

User Research Interview

- About Test Preparation Experiences -

Interview 1: Korean SAT (Suneung) Experience

1. What exam are you preparing for and what is its time structure?

Korean SAT (Suneung)

2. How do you currently (or previously) prepare for the exam?

Time management was crucial. When taking practice tests, always followed the actual exam timing using a timer. About a month before the SAT, the school adjusted their bell schedule to match the actual exam timing, creating an environment for proper time-managed practice.

3. How much time do you typically allocate for exam preparation?

Practiced for exactly the same duration as the actual exam time, including marking answers within the time limit.

4. Tell us about your mock exam experience / Compare mock exam and actual exam experiences.

- **Mock exams:** Used phone timer to track time. Could clearly see remaining time, which helped follow the rule of starting to mark answers 10 minutes before the end.
- **Actual exam:** Started marking 5-7 minutes early depending on exam difficulty. Time management varied with question difficulty, but having a visible timer helped maintain consistency despite difficulty variations.

5. What was the biggest difficulty in mock/actual exams?

The SAT has standardized question types, so there's a systematic approach to solving problems in order. However, when unexpected question types or unexpectedly difficult sections disrupted the planned time allocation, it caused panic and threw off the entire time structure. During self-administered practice tests, it was easier to skip difficult questions since they were unofficial, but this led to greater panic later.

6. What kind of temporary solutions have you tried to address this?

Worked on developing judgment skills to quickly cut losses - if a certain amount of time was spent on a problem without success, learned to move on quickly.

8. Differences between SAT and post-SAT university exams (in studying and test-taking):

University exams focus more on conceptual understanding. While studying, practiced writing explanations in full sentences and checking if concepts could be properly explained and solved in writing. Unlike the SAT, which focuses on how to apply concepts, university exams are more predictable, so focused more on answers rather than problem-solving strategies.

Interview 2: JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) Experience

1. What exam are you preparing for and what is its time structure?

JLPT N2 Level, structured in 2 main parts:

1. Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) + Reading: 10:00-11:45 (105 minutes) *3 sections tested together in one sitting*
2. Listening: 12:05-13:00 (55 minutes)

2. How do you currently (or previously) prepare for the exam?

Aside from memorizing vocabulary, typically practice by timing entire sections separately for problem-solving practice, and take full mock exams all at once. Started preparing in October, and now that problems are becoming more manageable, always incorporate time management practice.

3. How much time do you typically allocate for exam preparation?

Time varies significantly, but during problem-solving sessions, try to work through sections continuously without interruption.

4. Tell us about your mock exam experience / Compare mock exam and actual exam experiences.

Took the N3 level exam in December as practice. Beyond being underprepared content-wise, the biggest challenge was unfamiliarity with the exam schedule format.

5. What was the biggest difficulty in mock/actual exams?

Properly distributing time across different sections. Particularly for N2 level and above, Language Knowledge and Reading are tested together, requiring completion of 3 sections without breaks. Time allocation is most difficult and confusing. It's hard to know exactly how quickly you're progressing or if you're falling behind.