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If you're a student who doesn't want to leave anything unturned while you book for the SAT, then this SAT preparation guide is for you. These are the best SAT books for students engaged in dedicating significant time, such as 100 or more hours, to prepare for this important test. The recommendations in this list of books go beyond a general review of the SAT and provide the skills, strategies, and insights needed to get a higher score. Before you dive into the SAT book list, let's consider an important question: are books the most effective way to study for SAT? Are books the best method for intense study? Since you're working hard to reach your target scores, you also want to make sure your preparation materials work for you. If you are devoting a significant amount of time to studying, you should see the results. So which test preparation methods will be most effective in preparing for SAT? If you are looking to use books for preparation, you should be aware that all test preparation books have pros and cons. Some excel at teaching content while others focus on strategies. On the other hand, some have unrealistic practical questions or bring concepts that will never appear on the SAT. To really delve into all the sections of the SAT, you'd be better served by studying together from many of these books in a consistent sequence. That said, I'll recommend a possible approach to dealing with these books effectively, rather than trying to read them from cover to cover. Even with this attack plan, studying from books requires a lot of self-discipline and self-motivation. In addition to preparing for sat, books represent the extra challenge of designing a logical study plan, prioritizing some concepts over others based on your needs, and sticking to your schedule. Since this degree of discipline is difficult for students at all levels and ages, an alternative method of study that can be very effective is the preparation of online tests. PrepScholar's online SAT program incorporates the most useful aspects of these books – content, strategies, high-quality practical questions – while adding that useful component of responsibility. It also goes one step further and customizes the curriculum for you. PrepScholar diagnoses your strengths and weaknesses, helps you design a study plan based on your individual profile as a tester, and tracks your progress along the way. Books can be very useful for students looking to study intensively for sat. If you're using books, I recommend taking the time to develop a thoughtful and a personalized study plan for you, setting benchmarks along the way and finding ways to help you stay accountable for your goals (even when a marathon of your favorite show is underway). The first on this list is the critical book that all students need for SAT preparation. The critical sat preparation book for practice tests The book that all students should use for preparation preparation the SAT comes from the College Board itself: College Board's Official Study Guide, otherwise known as the Blue Book. Although this book is a must have, it is not alone as a single resource. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of the Blue Book. The Official College Board SAT Study Guide or Amazon Blue Book Price: \$16.43 Pro Why Is This Book So Critical? The Blue Book has official practice questions from PREVIOUSLY administered SAT. It has 10 official practice tests, which means over 35 hours of practice testing and 1700 practice questions! Ambitious testers should not only take these tests to practice, but also study them thoroughly. Take the time to figure out exactly what each question is asking, as well as any mistakes you made and why. Was it a lack of knowledge? Difficulty managing time? An inattentive mistake? By sifting through the explanations of the answers and practicing thoroughly, you can become an expert at taking the SAT. So the real one will only be another 3 hours and 45 minutes that you are well used to. Students who want the full test experience should note that these practice tests are actually only 3 hours and 20 minutes. Because? The real SAT will have an additional 25-minute experimental section in order to test the future material and maintain accuracy in the score. The experimental section can be math, critical reading, or writing, but you won't know which one until you finish the test. Even then, you'll only know which section had the most time, but not specifically which 25-minute section was experimental. If you want the real test time experience, you might want to consider adding an additional 25-minute section when doing practice tests. Since official questions are the gold standard, we have also collected 8 official SAT practice tests that you can use. Four of the tests come from the current version, while the other four are older. The disadvantage of these is that the answer key has no explanation for every question. In addition to the hours of practice testing and study of the Blue Book, what are some areas where it is missing? Against Blue Book it stands above the rest for official questions, but doing practice tests is not the only part of the SAT preparation, especially for intense students. You want an in-depth review of content and skills, as well as those extra insights and strategies that will help you avoid common