



Digital SAT · Reading & Writing

Format & scoring

- **Module 1:** 27 Q / 32 min
- **Module 2:** 27 Q / 32 min (adaptive difficulty)
- ~1.2 min/question · short passage → usually 1 question
- Section score 200–800 · no wrong-answer penalty
- Harder Module 2 = you did well on Module 1 — stay confident
- Answer every question; flag & return if time allows

Four content domains

- **Information & Ideas (~26%)** — central ideas, details, inferences, command of evidence, quantitative graphics
- **Craft & Structure (~28%)** — words in context, text structure/purpose, cross-text connections
- **Expression of Ideas (~20%)** — rhetorical synthesis, transitions, concision, organization
- **Standard English Conventions (~26%)** — boundaries,

Golden rules (always)

- Correct answer is **supported by the text** — never outside knowledge
- Eliminate extremes: always / never / all / only / completely
- Prefer precise + concise over wordy or vague
- “No change” is correct ~20–30% — don’t invent errors
- Read full sentence (+ neighbors), not only the underline/blank
- Wrong answers often: half-right.

Reading playbook (Information & Ideas)

Before you answer

- Read the **question stem first** so you know what to hunt for
- Skim the short passage once for claim + tone; don’t over-annotate
- For graphics: read title, axes, units, legend before comparing to text

Question types → what to do

Type	Method	Trap
Central idea / main purpose	First & last sentences; repeated theme; answer must cover whole passage	A true detail that isn’t the main point
Detail / explicit	Locate keyword; read ±1 sentence; match wording carefully	Nearby but different fact
Inference	Must be strongly implied; you should point to evidence	Plausible leap beyond the text
Command of	Pick the line/option that best	Related quote

Craft & Structure playbook

Words in context

- Cover the blank/target word → predict meaning from nearby clues
- Plug each choice back in; match **denotation + tone + grammar**
- Academic verbs beat everyday synonyms that shift meaning (e.g., “charged” ≠ always “accused”)
- Watch polarity: positive/negative/neutral must fit the sentence

Purpose / function / structure

- Ask: *why is this sentence/paragraph here?* (introduce, exemplify, contrast, concede, conclude)
- Map flow: claim → support → counter → rebuttal → conclusion
- Signal words: however, indeed, for example, in contrast, ultimately

Cross-text / paired ideas

- Identify each author’s stance on the shared topic

Passage micro-skills

- **Literature:** character motive, conflict, narrator reliability, figurative meaning
- **History / social studies:** claim, evidence quality, perspective, counterclaim
- **Science:** hypothesis → method → result → conclusion; watch what data does/doesn’t show
- Circle contrast signals (but, yet, however, although)
- Underline the author’s main claim in one phrase

Elimination ladder

- ① Out of scope / never mentioned
- ② Contradicts the passage
- ③ Too extreme or absolute
- ④ True but doesn’t answer the ask
- ⑤ Distorts relationship (cause↔effect, compare↔contrast)
- Left with 2? Re-read the exact question words

Pacing targets

- Easy grammar/transitions: ≤45 sec
- Standard reading: ~60–75 sec
- Hard inference / dual focus: ≤90 sec then flag
- Leave 2–3 min/module for flagged items
- Never blank — educated guess after eliminate 1–2



Grammar · Expression · Transitions

Standard English Conventions — sentence sense

Rule	How to check	Example
Subject–verb agreement	Find true subject; ignore prep phrases & intervening clauses	<i>The list of requirements is long.</i>
Pronoun agreement	Match number; clear single antecedent	<i>Each student brought a laptop. (not “their” if formal singular required)</i>
Ambiguous pronoun	If “it/they/this” could point to 2 nouns → rewrite	<i>When Ana met Lia, Ana smiled. (not “she”)</i>
Who / whom	Who = he/she (subject); whom = him/her (object)	<i>The writer whom we cited...</i>
Its / it's / whose / who's	Possessive has no apostrophe in its/whose	<i>It's = it is; its = belonging to it</i>
Verb tense / aspect	Stay consistent unless a time cue shifts	<i>In 1900 she published... Today</i>

Punctuation & sentence boundaries

Mark	Use when...	Don't...
Period / new sentence	Two complete independent clauses (ICs)	Join ICs with only a comma (comma splice)
Comma + FANBOYS	IC , and/but/or/nor/for/so/yet IC	Use FANBOYS without a comma between ICs when required
Semicolon ;	Closely related ICs; or before however/therefore + IC	Use between IC and dependent fragment
Colon :	After a complete IC to introduce list, explanation, or quote	Place after a fragment (“such as:” is usually wrong)
Dash —	Emphatic aside or abrupt break (pair or single)	Mix dash with comma on the same aside inconsistently

Transitions — match the logic

- **Contrast:** however, nevertheless, although, whereas, instead, on the other hand
- **Concession:** granted, admittedly, even so
- **Cause → effect:** therefore, consequently,
- **Addition:** furthermore, moreover, also, in addition, likewise
- **Example:** for example, for instance, specifically, namely
- **Sequence / time:** first, next, subsequently, meanwhile, finally

Expression of Ideas

- **Concision:** cut redundancy (“past history,” “completely eliminate,” “the reason is because”)
- **Precision:** specific verb/noun beats vague filler (“things,” “aspects,” “being”)
- **Relevance:** delete off-topic, repetitive, or contradictory sentences
- **Placement:** new sentence must fit logic + pronouns of neighbors
- **Tone/register:** match formality of the passage (no slang in academic text)

High-frequency traps

- Choice restates a true detail but misses the question's ask
- Transition that sounds smart but reverses contrast/cause
- Grammar fix that creates a new error (agreement broken by rewrite)
- Shorter option that deletes necessary meaning

30-second decision checklist + last-minute review

- ☐ What is the question asking (main idea / evidence / vocab / transition / grammar / rhetoric)?
- ☐ Can I point to a line (or figure feature) that proves my choice?
- ☐ Did I eliminate at least two clearly wrong options?
- ☐ For grammar: did I read the whole sentence (and check subject/verb far from the blank)?
- ☐ For style: is there a shorter option that keeps the full meaning?
- ☐ For transitions: does my choice match contrast vs cause vs add?
- ☐ Flagged hard ones? Guess after eliminate — never leave blank
- ☐ Module ending: scan unanswered → pick best remaining → move on