Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning

Grade 11

Prerequisite: None

ABSTRACT

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning course provides the skills students apply when preparing for post-secondary education. Test-taking strategies introduced and practiced are transferable to other testing options, such as the American College Test (ACT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) II, as well as to trade entrance examinations. The curriculum encompasses review and practice of all aspects of preparation for continuing education or job applications including, but not limited to, college interviews, essay writing, preparation of résumés, and communication skills, as well as realistic planning and development of timelines to attain satisfying future professional goals.
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<th>Month/Marking Period</th>
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<td>How can we write a cohesive essay that communicates our themes and ideas to the reader?</td>
<td>How can critical reading assist in determining the overall theme and message of a passage?</td>
<td>How are mathematical problem-solving techniques identified?</td>
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<td>Content:</td>
<td>Writing Open-ended Responses to Specific Prompts</td>
<td>Critical Reading of Test Questions, Open-ended Prompts, and Nonfiction Passages</td>
<td>Mathematics Skills</td>
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| Skills and Topics: | • read questions carefully and identify what each question is asking  
• read every answer choice provided carefully  
• develop strategies for taking educated guesses if applicable  
• recognize the difference between a good guess and a bad guess  
• summarize test-taking strategies  
• evaluate the formation of sentences:  
  o identify sentence errors  
  o improve sentences  
  o improve paragraphs  
  o improve consistency  
  o outline a logical expression of ideas  
  o evaluate for clarity and precision  
  o use appropriate writing conventions  
• identify the influence of vocabulary on the SAT, as well as on real-world experiences  
• practice essay writing:  
  o develop an argument  
  o determine perspective from which to write  
  o relate writing assignment to the scoring rubric | • read questions carefully and evaluate for specific testing vocabulary (e.g., justify, validate, summarize)  
• read passages critically, identifying characterization, theme, plot, and figurative language  
• translate unknown vocabulary words using a dictionary and thesaurus (document in diary or log)  
• identify author’s point of view  
• distinguish between fact and opinion  
• interpret the meaning, vocabulary, and context clues within a passage  
• review and implement basic grammar conventions in speaking and writing | • review computational skills  
• demonstrate the proper order of operations when solving a problem  
• review and apply commonly-used mathematical formulas  
• evaluate and solve algebraic equations and functions  
• relate geometric properties to shapes and figures and use to solve real-world problems  
• use measurement strategies and dimensional analysis to determine dimensions within and between given measurement systems (British versus Scientific International)  
• demonstrate use of probability to determine the likelihood of occurrences with and without replacement  
• use graphical representations to answer questions  
• demonstrate appropriate use of a graphing calculator  
• demonstrate problem-solving techniques in a variety of situations |
## SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning

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| **Skills and Topics:** | o write in a clear and concise manner  
o proofread for grammar and spelling  
- conduct peer reviews to generate discussion pertaining to the elements necessary to gain significant improvement on the essay component of the examination | | • recognize problems that have multiple solutions  
• recognize multiple methods for solving problems  
• respond to open-ended and free-response prompts |
| **Integration of Technology:** | Online tests and quizzes provided through the College Board’s SAT application, graphing calculators, video streaming, podcasting | | |
| **Writing:** | Informal writing pieces, logs, essays, open-ended and free-responses | | |
| **Formative Assessments:** | Informal writing pieces, writing prompts, essays, quizzes, scoring rubric | | |
| **Summative Assessments:** | Quizzes, tests, midterm examination  
Note: SAT results are not incorporated for grading purposes | | |
| **Performance Assessments:** | Authentic assessments | | |
| **Interdisciplinary Connections:** | ELA:  
Mathematics:  
Science: 5.1.12.A.1, 5.1.12.D.1  
Arts:  
Health/PE:  
World Language:  
21st Century Life/Careers:  
Mathematics:  
Science: 5.1.12.A.1, 5.1.12.D.1  
Arts:  
Health/PE:  
World Language:  
21st Century Life/Careers:  
Mathematics:  
Arts:  
Health/PE:  
World Language:  
| **21st Century Themes:** | ☑ Global Awareness  
☑ Civic Literacy  
☒ Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy  
☐ Health Literacy | | |
| **21st Century Skills:** | ☑ Creativity and Innovation  
☐ Media Literacy  
☐ Critical Thinking and Problem Solving  
☐ Life and Career Skills  
☐ Information and Communication Technologies Literacy  
☐ Communication and Collaboration  
☐ Information Literacy | | |
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*2010 Common Core Content Standards:

RST: Reading in Science and Technical Subjects
WHST: Writing in History, Science, and Technical Subjects
SL: Speaking and Listening
L: Language

N: Real Number System
A: Algebra
F: Functions
G: Geometry
S: Statistics and Probability
MD: Measurement and Data
N-Q: Quantities
N-VM: Vector and Matrix Quantities
A-SSE: Seeing Structure in Expressions
A-REI: Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities
F-IF: Interpreting Functions
F-BF: Building Functions
F-LE: Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models
F-TF: Trigonometric Functions