sat tricks and pitfalls. The Blue Book is not the best source of instructions or strategies. Since it was created by the tester, College Board, it will not give away its secrets! The other drawback of the Blue Book is that its response explanations are not particularly thorough. It provides only a brief explanation of why a choice of answers is correct, but of don't delve deeper because the other answer choices are wrong. Since on the SAT most response choices usually sound reasonable, this still leave you confused. Intense students should fully understand what a question is asking, along with the common distractor response choices that appear, especially among step-based critical reading questions. It is also useful when books guide you through a type of question step by step, so you can use the same thought process for the next time. Fortunately, there is a book that provides more in-depth explanations of answers to some of the Blue Book's most difficult questions. You can think of him as the companion of the Blue Book: the Black Book named in a similar way. Mike Barrett's Critical SAT Prep Book for Strategy The SAT Prep Black Book complements the College Board's Blue Book and directly refers to official SAT questions. If you're looking for a deep understanding of the SAT structure and types of questions, this book is a must-have on your SAT preparation book list. SAT Prep Black Book by Mike Barrett Amazon price: \$17.97 Pro According to Barrett, the SAT is actually an easy test. It does not test particularly high-level skills, nor does it require to have learned advanced concepts in mathematics, reading or writing. Instead, SAT is difficult for students because it asks for basic concepts in strange ways. Barrett says students can perform well on the SAT by learning about its strangeness. By seeing through complicated formulation and distracting response choices, students can use its strategies to greatly improve their scores. While his opinion may not resonate with everyone, I think he has very useful insights to share about the test. It can help change the way you think about sat and get closer and process every question. For example, Barrett points out that each multiple choice question has only one unequivocally correct answer. When students start thinking too much about all the realistic-sounding response choices, that's when they run into problems. It helps you identify which one is correct for each type of question, along with understanding exactly why others are not right. The SAT Prep Black Book provides in-depth explanations of official questions about the practice, which is a key part of SAT preparation for any motivated student. Many of its strategies have influenced the developers of PrepScholar's online preparation program and have been incorporated into the way PrepScholar teaches students SAT. To get the most out of it, you really need to be disciplined and interact with the material. Some students find it exempt wordy, which can make it difficult to stay with. That's why the Black Book tends to be used by the most dedicated SAT students. As the Blue Book and Black Book complement each other are still not enough as your only sources of test preparation (sorry). You may have noticed that I talked about testing and practice strategies. So, what is it Good old-fashioned education in content and skills. Drilling on grammar rules, practicing solving algebraic equations, and honing your critical reading skills are still essential to doing well on the SAT. The strength of the Black Book is not here. Instead, it assumes that most students have a strong knowledge base. For this type of test preparation, let's take a look at the best book for general preparation and then the best books in the SAT section. The best SAT preparation book for general study For students who plan to spend a good amount of time preparing SAT, I recommend Barron's SAT for an examination of all sections of the SAT. Barron's Amazon SAT Price: \$14.31 Pro Barron's SAT has a full review of all sections of the SAT. Explain the various types of questions about critical reading and grammar skills needed for writing. He is particularly in-depth in his coverage of SAT mathematics, which he divides into numerous subtopics, such as percentages, solid geometry, coordinate geometry, and logical reasoning, to name a few. Barron's helps you create your own vocabulary with a list of high-frequency words and a list of 3,500 words. If you buy the book, you can also access an online component that helps you design a study plan. Barron's encourages you to start with a diagnostic test and identify your strengths and weaknesses. In addition, it includes 6 full-length practice tests with response explanations. That's another 24 hours of testing and 1,020 practice questions! Combine that with blue book practice tests and you'll be on your way to becoming an SAT expert. Cons Barron's SAT is a very accurate book, which is both a strength and a weakness. Because it covers so much, it can seem overwhelming for students. While the book suggests customizing your study plan based on diagnostic testing, this can feel like a lot of planning ahead. Another weakness of Barron has to do with his strategies. Introductory chapters offer some tips for managing time and identifying types of questions, but they don't go much further than the obvious. It doesn't offer a