:** Students learn active reading concepts in order to read and comprehend the material presented to them on the test in a variety of written formats, including fiction, non-fiction, scientific literature, instructions, and free-flowing narration. Students learn strategies to properly tackle multiple question types. Additionally, a review of basic grammar concepts frequently tested on the SAT is conducted.
- **SAT Math Section:** Students review frequently tested SAT Math concepts including algebra, geometry, fractions, functions, word problems, linear equations, probabilities, and word-to-equation translation. At a minimum students should have completed a year of *Algebra I*, *Algebra II*, and *Geometry* to properly review concepts.
- **SAT Writing Section:** Students learn how to properly read and outline an SAT practice question and strategies for properly devising an essay under a time constraint.

The course specifically prepares for the SAT. While there are similar concepts between the ACT and SAT, this course is not meant to prepare the student for both tests. The instructor has almost 20 years test prep experience in this area.

*Please note - This class is pass/fail.

Work Load

This course requires a highly-motivated student willing to commit several hours per week to practice problems, to review mistakes, and to complete exercises in preparation for the SAT. In addition to the in-class lesson, students will be expected to review online lessons, especially in areas where they are deficient. Students will be encouraged to maintain a log of their frequently challenging questions and concepts in a notebook or a word document. Students are expected to complete 1-2 hours of homework for each class session. Additionally, students

will have to complete THREE full practice tests: once at the beginning of the semester, once in the middle, and once at the end as a final exam.

Note on Teaching Method

The class is very much about “teaching to the test”—that is, while there will be review of concepts previously learned in math, writing, and grammar, the main focus will be to review these topics within the frame of the SAT. As a result, the majority of the class will be spent reviewing problems together as a class to provide as much familiarity as possible with the types of problems.

The biggest fear about the SAT is the “timing” aspect. Generally, students will complete exercises untimed. It is important they first practice the skills learned. Students will build confidence in their ability to complete the timed test as they master test skills. Some exercises will be timed, but the vast majority are not.

Homework

Each week students will be responsible for multiple exercises, some of which will be self-graded. It is absolutely essential that students keep up with the work and pace themselves throughout the week with the workload. The types of written assignments include: a) full practice tests; b) Math drills; c) writing and grammar drills; d) reading drills and e) supplemental work.

Some assignments will be completed via Blackboard; others will be done in the assigned texts. The students will be responsible for self-reporting their wrong answers (when an answer key is available).

Homework assignments are due Tuesdays and Fridays. All homework is assigned over Blackboard.

Email Communication with Instructor

Please email me with any questions or concerns you have regarding the course. I will respond to any email within 24 hours during weekdays (but this is not guaranteed for emails submitted over the weekend).

Attendance

Enrolled students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. If the student does not attend class, or is late for class, the responsibility for missed material and work falls upon the student. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lecture. A student who misses more than 25% of any course will not receive a grade or certificate of completion.

Mixing Live and Delayed Sessions

Students who plan to attend a mix of live and delayed sessions within a particular course must receive written permission from either the Headmaster or Dean and the course instructor prior to the beginning of the semester. Approved substitutions will not count towards the student’s overall number of missed classes.

Keeping an Archive of your Work

Students are responsible for keeping an archive of all work completed for this course, including work posted to Blackboard.

Before posting an assignment to Blackboard:

- File hardcopy work in a binder; each course should have its own binder.
- Store digital copies of work either on the student's computer or in the cloud; each course should have its own folder. Folders should be labeled with the course name and year in which the student participated in the course (use abbreviations if necessary).
 - All files should be labeled with the assignment name, course name, and date.
 - Example for an assignment on the digestive system for a Health Class due January 10, 2017: Digestive-System_Health-01_10_17
 - If work is stored in a folder in the cloud, the login information (email address and password) should be located in two separate locations in the home so that, if the student forgets his password, he can easily look it up and access his work.

Statement for Students Needing Accommodations

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the instructor within the first week of class.

Religious Observances

Parents will do their best to notify instructors in the first week of class regarding religious observances that conflict with classes.

Well-Trained Mind Academy Honor Code

Academic integrity is a core value of the Well-Trained Mind Academy. Cheating, stealing, lying and/or plagiarism, which inhibit student learning and disrupt the trust between student and Instructor, do not have a place in our school community. Instructors will not tolerate any violation of the Honor Code. If a student is found in violation of the Honor Code, he or she may receive a zero for the assignment in question, receive a failing grade in the course, or be asked to leave the Academy. Parents will be notified by the Instructor, Dean or Headmaster if there is any violation of the Honor Code.

As a member of the Well-Trained Mind Academy, I pledge on my honor not to cheat, steal, lie, or plagiarize. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and will result in punitive action at the discretion of my Instructor, the Academic Dean, or the Headmaster.

Schedule:

The schedule is subject to frequent updates from me, especially in consideration of particular weaknesses presented by the class.

Example Schedule: (Revised March 2016)

Class	Subject	Material Covered
1	Test Taking Strategies; Timing	General Test-Taking Strategies
2	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Question Answering Strategies
3	SAT Math Concepts	Words to Numbers; Equation Construction
4	SAT Essay	Essay Outlining and Preparation
5	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Chart Reading
6	SAT Math Concepts	Common Geometry and Trigonometry
7	SAT Reading Comprehension	Grammar and Error Corrections
8	SAT Math Concepts	Algebra, Exponents, Fractions, and linear equations
9	SAT Essay	Essay Writing and Revising
10	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Grammar Concepts
11	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
12	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Timing
13	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
14	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading
15	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
16	SAT Essay Concepts	Review on Essay
	Final Exam Due	

Example Schedule: (Revised March 2021)

Class	Subject	Material Covered
1	Test Taking Strategies; Timing	General Test-Taking Strategies
2	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Question Answering Strategies
3	SAT Math Concepts	Words to Numbers; Equation Construction
4	SAT Grammar	Common Grammar Tested on SAT
5	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Chart Reading
6	SAT Math Concepts	Common Geometry and Trigonometry
7	SAT Reading Comprehension	Grammar and Error Corrections
8	SAT Math Concepts	Algebra, Exponents, Fractions, and linear equations
9	SAT Grammar	Advanced Grammar Strategies
10	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Grammar Concepts
11	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
12	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading and Timing
13	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
14	SAT Reading Comprehension	Active Reading
15	SAT Math Concepts	Math Skills Workshop (Working on Problems)
16	SAT General Review	Review on Test Taking Strategies
	Final Exam Due	