

BASICS:

5 passages and 52 questions
 Time: 65 minutes
 Average time per passage: 13 mins

Topics included

1. Literature
2. Social Science
3. US History
4. World History
5. Natural Science

KEY RESOURCES:

[ESM SAT Reading Curriculum](#)
[ESM SAT Quiz Book - Reading](#)
[Outside Reading Resources](#)

Passage Types

Literature: 1 passage
Social Science and/or Natural Science: 2
 with graphs, 1 regular or paired passage
Founding Document: 1 regular or dual
 passage

Question types

1. Main Idea
2. Command of Evidence
3. Words in Context
4. Compare and Contrast
5. Graphic Analysis

GENERAL STRATEGY:

1. Be an active reader so you don't zone out! Annotate the passage as you read it so that you only need to read it through one time.
2. Spend about 5-6 minutes reading and annotating the passage, and 7-8 minutes answering the questions.
3. As you annotate, anticipate questions you may be asked. Examples of how to annotate each type of passage are outlined in the boxes below.

<p><i>Prose Passage</i> Proper Nouns Tone or Attribute Words Relationships between characters Main Ideas</p>	<p><i>Dual Passage (compare/contrast)</i> Main Idea of each passage Author's tone in each passage What is similar between the two passages What is similar between the two passages</p>
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4. After reading the passage, mark the first questions of an Evidence Pair with an "E".
5. Read each question carefully and roughly determine what the answer is in your own words, using your annotations, circled words, and line references to locate any necessary information.
6. **Use the rough answer you came up with to eliminate wrong answer choices. If any part of an answer choice is incorrect, eliminate it.**
7. If you cannot eliminate three answer choices, select the best answer choice from those remaining and move on to the next question. Do not fixate on any one question for longer than one minute!

EXTRA TIPS:

1. Embrace your inner cynic! Your goal is to find the least wrong answer choice. You are much more likely to find the correct answer when looking for what is wrong with each answer choice rather than what is right.
2. Make sure you fully understand the topic sentence of each body paragraph. When in doubt, refer to this sentence when answering a question that pertains to the paragraph.
3. For Dual Passages, answer the first 3-4 questions regarding Passage 1 before reading Passage 2.
4. Keep track of your timing. Although the SAT allows more time on the reading section than on the ACT, it is important to be aware of time and pace yourself appropriately.
5. Be intentional and thorough with your annotations. Being thorough can change a difficult and time-consuming question into a quick and easy one.
6. Beware of answer choices that contain extreme language (words like always, never, all, none, completely) or are outside the scope of the passage (these usually sound too good to be true).
7. Keep an eye out for predictive language and lists of information.

A mentor can change everything.

