

# SAT Preparation for Students

## A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

### Proposed Agenda for 9:00 am – 2:00 pm SAT Workshop

#### Introduction/Reading & Writing Test Format/Strategies: 9:00 – 10:25

The Digital SAT is markedly different from its predecessor, and test-taking strategies specific to this test are essential to avoiding the pitfalls that so many students are experiencing. For this portion of the class, we will dissect the 5 key question types on the Reading & Writing Test as well as strategies (such as question order based on question type). Vocabulary study is also critically important for the DSAT, so we will discuss learning strategies that lead to efficient retention of words and their definitions.

*Break: 10:25 – 10:35*

#### Reading & Writing Test Content: 10:35 – 12:00

Building on the first session, we will take a deep dive into each question type, focusing on the structure of the texts, questions, and the answer choices. We will also cover the grammar concepts that are tested, which include:

- Independent and dependent clauses (using commas, semicolons, and colons between them)
- Singular vs. plural possession ('s vs. s')
- Misplaced modifiers

*Lunch: 12:00 – 12:30*

#### Math Test Strategies and Introduction to Math Test Content: 12:30 – 2:00

Like the Reading & Writing Test, the Math Test has experienced a number of changes with the transition to the digital test, and the students will be walked through these changes and how best to take the test based on said changes. We will also begin an introduction to the content that's on the test, with a particular focus on systems of equations (the test's favorite content piece).

# Sequence of Evening Classes

## 1. Math: Algebra Focus

70% of the Math Test is Algebra, so it's fitting that we begin our evening classes with this. In particular, we will discuss:

- Exponent Rules
- Exponential growth/decay
- Quadratics and the Quadratic Formula
- Using graphs/data tables to answer questions, etc.

## 2. Reading and Writing: Practicing Sentence Completion, Transition Words, and Taking Notes Questions

These three question types were introduced and explained during the in-person workshop, so now we will practice each question type with a variety of difficulty levels, ranging from the easiest to the hardest. For the sentence completion questions in particular, breaking down the vocabulary answer options using stems, context, etc. will be heavily emphasized.

## 3. Math: Geometry/Trigonometry Focus

This class will focus on the Geometry/Trigonometry concepts that are routinely tested, and the topics will include:

- Circles and Triangles (Right, Scalene, Isosceles, etc.)
- The equation for graphing a circle
- Radians
- Basic trig functions
- $\sin x = \cos (90 - x)$

#### 4. Reading & Writing: Science Texts

Technical science texts now play a great role in the DSAT, and students seem to struggle with these perhaps the most out of any reading questions. This class will focus on dissecting the oftentimes tedious passages and translating them into plain English. Additionally, these texts are often paired with a data table, so understanding the text message of the text, what the data shows, and where the text and data align will be given a strong emphasis.

#### 5. Math: The Hardest Problems

Now that the math content has been covered in the first two math classes, this one will focus exclusively on working the hardest math problems on the test. There is a specific mindset required for success on these problems (i.e. not “How do I solve it,” but “What can I do here?”), and we will work a volume of problems with the goal of generating the mathematical creativity and flexibility necessary to correctly answer these questions.

#### 6. Reading: Older Literature and Poetry

The “old” texts (i.e. the texts from the 1700s and 1800s) typically prove to be the most difficult ones for students on the SAT; therefore, we will devote this class to utilizing highly effective strategies to correctly answer questions about these texts, even if the students do not fully understand the text itself. This will apply not only to prose, but also to poetry, which is now included on the DSAT’s Reading & Writing Test.