G-CO: Congruence
G-SRT: Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry
G-C: Circles
G-GPE: Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations
S-ID: Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data
S-IC: Making Inferences and Justifying Conclusions
S-MD: Using Probability to Make Decisions
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<td></td>
<td>SL.11-12.1, SL.11-12.6, 9.1.12.A.4, 9.2.12.C.1,5</td>
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**Essential Question:**  
- How can I write a college essay that exemplifies my writing skills?  
- What is the most important personal information to include in a résumé?  
- What specific skills do I possess that are marketable?  
- How can I best represent my strengths and accomplishments?

**Content:**  
- College Essay Writing  
- The Résumé  
- Job/College Seeking  
- Portfolio Presentation

**Skills and Topics:**  
- **College Essay Writing:**  
  - explore possible essay and/or interview questions that may be asked by colleges  
  - outline the various college expectations  
  - examine the reasons colleges look at writing samples as entrance criteria  
  - investigate possible future careers and begin planning for the future:  
    - research a career  
    - determine the least and greatest amount of education needed to be successful in that career  
    - identify career paths that require internships prior to employment  
  - practice writing essays for acceptance into different colleges  
- **The Résumé:**  
  - organize personal, educational, and extracurricular credentials chronologically  
  - construct a personal résumé that is reliable and sophisticated  
  - evaluate résumé samples  
  - develop a list of individuals who would provide a college recommendation  
  - build a “brag sheet” to provide background information on which to base letters of recommendation  
  - complete sample college and employment applications  
- **Job/College Seeking:**  
  - explore the qualifications for specific entry-level positions  
  - determine an appropriate format for a cover letter to respond to employment opportunities  
  - create sophisticated cover letters specific to positions and qualifications  
  - review the methodology for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship forms  
  - explore the sources and criteria for various scholarships  
  - develop a summary of advice provided by financial aid speakers  
- **Portfolio Presentation:**  
  - organize credentials into an authentic assessment portfolio:  
    - résumés  
    - cover letters  
    - transcripts  
    - letters of recommendation  
  - demonstrate job preparedness through a role-play interview juried by peers

**Integration of Technology:**  
- Online tests and quizzes provided through the College Board’s SAT application, Discover software, video streaming, podcasting

**Writing:**  
- Informal writing pieces, logs, essays, open-ended and free-responses
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### 21st Century Themes:
- Global Awareness
- Civic Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Health Literacy

### 21st Century Skills:
- Creativity and Innovation
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- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
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- S-CP: Conditional Probability and the Rules of Probability
- S-MD: Using Probability to Make Decisions
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning
Course Requirements

Grade: 11  Prerequisite: None  Credit Value: 5  Length of Course: Academic Year

Course Description

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning course provides the skills students apply when preparing for post-secondary education. Test-taking strategies introduced and practiced are transferable to other testing options, such as the American College Test (ACT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) II, as well as to trade entrance examinations. The curriculum encompasses review and practice of all aspects of preparation for continuing education or job applications including, but not limited to, college interviews, essay writing, preparation of résumés, and communication skills, as well as realistic planning and development of timelines to attain satisfying future professional goals.

Course Content

This course will consist of the following units of study:

- Writing Open-ended Responses to Specific Prompts
- Critical Reading of Test Questions, Open-ended Prompts, and Nonfiction Passages
- Mathematics Skills
- College Essay Writing
- The Résumé
- Job/College Seeking
- Portfolio Presentation

Course Objectives

The student will demonstrate the ability to answer in detail the following essential questions:

- How can we write a cohesive essay that communicates our themes and ideas to the reader?
- How can critical reading assist in determining the overall theme and message of a passage?
- How are mathematical problem-solving techniques identified?
- How can I write a college essay that exemplifies my writing skills?
- What is the most important personal information to include in a résumé?
Course Objectives (continued)

- What specific skills do I possess that are marketable?
- How can I best represent my strengths and accomplishments?
- What are the post-graduation and/or career options that apply to the course content?

Evaluation Process

A final average of 65% or better is required to be awarded course credit. Throughout the length of this course, students may be evaluated on the basis of, but not limited to:

- Formative Assessments, such as writing prompts, journals, and portfolios
- Summative Assessments, such as quizzes, tests, and midterm and final examinations
- Performance Assessments, such as projects and presentations
- Class Participation
- Homework

Specific weights will be determined by course and level.
My signature below indicates that I have received a copy of the Somerville Public Schools Course Requirements for Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning.

I acknowledge my responsibility to read and understand all of the information contained in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning Course Requirements information and syllabus packet.

Student Signature

Date

Note: Please share the course requirements for Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Preparation/Post-Secondary Career Planning with your parents.