

BASICS:

No Calculator: 25 minutes for 20 questions
 Calculator: 55 minutes for 38 questions

KEY RESOURCES:

[SAT Math Quiz Book](#)
[SAT Math Formula Sheet](#)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Number of Questions</u>
Heart of Algebra	19
Problem Solving & Data Analysis	17
Passport to Advanced Math	16
Additional Topics	6

SAT Math Strategies to Use:

Choose Own Values – when there are variables in the question or the answer choices. Use small values!

Faster/easier than "Math Class Mode" on: modeling equations, finding equivalent forms, multi-step word problems

Plug In Answers – when you have to find the value of a quantity or variable.

Faster/easier than "Math Class Mode" on: systems of equations, equations with roots, multi-step word problems

Estimate – when you have a geometric figure or when you have no other options!

GENERAL STRATEGY:

1. Read the question carefully to determine for what it is asking you to find **simply and in your own terms**.
2. Write down any information you are given in the question and any formulas that may be helpful.
3. Take a peek at the answer choices for fractions, variables, π or radicals (e.g. $\sqrt{2}$ or $\sqrt{3}$).
4. If you know how to solve the question, solve it immediately!
 - a. If it asks you to solve a rational equation, plug in answers rather than solving.
 - b. If it asks you to find equivalent form, choose your own value instead of solving.
5. If you don't know how to solve a question, try one of ESM's SAT Math Strategies.
6. If you can't use a strategy, circle the question in your booklet, eliminate any answer choices you can, and make your best guess.
7. Once you have gone through every question, go back to the circled questions if you have time.

EXTRA TIPS:

1. Keep It Moving – other than making mistakes on questions you know how to do, staring idly at a question is the biggest detriment to maximizing your score. If you don't know a question, circle it in your booklet and move on! There are easier points ahead.
2. Stay away of "Math Class Mode" – showing every step of a question in school is important to get an A on your math test. On the SAT, where efficiency is key, doing so can be a big inhibitor to your score!
3. Memorize formulas – Even though there are some formulas listed at the beginning of the math section, this list is not all-inclusive. Reference the SAT Math Formula Sheet to cover your bases!
4. Use decimals – convert fractions and percentages into decimals to use in equations and on your calculator. Memorizing the easy conversions ($1/2$, $1/4$, $1/5$, etc.) can help you save time and minimize small mistakes.
5. Find the triangle – triangles are often the key to geometry questions that don't seem to test them. Drawing triangles in these figures can help you easily find angles and the lengths of lines or segments.
6. Become friends with word problems! Practice translating words into math that you can solve.
7. Be certain that you bring a calculator that is permitted on the test. Be careful with your calculator – put all negative numbers in parentheses, and watch your order of operations.

A mentor can change everything.