perspicuous view like the Black Book or some of the topic-specific books. Finally, many students find barron's SAT actually overwriting the SAT with advanced extroverted concepts and that its practice tests are unrealistically difficult. While overpreparing isn't necessarily the worst problem, you don't want to waste time with concepts you don't need or have an unrealistic sense of your scoring level. When using Barron's SAT practice tests, try to keep an eye on his similarities and differences with the College Board's official practice tests. Have critical eye will help you make the most of these unofficial practice questions. Another approach to deepening sat material is to divide it by section. These are my tips for the best books for SAT math, reading and and The best SAT preparation books to study mathematics These three books - PWN the SAT, Dr. John Chung's Sat Math and Powerscore Math Bible - are designed for motivated students looking to get a top-notch math score. Let us consider the pros and cons of each one. PWN the SAT: Math Guide Amazon Price: \$28.28 Pro According to the author, Mike McClenathan, he wrote PWN the SAT to help ambitious and highly motivated children maximize their SAT math scores. Take a more engaging and sympathetic approach than many other test preparation books, as you can say right away in the introduction: Do you want a higher score? Are you willing to do a little hard work to achieve it? Good. I knew I liked you. Since other test preparation books can be a bit, ahem, dry, PWN the SAT is a welcome start in style and tone. He spends the first 30 pages on testing strategies and techniques, discussing how best to read mathematical questions, how not to be fooled by questions that seem easier than they are, and useful guessing strategies that go beyond the obvious. McClenathan divides each mathematical concept into numerous subtopics, such as ratios, primary factorization, symbol functions, circles, and probabilities. This detailed approach will really help you leave no unturned in your review of all the mathematical concepts that might appear on the SAT. Like the Black Book, PWN the SAT is best used in combination with the Official Study Guide or the Blue Book. It directly refers to official questions about the practice, providing detailed answer explanations for all the mathematical questions you'll find there. These go beyond the explanations of the answers in the Blue Book and are useful for understanding your mistakes and applying the same skills and thought process to similar questions about future testing. In addition to referring to official questions, PWN the SAT has its own diagnostic exercises to evaluate your skills. You can also check the PWN the SAT website for useful blog posts and a discussion forum where you can connect with other students and leave questions and comments for the author himself. By the way, for all the non-players out there (myself included), PWN means conquering and is pronounced poses. The more you know. Against PWN the SAT excels in education and review, but it doesn't have a lot of practice questions. It must be used in conjunction with the Blue Book, to which it explicitly refers. You should also look for more practical questions if you need to delve into particular skills, such as shape geometry or functions. Similar to Barron's SAT, PWN the SAT has been criticized for having challenging questions and examples of whimsy mathematics. Again, you want to keep an eye on the If you are familiar with the SAT, you will be able to perceive when a concept or formulation of a question exceeds the level of difficulty you will actually encounter. It is also relatively expensive for a book that covers only one section of the SAT. Sat. some students find this book too wordy. I personally find it engaging and fun, at least as far as test preparation books are concerned, but how much it resonates with you is a matter of individual opinion. You can check out a free preview on Amazon and decide if it speaks to you. Dr. John Chung's SAT Math: 58 Perfect Tips and 20 Complete Tests Amazon Price: \$26.59 Pro While some books are on the wordy side, Dr. John Chung's SAT Math isn't one of them. It reduces the mathematical section to rules and practice problems. The 58 tips are the most important concepts you need to know for mathematics, such as linear functions, slope, and proportions. There's not much here in terms of explanation, so it's geared toward highly highly based math students with a solid foundation in these concepts. It gives you many practice problems - 20 practice tests - to delve into each of the 58 skills, with in-depth, if concise, explanations of response. Against A disadvantage of this book is the cost, considering that it covers only one section of the SAT. It's certainly geared toward more advanced math students and doesn't offer much in terms of clarifying education. Students who don't want to read much in their math review will like this approach. Again, check out the free preview on Amazon to see if this style resonates with you. Another scam is that the questions can be extroverted challenging. They are still valuable, especially with the explanations of the answers, because they pierce all important mathematical concepts. That said, you want the most realistic practical questions possible to make a real sense of SAT. Finally, this book has some