



## CAMBRIDGE COACHING

### **SAT Program Overview**

#### **Overview**

Our approach to the SAT offers complete coverage of the test: critical reading, writing, and math. Test strategy and time management techniques are built into all sessions by content type and generally as needed.

Our SAT program is comprised of four major components: (1) comprehensive coverage of major content areas, (2) weekly verbal regimen, (3) practice drilling guided by our SAT software, and (4) practice testing using official practice tests from the College Board's Blue Book.

While weekly tasks, such as flashcards, will be common to all students' curricula, we build the custom syllabus as we go, drawing crucial diagnostic information from our SAT software. An evolving syllabus is housed in a shared electronic document, so that tutor, student, and parents/guardians are all on the same page about past and future sessions and homework assignments. Between sessions, students will drill on the software, so that tutors can plan for upcoming sessions.

Homework will be pulled from the required materials below and from our SAT software, and based on the student's strengths and weaknesses. Tutors will adjust homework assignments to reflect the student's pace, understanding, bandwidth, and confidence.

Our program includes 10 practice exams: 10 official exams provided by the College Board. During practice testing weeks, we will both review advanced content and focus on test taking methodology.

#### **Required Resources**

- *CB*: The Official SAT Study Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2009 (College Board)
- *PR*: Cracking the SAT, 2014 (Princeton Review)
- *PS*: SAT Math Bible, 2011 (Power Score)
- *CC*: Cambridge Coaching Vocabulary Lists, 2013 (Cambridge Coaching)
- *OS*: CC online software for homework and diagnostic information
- *IR*: An independent reading book of the student's choosing. The book should mimic the density and rigor of SAT reading comprehension passages (for examples, see "Reading Comprehension" under weekly tasks)



## Optional Texts

- *BR*: Barron's SAT, 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012 (Barron's)
- *KP*: Kaplan SAT 2013, 2013 (Kaplan)
- *11*: 11 Practice Tests for the SAT and PSAT, 2013 Edition (Princeton Review)

## Before the First Session

- *CB*: Student to read chapters 1-3, and familiarize with the format and timing of the exam; read chapters 19, 20 & 21, to familiarize with question format
- *PR*: Student to read chapter 1, and familiarize with basic strategy on how to take the test
- Student should sit for the first practice test in the College Board's Blue Book:
  - Complete the test under timed/test conditions
  - Upload practice test on our SAT software to share results with tutor.

## Weekly Verbal Regimen

We recommend that students complete the following tasks on a weekly basis.

- *Vocabulary*
  - Students should review and make flashcards for 50 - 75 new words/week.
  - Vocabulary may be pulled from CC vocabulary list, and readings.
  - New vocabulary should be noted in the *Verbal log*.
- *Reading*
  - Students should read a minimum of 30 minutes per day outside of school.
  - Reading assignments will be recorded in the *Verbal Log*.
- *Writing*
  - Students will write at least 1 essay/week to practice for the SAT writing section.

## SAT Software

Our SAT software includes lots of dynamic features that make studying for the SAT streamlined, and tracking your progress really easy! Our SAT software includes:

Ability to set a study plan

Information on how you are doing by section, question, and sub-question

Alerts that track your homework completion



Analysis of practice tests in the Blue Book  
Account of your progress to a target score

When you start with working with a CC tutor, we'll hook you into our SAT software, so you can start practicing right away!

### **Practice Testing**

Practice tests are the best way for you and your tutor to measure your progress on the SAT. Sitting for regular practice tests is a crucial part of our program; the practice testing experience helps to build the endurance and focus needed to do well on a 3+ hour test.

Students will sit for 10 practice tests over the course of tutoring. In the last 4-6 weeks before test, students should sit for a timed practice test weekly under simulated test-taking conditions so they know exactly what to expect on test day.

### **Sample Sessions**

Every SAT student's aptitude and learning style is different, so the focus and pacing of sessions will be set according to student data on problem sets and practice tests. However, the sample sessions below map out the typical progression of a tutoring relationship, including in-session content coverage and related homework assignments.

### **Introduction & General Strategy**

#### In session

- Discuss academic/SAT history and goals. Finalize session cadence and scheduling through test date, and share practice testing schedule.
- Introduction to SAT structure, question types and methodology
- Review results of diagnostic tests.

