

## Prepare to Be Your Best - SAT/ACT Test Tips

Short- and long-term test-taking tips for the SAT and ACT exams.

### Short-term

Short-term preparation involves learning a number of specific test-taking tips. When you understand the reasoning behind how the test questions are written, it will give you an edge in answering them. There are many different books, tapes, computer programs, school courses, and courses offered by private companies, such as Huntington, that teach these strategies for students who need to study with a crash course. Specifically, short-term preparation involves practicing and knowing:

- How to relax
- When and how to guess
- What to expect on the test
- How to identify the easiest questions
- All the directions for each type of question on the test
- How to pace yourself
- Hints for answering each type of question

### Long-term

Long-term preparation focuses on academic performance in general, not just on the test at hand. It's what students do in high school to prepare for college, through a program of solid academic courses that build fundamental math and verbal skills. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors all have the time to build the academic skills needed for a successful college career. In addition, when exam time comes, you will be even better prepared. Long-term preparation focuses on:

- Reading more effectively, to comprehend what the author means as well as what the author says.
- Improving your vocabulary, plus learning better tools to figure out new words from the context in which they are used
- Developing problem-solving abilities, including ways to get started on challenging problems when you don't know what to do.

Remember that the SAT and ACT are like any other academic tests, and what you get out of your preparation is directly proportional to what you put into it. The better you study and prepare for the SAT or ACT, the better you will do.

**Good luck!**