typos and errors in the layout. Even if this does not detract from the quality of education, it can be a source of distraction. Powerscore SAT Math Bible Amazon Price: \$25.08 Pro The Powerscore SAT Math Bible is a great resource for students with a strong mathematical background and for those who feel less secure in this area. Start with a mastery section of operations to review important concepts, along with drills to strengthen each skill. It offers 8 main practical strategies to attack SAT math questions, along with sample issues that show you exactly when and how to apply each strategy. It also explains the SAT formulation confused with its highlighted arithmetics and SAT traps. Chapters are divided by content area - arithmetic, algebra, algebra II, geometry, coordinated geometry, data analysis, statistics, and probabilities - which are further divided into subtopics. It also has a glossary to make sure you understand all the terminology related to mathematics. Overall, powerscore SAT's mathematical Bible has 375 sample questions and high-quality practice, along with detailed explanations. Its additional online component also refers to official Blue Book questions and has extra study aids such as mathematical flash cards. A particular force of this book is its guide, which assesses the importance of concepts 1 to 5. This helps you prioritize your study. While books like Dr. Chung's 58 Perfect Tips launch all the concepts at once, powerscore SAT's mathematical Bible helps you sort them by frequency and importance. Against While this book has numerous examples and practical questions, it's not that substantial when it comes to real practice tests. You'll make sure you incorporate at least one pre-test and post-test into your study plan to evaluate your progress, as well as others to measure it along the way. Since this book is aimed at students at all levels, it may have extra material that you don't need if you're already expert in mathematical concepts. For more advanced math students, it may not be immediately challenging due to its introductory sections and material. All three of these math books have strengths and can be effective as you work toward a high score. If you're looking to focus mostly on critical reading and/or writing, I recommend Erica Meltzer's guides. Best SAT Prep Books to Study Critical Reading and Writing Erica Meltzer, who runs the blog The Critical Reader, has written comprehensive guides to the read and write sections of the SAT. They are both high-quality books useful to students looking to master these sections. Erica Meltzer Amazon's complete SAT critical reading guide price: \$31.95 Pro Erica Meltzer has a very glossy version of the sat critical reading. She was an English graduate in college, but acknowledges that the skills you collect in English lessons do not necessarily translate into a high score in SAT reading. Instead, it teaches students the types of specific questions and skills required by SAT critical reading. With these insights, demystify this section of the test that may otherwise be quite difficult to study. It breaks down questions into types, such as the main point and vocabulary in context, and drills each skill with practical questions. Its steps are highly realistic and provides practical strategies to manage time and process key information in a simple and efficient way. In addition to in-depth questions and explanations, this book has a full vocabulary section with high-frequency words, words that mean more, and common roots. To help you prepare for sentence completion, it has 75 practical questions with commonly used SAT words. Against A scam of this SAT book is the layout and visual presentation. It encloses many small character words on each page and does not break them down with graphics. This can get old when you're tired of studying for sat for hours. Some also find Meltzer's style on the dry side, while appreciate that you don't add unnecessary fluff. It is also expensive, especially along with The Complete Guide to SAT Grammar. Another aspect to consider is how content by ability. It can be useful to pierce any skill needed for critical reading, but remember that actual tests will present questions in random order. You'll need to both learn skills and be able to identify which skill each question is testing on its own, without it already being labeled into categories for you. His SAT grammar guide organizes content by rule and skill in the same way, which is especially useful for strengthening your knowledge of grammar. The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar (and SAT Grammar Workbook) by Erica Meltzer Amazon Price: \$27.86 (\$28.45 for the workbook) Pro The Ultimate SAT Grammar Guide is a must if you're looking for a detailed breakdown and drill of every grammar rule that will likely appear on the SAT. There are dozens of exercises and practical questions to strengthen each rule. This book will help you recognize and correct errors, as well as identify the types of questions so you can predict exactly what rule each question is testing. Full explanations are available for each practical question, and you can find additional practice questions in the SAT grammar workbook. Similar to PrepScholar's approach to SAT writing preparation, Meltzer breaks down the section by skill and clearly instructs students on each of them. Against one