



## TOP 5 TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

By Drew Heilpern (<http://mytutor.com/author/dheilpern/>) Posted September 29, 2016 (<http://mytutor.com/2016/09/>)  
In ACT (<http://mytutor.com/category/act/>), SAT (<http://mytutor.com/category/sat/>)

Saturday is the first of the 2016-2017 SAT Administration dates. Are you taking the test? Here are five test strategies to help you maximize your score.

### **Write all over your test booklet.**

Don't try to do this test in your head. You can and should mark up your test booklet. Cross out wrong answer choices, underline key words and phrases, and make notes in the margins. Your focus and comprehension will improve.

### **Remember that easy and hard questions have equal value.**

Questions often do not progress from easy to difficult. Easy ones may appear at the end and hard ones at the beginning, but each question is worth the same – one raw point. Don't sink too much time into difficult questions at the expense of answering easier questions. If you feel yourself starting to stall on a particular problem, move along. As you answer the other questions, you'll gather information that will likely help you answer the difficult questions you've skipped.

### **Know how and when to use your calculator.**

While a calculator won't carry you through the SAT or ACT Math Test, your calculator can help you compute more efficiently, handle fractions more easily, find points of intersection, and more. Learn how to use your calculator to help solve challenging problems and save time on complex calculations, but keep in mind that it is not always the best tool for the job. And remember, the SAT Math Test is divided into two sections: one that allows you to use your calculator, and one that does not.

### **Learn to recognize question types.**

While the SAT and ACT do not repeat exact questions from test to test, both repeat question types. After all, it is a standardized test. The ability to recognize question types allows you to be a proactive, rather than reactive, test-taker. As you prepare for the test, pay close attention to the types of questions that appear frequently on your practice tests.

### **Use a two-pass approach.**

On your first pass through a section, answer all of the questions you can, but don't get bogged down on an individual question. If you're stuck, mark it and move on. Remember: Each question is worth the same amount — one raw point. Next, make a second pass through the test, starting from the first question you skipped and marked. Focus on the ones you think you have the best chance on. Finally, if time allows, guess on all the remaining questions. Since there is no penalty for wrong answers, do not leave any questions blank on your answer sheet.

These strategies are just some of the many tools at your disposal to build confidence and put you in control of the test. Good luck!