

Sample Student: John Smith
SAT Score Analysis

Greetings from Education Station! We hope your week is going well and thank you for your patience as we reviewed John's SAT baseline results (see attached). John's score breakdown on the SAT is as follows:

Composite: 1210

Critical Reading and Language Arts: 550

Mathematics: 660

Attached to this email is a more detailed report of John's scores. Below, you will find a breakdown of the exam section by section, a comparison to his ACT baseline score, and our recommendations for helping John further develop his test-taking skills and improve his scores.

Critical Reading

John demonstrated a solid foundation of reading skills as he answered 34 of 52 questions correctly. Most of his errors were related to inductive reasoning and questions that asked him to find the purpose or main idea of a passage or paragraph. It is noteworthy that he answered only 4 of the final 11 questions correctly, which indicates that time may have played a factor in John's ability to answer every question. The personal narrative passage also proved challenging as John answered only 4 of 9 questions correctly. John would benefit from reviewing annotation strategies aimed at identifying main ideas or purpose of a passage in addition to timed practice to help him maintain a comfort level with the pacing required to answer each question effectively and efficiently.

Writing and Language

John answered 27 of 44 questions correctly on the Writing and Language section. The majority of questions he answered incorrectly focused on word choice topics (identifying correct use of adverbs, pronouns, verbs, etc.) and punctuation (commas, dashes, and semicolons). Another topic that proved challenging was paragraph structure (transitions, supporting details, etc.). John would benefit from a general review of the previously mentioned grammatical and language concepts on the SAT is always helpful, and any instruction would also include an introduction to time management and annotation strategies to ensure he accurately answers every question.

Mathematics

John's efforts on the Math sections showed some interesting patterns. He performed exceptionally well on the No-Calculator portion of the test (18 of 20 questions answered correctly) and did not show any specific weaknesses. He started strongly on the Calculator section (18 of the first 20 questions answered correctly) but did not maintain this pace throughout the section (only 6 of the final 18 questions answered correctly). This could indicate that time impacted John's ability to answer every question effectively. The fact that he answered

similarly styled questions earlier in the test supports this as well. Broken down by concept, John should review questions that ask him to find/analyze relationships between algebraic equations and graphs. These types of questions focus more on conceptual understanding and less on finding a solution, and students often find them difficult. These types of questions are almost always in the form of a word problem, and John should review annotation techniques to help him identify the information he needs to solve the problem. An overview of trigonometry and data analysis would also help him further improve his score. John would benefit from reviewing these topics and timed practice to help him close any gaps in his knowledge and gain more experience in working at the pace required to succeed on the SAT.

SAT/ACT Comparison

ACT Baseline	SAT Baseline	SAT conversion to ACT
Composite - 28 English/Reading - 51 Math - 30	Composite - 1210 English - 550 Math - 660	Composite - 25 English/Reading - 43 Math - 28

John scored higher on the ACT than on the SAT, and we recommend that John move forward with preparing for the ACT. In making this recommendation for John, we considered several factors:

	ACT	SAT
Time Management	Typically more difficult to manage time.	Typically easier to manage time.
Reading/Grammar	Passages tend to be less complex. Questions tend to be less complex.	Passages tend to be more complex. Questions tend to be more complex. Questions can be paired.
Mathematics	Use of calculator for the duration of math test. Broader range of topics and formulas to be covered.	Has both a non-calculator and calculator section. Smaller range of topics and formulas to be covered.

Even though the SAT provides more time, John performed much stronger on the ACT and did not appear to have the same issues with time management as he did on the SAT. It is easier to learn and practice time management strategies than increase content knowledge, and because John already has a solid understanding of the concepts on all four sections on the ACT, he will see greater gains on the ACT test than the SAT. Furthermore, his strong results on the Reading and Science sections prove that his strength as a reader and writer will allow him to score high on the less complex passages of the ACT.