of the main cons of these SAT books is the price. If you buy the read, grammar, and grammar workbook together, you're already looking at almost \$100. Since these books don't have a lot of practice tests, you'd also use at least one or two other books for further practice testing. While this book helps you drill every skill, you'll make sure you can identify and predict skills on your own. This is another reason why you'll like to strengthen lessons with practice tests, where tested skills by identifying errors, improving sentences, and improving questions about paragraphs are all mixed in random order. Now that you've read my tips for the best SAT books to read for an intense study, you may wonder how best to use these books to prepare yourself. Stacking them in a huge pile will simply be daunting, increasing the risk that all these books will end up gathering dust in a corner of your room. Let's talk about how you can approach these hundreds of pages of material in a manageable and scaffolding way. One step at a time to reach the target scores. How to study from these SAT preparation books How can you take this daunting amount of material and break it down into smaller, more manageable goals, how to take steps on a long scale? First, I would recommend taking a diagnostic practice test from the Blue Book. Mark the test and results to assess your level and determine which areas require the most focus on your part. Depending on how long you plan to study, you can deploy other practice tests in increments. These can be used as benchmarks to track Remember to leave one for the end of test preparation, near your actual SAT, to record score improvements, and if necessary, do any last-minute study. Review each practice test section by section and mark the questions you're missing for practice type and skill. Mike Barrett's Black Book can help you identify the type of question more clearly, as well as apply time-saving strategies and eliminate distractor response choices quickly and easily. After analyzing your results, I would suggest reviewing the content and skills you need the most. If you're strong in math, you might start by drilling yourself into reading, vocabulary, and grammar. If you've scored well on reading, then you could move on to math first. In all, you can use the tutorial tests to evaluate your improvement and move on to another section once it's improved in the first one. If you are a freshman or second year, you can start studying a year before your first real test. You can spend several hours a week studying and then increase this time commitment in the months leading up to your test. To customize your study plan to your individual needs, I highly recommend analyzing your practice tests and then immersing yourself in your weaknesses with the relevant recommended SAT preparation books. This can help you build both skills and trust where you need it most. Because planning and sticking to an effective study schedule is a challenging aspect of test preparation, you may also want to look at other options that help you with this schedule. Which option will give you the reward of a high SAT score? Is studying from books the best option for intense preparation? Some of these recommended SAT books are highly comprehensive, while others dive into the specs. There are those that focus on mathematical, reading and grammar education and others that reveal test conquest strategies. Overall, they have the content you need to become an expert in the SAT and get the highest scores. At the same time, self-study from these books requires a lot of discipline. You need to customize your study plan for you and make sure you sit back and put in time. There's no one else who will know if you're doing the preparation time or doing it effectively (except maybe your parents staring at your shoulder). Some students are able to dismay one day, a week and a month at a time by keeping their ultimate goal in sight, but for the most part this is a test of willpower and motivation. In addition to isolating self-study, all these SAT preparation books can become expensive. If I wanted to draw strengths of all of them, you would already spend over \$200. Unfortunately, there are no great SAT preparation books with free pdf downloads. PrepScholar's online program was developed with all this in mind. It has the content, strategies and practical questions of experts, while understanding stress, pressure and challenges surround test preparation. It's not like you have all the free time in the world to study for sat, nor do you want to waste time on concepts you already have down. We understand that you want to make the most of your test preparation, while getting the intensive preparation you need to get the best scores and be a competitive candidate in college applications. Since PrepScholar has a convenient all-in-one program that helps you devise a study plan, track your progress, and focus on the areas you need most, it has helped many highly successful students find success. It also has the additional option of an individual tutor, combining the best parts of customizable educational technology with the motivating coaching of an experienced tutor. In addition to online preparation, you can also find a plethora (10 points for SAT vocab) of online resources with information and practice for the SAT. Guides to PrepScholar's SAT strategy are