#### Homework

- *CC*: Complete notecards for the first 50 words
- *PR*: Read introductory pages: 32, 132-144, 300-301
- *CB*: Read and complete introductory chapters 4, 8 & 14
- *PS*: Read chapters 2 & 4
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

### **Math Sessions**

*Content Area 1: Number properties and operations*

#### In session



- Introduction to math fundamentals: properties of integers, arithmetic word problems, number lines, fractions and rational numbers, elementary number theory (factors, multiples, remainders, prime numbers), ratios, proportions, percents, sequences, sets (union, intersection, elements), counting problems, “logical reasoning”

### Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapter 15
- *PR*: Read and complete pages: 145-171
- *PS*: Read and complete chapter 3 & 4
- *CC*: Complete notecards for words 50-125
- *IR*: 30 minutes daily continuous reading
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

### Sub-topics

- Arithmetic word problems
- Counting Techniques
- Elementary Number Theory
- Properties of Integers
- Rational Numbers
- Sequences and series
- Sets

### *Content Area 2: Algebra & Functions*

#### In session

- Introduction to algebra: operations on algebraic expressions/equations, factoring, exponents, roots, radicals, solving equations, absolute value, inequalities, systems of linear equations, quadratics and factoring, rational equations and inequalities, direct and inverse variation, functions

### Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapter 16
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 172 - 208
- *CC*: Complete notecards for words 125-200
- *IR*: 30 minutes daily continuous reading
- *PS*: Read and complete chapter 5
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

### Sub-topics

- Absolute value



- Algebraic word problems
- Concepts of algebraic functions
- Direct and inverse variation
- Equations of lines
- Newly defined symbols based on commonly used operations
- Properties of exponents
- Quadratic equations
- Rational and radical equations
- Solutions of linear equations and inequalities
- Substitution and simplifying algebraic equations
- Systems of equations and inequalities

### *Content Area 3: Algebra II and Advanced Arithmetic*

#### In session

- Introduction and some review of advanced algebra: quadratic equations, direct and inverse variation, symbolic functions.
- Introduction and some of review of advanced arithmetic: ratios and proportions, percentage conversions, averages, permutations.

#### Homework

- *PS*: Read and complete chapters 6 & 7
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 209 -238
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

### *Content Area 4: Geometry*

#### In session

- Introduction to basic geometric concepts: lines and angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, three-dimensional solids
- Introduction to coordinate geometry: lines, figures, parabolas, functions, transformations

#### Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapter 17
- *PS*: Read and complete chapter 8 & 9
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 240 – 274
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

#### Sub-topics

- Areas and circumference of a circle
- Area and perimeter of a polygon



- Coordinate geometry
- Properties of parallel and perpendicular lines
- Pythagorean Theorem and special properties of triangles
- Similarity
- Slope
- Transformations
- Volume of a box, cube, and cylinder

*Content Area 5: Data analysis, statistics, and probability*

In session

- Introduction data analysis, statistics, and probability: data analysis, average/median/mode, counting problems, sequences (review), probability (review), overlapping sets (review)

Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapter 18
- *PS*: Read and complete chapter 10, problem set (p. 289)
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

Sub-topics

- Data interpretation (tables & graphs)
- Descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode)
- Probability

**Verbal Sessions**

*Content Area 1: Writing & Verbal Question Types*

In session

- Introduction to writing: improving sentences, identifying sentence errors, improving paragraphs

Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapters 10 - 13
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 299 - 343
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

Sub-topics

- Identifying Sentence Errors
- Improving Sentences
- Improving Paragraphs



## *Content Area 2: Critical Reading*

### In session

- Advanced critical reading techniques.

### Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapters 5 - 7
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 37 – 89
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

### Sub-topics

- Sentence Completions
- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary in context
- Literal Comprehension
- Extended Reasoning

## *Content Area 3: Writing II - Essay and grammar review*

### In session

- Introduction to the essay: what does the reader want, the formula, structure and key elements

### Homework

- *CB*: Read and complete chapters 9 and 13, complete writing sections in test 1 and test 2
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 343 – 360
- *OS*: Drills from SAT Software

## **Final review and test readiness**

### In session

- Review last practice exam
- Go over test day expectations and advice

### Homework

- *PS*: Read and complete chapter 11
- *PR*: Read and complete pages 361 - 366

