

SAT Checklist

Checklist · 66 items · 12 sections

A working checklist for the digital SAT delivered through the Bluebook app. Covers College Board registration, the 3-month Khan Academy prep timeline, test day logistics, what to bring (and what gets you dismissed), and what to do with your score after the test.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/sat-checklist>

REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- Create or sign in to your College Board account at studentportal.collegeboard.org
HIGH
- Pick a test date from the 7 annual administrations (March, May, June, August, October, November, December) and register 5+ weeks ahead to avoid the \$30 non-refundable late fee
HIGH
Test fee is approximately \$60 in the US.
- Request a fee waiver through your school counselor if you qualify (low-income students get 2 SAT fee waivers from the College Board)
HIGH
- Book a test center near home before seats fill, prioritizing your own high school if it offers School Day testing
HIGH
- Request Sunday testing if Saturday testing conflicts with religious observance
- Upload a clear, recent headshot to your College Board account for admission ticket photo verification
HIGH
- Print or save the admission ticket from your College Board dashboard once registration is confirmed
HIGH

SCORE GOAL SETTING

- Set a target score based on the 25th-75th percentile range of admitted students at your top colleges (average 2024 SAT was around 1050; competitive colleges 1300+; Ivy League 1500+)
HIGH
- Set a Reading and Writing subscore goal (200-800) and a Math subscore goal (200-800) that ladder up to your 1600-scale target

HIGH

- Look up the BigFuture college matching tool to compare your target score against schools across the selectivity spectrum
- Decide whether to also register for the ACT if your target colleges accept either; some students score noticeably better on one or the other

PREP TIMELINE

- Start prep 3-6 months before test day with a target of 10-15 hours per week
HIGH
- Take a full-length diagnostic practice test on Bluebook in test conditions before any studying to set a baseline
HIGH
- Review the diagnostic by question type to find your weakest content areas in Reading and Writing and in Math
HIGH
- Block 3-5 study sessions per week on the calendar with a fixed start time to build a study habit
HIGH
- Spend the first month on content review: grammar rules for Reading and Writing; algebra, geometry, and data analysis for Math
HIGH
- Spend the middle weeks drilling timed sets of 10-20 questions, then reviewing every miss with a written explanation of why you got it wrong
HIGH
- Spend the final 3-4 weeks on full-length timed practice tests, taking one every weekend on Bluebook
HIGH

PREP RESOURCES

- Use Khan Academy Official Digital SAT Prep, the free official partner of the College Board, for adaptive practice keyed to Bluebook
HIGH
- Work through all 4 full-length linear practice tests built into the Bluebook app
HIGH
- Decide whether to add a paid course (Princeton Review, Kaplan, Magoosh, PrepScholar) if you need structure or a score guarantee
- Pick one Reading and Writing prep book and one Math prep book and finish them rather than buying ten
- Drill Desmos graphing calculator skills early: regressions, intersections, sliders, table mode, since Desmos is built into the Math section
HIGH

- Practice the digital SAT-specific tools: highlight, annotate, mark for review, answer eliminator, and the built-in reference sheet for Math
HIGH
- Build a mistake log: question, your answer, correct answer, the rule or concept you missed
HIGH
- Practice managing test anxiety with timed mock sections, breathing drills, and a pre-test routine that you repeat every practice test

1 WEEK BEFORE TEST DAY

- Install the Bluebook app on the device you plan to test on (laptop, iPad, Windows tablet, Chromebook, or school-issued device) at least 5 days before test day
HIGH
- Run Exam Setup in Bluebook to complete the readiness check and download the test ticket within 5 days of test day
HIGH
- Request a College Board-loaned device through your school if you do not have a working personal or school-issued device
HIGH
- Take one final full-length Bluebook practice test 5-7 days before the real test, not the day before
HIGH
- Confirm the test center address and parking instructions, and plan your route and arrival time
HIGH
- Confirm your photo ID is current and not expired: passport, driver's license, state ID, or school photo ID
HIGH

