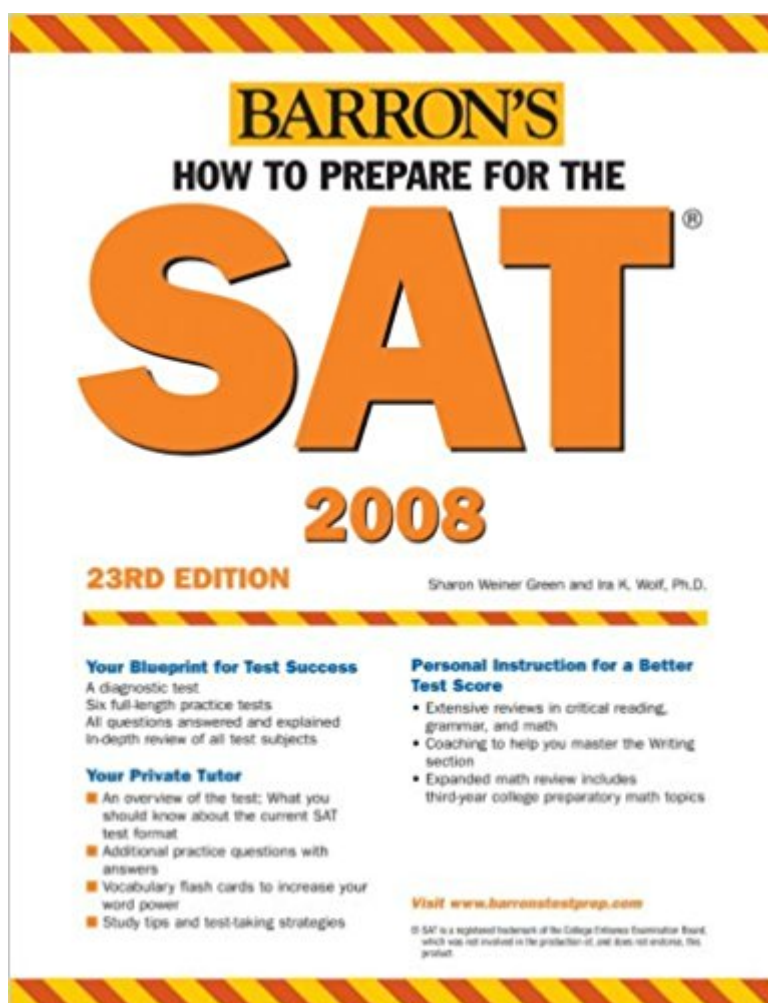


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# How To Prepare For The SAT: 2007-2008 (Barron's How To Prepare For The Sat I (Book Only))



## Synopsis

The 2007 edition of Barron's SAT test preparation manual presents one diagnostic test and six full-length practice SATs, all of which reflect the new SAT in length, question types, and degree of difficulty. This manual offers an overview of the SAT and its scoring method, and then presents extensive subject reviews in critical reading, grammar and usage, and math. It also offers detailed guidance for preparing and composing the test's required student-written essay. College-bound students will find that Barron's all-new combination SAT manual is ideal preparation for one of the most important tests that they will ever take.

## Book Information

Paperback: 864 pages

Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; Revised and updated edition (February 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764134493

ISBN-13: 978-0764134494

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.4 x 1.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #716,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Study Aids > SAT #434 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > SAT #1892 in Books > Education & Teaching > Test Preparation > College & High School

## Customer Reviews

(back cover) Choose Barron's Method for Test Success on the SAT Read and understand the author's overview of the SAT Take the diagnostic test to determine your strengths and weaknesses Devise your personal study plan for success Study the book's subject reviews to improve your skills in all test topics Take the book's practice tests and score your results Review the answers and explanations for all test questions It's Your Path to a Higher SAT Test Score

The big name test prep companies such as Kaplan, Princeton Review, and Sparknotes, to name a few, tend to focus on "tricks" to try to beat the test. What these tricks really are, unfortunately, is just a collection of common sense strategies such as Princeton Review's vaunted "Joe Bloggs" strategy

