

The People’s Test Preparation Service

**SAT prep course syllabus – Spring 2013**

Berkeley High School

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Monday ACT and Wednesday ACT, 3:30-5:30pm

Hello students at Berkeley High School, welcome to our SAT class! By choosing to take an SAT prep class, you’re already on the road to doing well on the SAT and making it to college! While the SAT isn’t the only thing that matters in a college application, it definitely is important.

To improve your score in the SAT, it takes *practice* and *time*. So to get the most out of our class, you **must attend all our classes and complete all assigned problems**! As you can see in the course schedule below, each week we cover a different topic, so it’ll be very difficult to make up a missed class.

To ensure good attendance, you will not receive an SAT manual until the 2nd week of class! If you have attended all the classes up through the 2nd week, you will receive a SAT manual ($5 in cost). We will be teaching with the manuals and assigning homework out of the manual, so it is important that you get one!

Your SAT teachers are your main source for help as you prepare for the SAT. However, feel free to look for extra study materials and prep books, if you like. Remember: the more practice, the better! Good luck!

**Course schedule:** (this can potentially change)

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|  | **MATH** | **VERBAL** |
| **Week 1 (Feb. 11)** | Intro to SAT and Diagnostic Test | |
| **Week 2 (Feb. 18)**  **02/18 – no class** | Math Strategies and Numbers | Vocab and Sentence Completions |
| **Week 3 (Feb 25)** | Probability, Ratios, Proportions | Grammar, Part 1 |
| **Week 4 (March 4)** | Statistics and Diagnostic Review | Grammar, Part 2 |
| **Week 5 (March 11)** | Algebra | Long Critical Reading |
| **Week 6 (March 18)** | Triangles | Essay |
| **Week (March 25)** | UC Berkeley Spring Break | |
| **Week (April 1)** | Berkeley High Spring Break | |
| **Week 7 (April 8)** | Area and Perimeter | Short Critical Reading |
| **Week 8 (April 15)** | Functions | Improving Paragraphs |
| **Week 9 (April 22)** | Final Diagnostic Test | |
| **Week 10 (April 29)** | Final Review for SAT/ACT | |

If you have any questions about our program, you can ask your teachers or you can e-mail the People’s Test Preparation Service at [ptps.berkeley@gmail.com](mailto:ptps.berkeley@gmail.com).

**Frequently asked questions about the SAT**

**What is the SAT?**

The SAT is a college admissions test administered nationwide and accepted by nearly every college. Colleges look at your SAT score because it’s a convenient way to compare students at different schools. The SAT is a **long** test that takes 3 hours and 45 minutes, so you can expect to be at the testing site for 4-5 hours. It’s not a sprint, but a marathon! There are 10 different sections, with sections 1-7 taking 25 minutes each, sections 8-9 taking 20 minutes each, and section 10 taking 10 minutes. Each section tests on one of the three different SAT subjects: Math, Writing, and Critical Reading.

**How do I register for the SAT?**

**This is important.** To register for the SAT, sign up on the College Board website, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). There will be a $45 registration fee. If you think you are financially eligible for a fee waiver, talk to your counselor. More information about fee waivers is also available on the College Board website.

If you plan on taking the October 9th SAT, you have to sign up by September 10th, and if you plan on taking the December 4th SAT, you have to sign up by November 5th. We recommend you register as soon as possible so you don’t have to worry about having registered. Plus, if you don’t register by the above dates, there is a late fee!

**What kinds of questions are on the SAT?**

Most of the SAT consists of multiple-choice questions, with only a few exceptions: the Math section has a few free-response questions where you have to come up with the answer yourself, and the Writing section has an essay question, which is always the first section on the SAT. The multiple-choice questions on the SAT also have a *guessing penalty*, where you LOSE points if you get the wrong answer. So you should NOT randomly guess on a question! You should only be answering the multiple questions if you have eliminated at least one of the answer choices.

**How well do I have to do on the SAT?**

There’s no set score that you *have to* get on the SAT. The important thing to know about SAT scoring is that it’s graded on a *curve*, in which the highest score in the nation on a given section (Math, Writing, Critical Reading) is 800, the lowest score is 200, and the average score is about 500. So the highest score you can get on the entire SAT is 2400.

There are a number of ways you can set a goal for yourself on the SAT. One thing you can do is take the diagnostic test and then set a goal of improving by a certain number of points (say 200-300). The other thing you can do is choose a college that you want to go to, look at the average score of people who are admitted to that college, and aim for that score. And just so you know, here are the average scores of students who got into certain colleges: UC Berkeley – 1940, UCLA – 1910, UC Riverside – 1600, CSU Long Beach – 1460, CSU Fresno – 1400, CSU East Bay – 1380.

If you have any further questions about the SAT, you can look it up on the College Board website ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)), you can ask your SAT teachers, or you can e-mail the PTPS coordinators at ptps.berkeley@gmail.com.