DAY BEFORE TEST DAY

- Lay out clothes in layers since test centers can be cold but typically prohibit hoodies, jackets, and hats during testing
- Charge your testing device to 100% the night before
HIGH
- Pack your charging cable and a charged power bank in case the test center has no available outlet
HIGH
- Stop studying by mid-afternoon the day before; cramming the night before lowers test-day performance
HIGH
- Eat a normal dinner and avoid new foods that could upset your stomach

- Sleep 8-9 hours; set 2 alarms for the morning

HIGH

TEST DAY MORNING

- Eat a protein-and-complex-carb breakfast (eggs and toast, oatmeal, yogurt and fruit) and skip heavy sugar that will crash mid-test

HIGH

- Confirm Bluebook still opens on your device and your admission ticket is accessible before you leave the house

HIGH

- Arrive 30 minutes before the start time listed on your admission ticket; late arrivals are not admitted

HIGH

WHAT TO BRING

- Bring your fully charged testing device with Bluebook installed

HIGH

- Bring your charging cable, and a power bank if you have one

HIGH

- Bring an acceptable photo ID matching the name on your registration

HIGH

- Bring your printed admission ticket or have it open on your phone before phones are stowed

HIGH

- Bring an approved calculator as backup even though Desmos is built in: TI-84 Plus CE, TI-Nspire CX II (non-CAS), Casio fx-9750GIII, or another model on the College Board approved list

HIGH

- Bring 2 sharpened #2 pencils for scratch work on the provided scratch paper

- Bring water and a snack (granola bar, banana, trail mix) for the 10-minute break between sections

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Do not bring or wear a smartwatch, fitness tracker, or any device that connects to the internet beyond your testing device

HIGH

- Do not access your phone, earbuds, or AirPods during testing or breaks; possession of a phone during the test can void your scores

HIGH

- Do not bring a CAS-enabled calculator (TI-Nspire CAS, TI-89 Titanium with CAS, HP Prime, Casio ClassPad); they are prohibited

HIGH

- Do not bring scratch paper of your own; the proctor distributes scratch paper at the test center

HIGH

DURING THE TEST

- Pace Reading and Writing Module 1 at about 1 minute 10 seconds per question (27 questions in 32 minutes); same pace for Module 2

HIGH

- Pace Math Module 1 at about 1 minute 35 seconds per question (22 questions in 35 minutes); same pace for Module 2

HIGH

- Use the Mark for Review flag on questions you skip and circle back during the time remaining in the same module; you cannot return to a module after time expires

HIGH

- Answer every question; the digital SAT has no wrong-answer penalty, so guess on anything you cannot solve

HIGH

- Treat Module 1 as performance-critical since it determines whether Module 2 serves easier or harder questions in the section-adaptive format

HIGH

- Eat your snack and use the restroom during the 10-minute break between Reading and Writing and Math; the clock keeps running

- Submit at the end of each module rather than leaving questions blank when time is almost up

HIGH

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- Apply for Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) through your school counselor at least 7 weeks before test day if you need accommodations

HIGH

Common accommodations include extended time (time and a half or double time), extra breaks, large print, screen reader, and a reader/scribe.

- Confirm accommodations in writing through the College Board SSD portal before registering for the test date

HIGH

AFTER THE TEST

- Check scores in the College Board portal 2-4 weeks after the test (next-business-day section scores are sometimes available for digital SAT)
HIGH
- Use your 4 free score sends to colleges within 9 days of the test only if you are confident about your score; otherwise pay per send later
HIGH
- Apply Score Choice when sending scores so colleges receive only the test dates you pick; check each college's policy since some require all SAT scores
HIGH
- Decide on a retake if you are more than 50 points below your target; most students gain 30-70 points on a second sitting
HIGH
- Send your superscore (highest Reading and Writing plus highest Math across all sittings) to colleges that accept superscoring