

Understanding the Patterns of the SAT I

Practice makes perfect, especially when it comes to standardized test preparation. The best way to establish a comprehensive understanding and become comfortable with the patterns of the SAT I is through a combination of online SAT tutoring and taking as many practice tests as possible in real-life testing situations honoring the time limits that are applicable. The SAT I does not measure intelligence nor does it measure one's potential success in college, it is a measure of how well one can take the test, so cracking the SAT I by understanding its patterns is key.

The [Official SAT Study Guide](#) (a.k.a. the blue book) is a must have learning tool to prepare for the SAT. Not because of the strategies it espouses, in fact [College Board](#) suggests that there are no tricks to getting a higher score, which is absolutely not true! That said it is best to use an [online SAT tutoring support](#) for test taking techniques and study skills. However, the eight practice tests in the blue book are essential. All are written by actual test writers for the official SAT exams and include actual released SAT tests. The 2nd edition of the blue book guide has three exams administered in 2006/07.

However, before picking up your pencil to begin the first practice test, there are facts about the questions that one must know to ensure that she can earn the most points possible. First, with the exception of the multiple choice questions associated with the critical reading section, all multiple choice questions are broken down into three sections. The first section, for lack of a better word, is defined as *easy*, this is usually the first ten to twelve questions in the section. These questions are classified as such, because they are generally answered correctly by the majority of test takers and are considered straight forward in their approach and answers. The second section is referred to as *medium* questions. The average test taker will miss subtle nuances that require a closer look before answering these questions. This common miss, results in one-quarter to one-half of test takers answering these questions incorrectly. And, the third section contains questions that are referred to as *difficult*. The majority of test takers will answer these questions wrong. The rule for these questions is simple, if the answer seems to be straight forward and correct it is the answer to eliminate because it will always be wrong.

Each question on the SAT I is worth one point. When you answer a question correctly you earn a point, if you leave a question blank or answer it incorrectly you will lose one-quarter of a point. In other words, four questions answered incorrectly or left blank equals a full point deduction. Therefore, strategically, it makes sense to focus on getting the easy and medium questions answered correctly and then tackling the more difficult questions if time allows. The odds of succeeding with such questions can be enhanced with [online SAT tutoring support](#). A great rule of thumb when answering the difficult questions is to eliminate one answer choice for certain before proceeding with an answer selection.

After digesting the above information, one should complete the first practice test as a baseline and then review the questions answered incorrectly to establish whether or not the challenge is the type of question, a weakness in his or her knowledge base or a combination of

both. Regardless, of the reason, a study plan involving practicing question types and brushing up on math and English skills will need to be established.