

The Study Hall in offers SAT preparation at all three of its locations. Although each location has slight variations in scheduling, the methodology is uniform throughout the company. The Study Hall offers primarily small groups and one-on-one tutoring for the SAT. Some larger classes are available for a limited number of test dates and may be held off-site. Here are some basic FAQs for our SAT program (this example is focused on math):

How long is each session? Each meeting is one-hour of instructional time. For each tutoring session, or class, students are expected to spend between 1 and 2 hours taking practice sections of real SAT exams (we can get creative on how this is assigned. Sometimes it is homework, other times the student chooses to arrive early to their SAT sessions and utilize our space to limit at-home distractions). For each practice exam, the student and instructor go over the right answers and discuss one or more “types” of problems and how to approach them. For instance, problem 4 might have been solved most quickly by plugging the four possible answers back into the equation to see which one worked. Did the student try that? Now that they see how that works, would they be able to think of trying that in the future? Another question, say problem 12, required factoring to find solutions. Does the student recall how to factor basic quadratic? Is it necessary to “skill and drill” factoring problems for homework?

What is the focus of a typical SAT class/session? Strategies and Skills. Some students, typically those scoring below the national average, will have more strategy incorporated into their prep while students with higher scores tend to have sessions that are more skill-oriented. Of course, this is always customized to fit each student. Which questions are done most quickly and easily? Since the score you receive is based on getting the most questions right that you can, it is vital to learn how to get through questions efficiently. Which questions are “time traps” that will take longer and still not count for any more points? Also, where are the most common mistakes made? Can you remind yourself to watch out when you see a question with some of those elements?

Why do we require students take a timed test sections? This is a dry run for the feeling of being put on the spot. The instructor can watch how the students spend their time, how much they use their calculators, and where they could have done more. At the end, the students learn how many they got right, which ones they should have done or what they could have done better, and how that would have affected the score they would have gotten.

When does the student take timed test sections? Either at home or at our facility (free of charge). Small group and one-on-one sessions are 60 minutes and the students do not take a timed section with the instructor. They spend the whole time going over problems. If a student got a problem wrong, they have to analyze whether they should have attempted it or skipped it. If they skipped a question, should they have? Could they have recognized a way to do it and get the points? The more questions a student reviews, the more options s/he has during the test itself.

This format is typically repeated for six weeks. The students hear some of the same suggestions more than once, so they really start to incorporate them. They also get used to taking a timed test. The more the students practice the better their chances for significant improvement.