

COURSE DESCRIPTION & FAQs

GTE's SAT WORKSHOPS

Course description:

Golden Tutoring & Enrichment LLC is proud to offer affordable, local, high quality preparation for the SAT in a convenient workshop format. In each session, we help students become familiar with the format of the test overall and learn to use the best strategic approach on each section. Students will practice with questions from the official SAT practice tests issued by the College Board, and we will review the top content tested on each section. Each workshop session is a combination of large-group presentation with an instructor demonstrating example questions and individual student practice with feedback. Students will have ample opportunities to ask questions and get their top concerns about the test addressed. Each session is designed to stand alone, or the whole series can be taken together (beginning in 2024 there are only 2 sections of the SAT) for complete preparation for the test. We offer a full-length, proctored practice test in the last session, so students can practice the skills and strategies they learned and identify their personal needs for future individual practice. The entire course can be a good starting point for an individual practice regimen or for one-on-one follow up tutoring.

The course is best designed for students who can successfully learn in a whole-classroom setting and can take effective notes. Students with especially high or low testing results in the past (e.g. PSAT scores above the 90th percentile or below the 45th percentile on a previous PSAT) may find individual tutoring more effective for their needs. Regardless of their individual profiles, we strongly encourage all students to do at least some practice on their own to augment our workshops or any individual tutoring. In each session, we will offer advice for how to effectively practice on your own.

Who are our SAT workshops for?

Our workshops are best suited for students who have not done a great deal of preparation or practice for the SAT in the past and who will learn effectively from a combination of instructor presentation and individual practice. If you have taken other prep classes from other sources, you may find there is some overlap in content and suggested test-taking approach, although we believe our explanations of best test-taking methods are especially effective. If you have particular difficulty with standardized testing, either due to specific content area deficits/struggles or test anxiety, you may find some targeted one-on-one tutoring most effective at addressing your needs (though our workshops may be a useful component of your overall preparation plan). Similarly, if you are already testing particularly high on practice tests like the PSAT, you may find a few targeted one-on-one sessions more time efficient and cost effective. Although a wide range of students will benefit from our test prep advice, our workshop format is best suited to students who can learn adequately through auditory and visual formats.

My student has a high GPA, is in all honors/AP classes, but does not score well on standardized tests. Will this course help my student improve their scores?

For students who score lower than expected on standardized testing relative to their performance in classes, a number of factors could be causing the discrepancy, and it can be helpful to try to identify the specific underlying issues. Some students excel in their classes due to a strong work ethic and strong time management, organization, and project management skills (i.e. executive functioning) while still struggling to fully master the concepts and content in

those subject areas. This may show up as lower-than-expected scores on broad content focused, problem-solving exams like the SAT or ACT, where content from across several years of classes can show up in novel formats. Fortunately for such students, practicing for the specific questions on these exams can help them learn to better identify which skills are being tested by each question and help them practice with the most commonly tested content. A workshop series like ours, when combined with individual practice on your own and/or one-on-one follow up tutoring, can be a good start to such preparation.

For other students, significant test anxiety may cause them to perform much lower than their expected range, given their other academic accomplishments. For these students, understanding the test format and scoring system and practicing with the specific content that is most commonly tested can help alleviate some test anxiety. While our course does not address test anxiety per se, we do review best test-taking practices, including some techniques for relaxing and being ready to give your best performance when it counts. Our course can be a helpful component in a preparation plan for a student with significant text anxiety, but students with significant challenges in this regard should also plan to augment the workshops with individual practice and/or one-on-one tutoring specifically targeted at alleviating test anxiety and learning relaxation techniques that can be employed during testing.

What can be expected during a workshop session?

You can expect to begin with an overview of the test overall—its format, scoring system and how those aspects should inform your strategic approach. Next, we provide an overview of and best practices for that day's test section. We will review most common content and practice with example questions from official College Board practice tests. By the end of each session, students will have practiced with most or all questions on a full-length test section and will have an additional practice test to try at home. We take short breaks about every half hour.

How should I prepare? What should I bring?

We will send all registered students information about how to download and print the practice tests we use during the workshops or students can download them and work off of their laptop since the SAT is now digital. In addition, all students will want to have a notebook for note-taking, several pens/pencils (on the real test you can use only #2 pencil), and a calculator (for our workshops, a phone is fine, but on the real test you will not be able to use a smart device for your calculator and can only bring a calculator on the College Board's list of approved devices). Finally, if you have taken the PSAT, Pre-ACT, or the SAT/ACT before, it can be useful to have access to your scores (section scores and any subsection scores/detailed scoring information, in addition to just your single composite score) prior to and during our workshops, so you can use them for self-analysis and comparison.