which is just "cross off answers that the average student will pick." They do give a review of the material -- and don't get me wrong, these books are good -- but they're not aimed toward someone who wants to master the material. They simply aim to allow you to maximize your score as painlessly as possible. Okay, there is a valid reason to publish books with that aim -- most students don't want more than that. Barron's How to Prepare for the SAT, on the other hand, is the complete antithesis of the standard preparation book. Written in true textbook style, it's the ultimate guide to the SAT. It's all here and if you're really, really dedicated to that high score to get into that shiny, prestigious university, then Barron's is just what you need. The first section, strategies, just goes over a bunch of test taking strategies -- much like the ones found in the aforementioned books. Then, the subject matter begins. Critical reading, widely considered the hardest section to study for, is given just the right treatment here. First, the book gives a myriad of general reading strategies (luckily, the book advocates reading the passages unlike, \*ahem\*, other companies). Then, as any good book on how to read would do, it gives the reader a multitude of practice passages that are much harder than the real thing (excerpts from great literary works, such as Dickens' "Great Expectations", are present) with many SAT-like questions. Don't be discouraged if you find the passages and questions difficult and you get some wrong -- answers and explanations give you a good understanding of each question and you'll find yourself applying what you learned from your mistakes to other SAT practice tests (Barron's or otherwise). After working diligently through the exercises, your skill in SAT reading should go up considerably (but you must do the practice tests as well to get the full benefit). The sentence completion section is also well done. There's not much you can teach about sentence completions other than the usual strategies that are in every book. What Barron's does do, however, is give you two sets of 50 questions each to work on, so that you become extremely comfortable with the format of the questions and how questions may be worded. On the topic of critical reading, Barron's includes a list of 3500 words. Yes, that's three thousand five hundred words. According to the book, it's an eclectic bunch drawn from a vast multitude of sources -- past SATs, great literary works, essays, etc. Clearly, most people have neither the time nor the inclination to go through every one of the 3500 words (and, quite frankly, it's unnecessary). So, what this book does is give you a list of "High Frequency" words (words that have appeared on several SATs) and a list of "Hot Prospects" which are words that Barron's feels are likely to appear soon. These much shorter lists are worth memorizing and have proven extremely helpful to me and others who have taken the SAT. But if you're ambitious (or your vocabulary is severely lacking), then going through the 3500 word list WILL remedy any vocabulary weakness on your part. I find that going through the list not only helps my performance on practice tests, but it

makes me seem much more eloquent in every day life and in my writing. Who can go wrong here? Anyway, the next section is the writing/grammar section. As a student, I've never really been exposed to grammar taught formally. Before I'd taken the SAT (and before I'd read this book), I picked up enough grammar to be able to identify errors well (I scored an 800 on the writing portion in December), but I still didn't know proper terminology and couldn't guarantee that I'd get an 800 again, so I've found that going through the writing section, although it's a bit dense, to have significantly increased my grammatical erudition and I am confident that I'll get an 800 again. Finally, the math section is a great refresher of the basics. In fact, it's much better than all of the other "refreshers" in other books to the point that it'd pass as a decent elementary mathematical textbook. It covers the entire gamut of mathematics, from the essential, but oft forgotten, arithmetic to the (relatively) advanced algebra 2 and geometry concepts. The nice thing, though, is that at the end of every review section, there's a whole slew of extremely well designed practice questions that require no more than elementary skills, but force the reader to truly think and apply what he or she has learned. While the questions are MUCH harder than the SAT, the questions are great for building mental tenacity and will make you think the real test is a "breeze". The practice tests -- 7 in all, including the diagnostic -- are really, really difficult. The reading passages are denser than those on the SAT and the mathematics questions require a fair bit more insight and ingenuity than those found on the SAT. However, don't be discouraged when your scores aren't stratospheric if you're aiming for such a score on the real thing -- just try to build your skills so you can solve the Barron's problems then you'll have no difficulty on the real thing. As a wise man once said, "You cannot see heaven unless you've gone through hell" (paraphrasing, of course). In short, this large, but inexpensive book is really all you need for the SAT (the Blue Book, of course, for real tests is highly useful, too). If you diligently work through this book, learn a bunch of new words, practice your reading skill on the passages, work through the writing and math questions, and truly extract every last bit that this book has to offer, you will do your ultimate personal best. Which, as you may find, is almost boundless.

I have prepared students for the PSAT, SAT, ACT and have used Barron preparation all the way back to the 1980s. I use various other manuals and software, but my students tell me that the Barron is the quality preparation they need. It is more difficult than many of the resources and better enables them to score well. There is abundant testing material, answers well explained, the built-in flash cards, dictionary of vocabulary likely seen on the actual test, and available user friendly software with immediate feedback. In other words, the Barron has it all. I always know that when my

students treat this manual as another text book, completing everything offered, their expectations will be fulfilled. My students tell me they know they have had the material that is more difficult than that of the actual tests which gives them a sense of being well prepared in the testing environment.

Barron's has a reputation for being tougher than the real test. If you can master Barron's then you will be in good shape.

What is there to say? Barron's provides simply the best preparation manual for the SAT. It not only familiarizes one with the test, but it is also packed with tips on how to get through some questions faster and how to "beat" some tricky questions. The CD-ROM, which replicates taking the test online, is a godsend. However, save taking the CD-ROM tests until after you've read through the book in order to give yourself a more accurate idea of how you'll do on the test and where you have to really concentrate your efforts.

This is very solid book for SAT studying. It can be on the difficult side, but I highly recommend for most students.

Comprehensive

It's clean and nice condition

I used the mathematics portion of this book for my SAT prep class students. It is pretty good even with detail solutions. However, it did have a few mistakes due to typo errors. Overall, it is a good study material for SAT I.

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