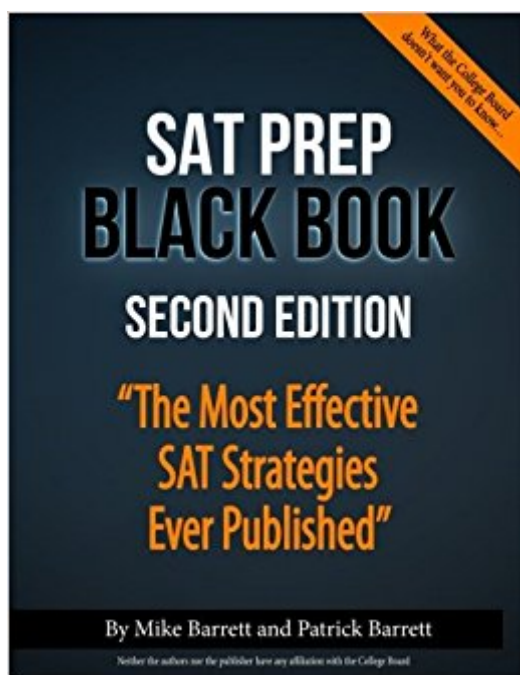


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SAT Prep Black Book: The Most Effective SAT Strategies Ever Published



Synopsis

Click the "look inside" feature above to browse the SAT Black Book and get a feel for how it approaches the SAT! The fully up-to-date SAT Prep Black Book, Second Edition gives you unique, effective SAT strategies from Mike Barrett, an SAT tutor with clients all over the globe who pay him hundreds of dollars an hour for phone tutoring. In addition to extensive and effective training on every aspect of the SAT, the SAT Black Book gives you detailed, systematic, easy-to-follow walkthroughs for every question in 4 of the College Board's official SAT Practice Tests. The Black Book is a must-have in your SAT preparation, whether you need to make a perfect 1600 to be competitive at an Ivy, score a 450 in each section to claim a sports scholarship, or anything in between. You can find the first 4 Practice SAT tests from the College Board for free on the College Board's website, or in the "Blue Book," which is the College Board's Official SAT Study Guide, 2016 Edition or 2018 Edition---both editions contain the first 4 official SAT practice tests. (The SAT Prep Black Book has no affiliation with the College Board.) The Black Book and the real practice SAT tests from the College Board are all you need to get your best possible SAT score. The Black Book is the ideal SAT book for 3 major reasons: It covers every aspect of the test with advice that actually works, making it unique in the SAT prep field. It doesn't just review material from your high school classes! Instead, you'll learn to exploit design flaws in the SAT, using its own "SAT tricks" against it. The Black Book contains 600+ detailed, systematic, easy-to-follow walkthroughs for real SAT questions from the College Board, so you know that what you're learning actually works. You'll see every question from the first 4 official SAT Practice Tests attacked in a way that clearly demonstrates the ideal thought process on the SAT. (You'll need your own copies of those real SAT practice tests, which you can get for free from the College Board's website. You can also find them in the College Board's 2016 or 2018 "Blue Book.") The Black Book is a clear, concise roadmap to the SAT. (See the selected highlights below). It explains exactly how every SAT question works, and how to beat it in the least time possible. Selected Highlights from the SAT Prep Black Book: Why the SAT isn't designed like a high school test, and how this fact influences every aspect of the proper approach to SAT preparation | Why every SAT question can only have one valid answer, no matter how much it might seem otherwise sometimes | How to look at SAT questions the same way the College Board does when it writes them | Why it's so important to work with real SAT questions from the College Board | and why you shouldn't pay much attention to the College Board's written explanations for those questions! What you're actually supposed to do when the SAT asks you about an author's attitude | Why you

shouldn't put your faith in diagnostic tests, even if they come from the College Board | The important implications of viewing time as an investment on test day | The simple formula that allows you to crank out a top-scoring essay (that is, if you even need to take the SAT Essay in the first place) | The special grammatical rules that are followed by the SAT Writing and Language section | and how they sometimes differ from common usage in school | The unwritten rules for every kind of SAT question | The many ways to approach an SAT Math question, and which ones are likely to work best for you | Why the "order of difficulty" doesn't really exist | Why every real SAT question can potentially be answered in under 30 seconds | And much more than we can fit in this space |

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mike Barrett has been helping people do better on standardized tests since he was in high school. In college, he worked briefly for Kaplan but left when it became clear to him that the Kaplan method was irreconcilably different from the way he naturally thought about the test. A few months after Mike graduated from college with a degree in linguistics, his younger brothers needed help with the SAT, so he taught them his approach to the test. Word of their success spread throughout their high school, and Mike was soon offering informal SAT tutoring to a few dozen of his brothers' friends. One of those students recommended to Mike that he set up his own SAT preparation company. He thought about that for a couple of weeks and decided to pursue it. Since then, Mike has used a

variety of channels to help tens of thousands of students with the SAT, PSAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, ISEE, and SSAT. He regularly travels to work with students all across the United States, and consults with students all over the world through Skype. He speaks at live events as well, and is available for booking. Mike's SAT strategies are so different from the traditional approach because he analyzes standardized tests from the ground up, rather than simply assuming that they cover the material they claim to cover. In other words, most SAT tutors and courses teach the same math, reading, and writing skills that you learn in high school, because they take the College Board's word then it claims that the SAT is a test of college readiness. According to Mike, SAT questions rely on very basic concepts but present them in very strange ways. So students who want to improve their test scores shouldn't waste time re-learning what they've already learned in school - instead, they should learn how the SAT actually works, so they can take their existing knowledge and leverage it into a higher score. And this is exactly what Mike teaches you to do in the SAT Prep Black Book. In addition to the extensive training, which describes how to approach every type of real SAT question on test day, the second edition of the Black Book also contains over 600 detailed walkthroughs of real SAT questions. These walkthroughs model the ideal thought process for every SAT question, and make a point of demonstrating how to apply the practical lessons from each question to what you'll see in the future on test day. If you want to understand how the SAT actually works, you need to read this book.

I waited for it to come out for a long time. I was a big fan of the earlier edition. This edition is even better, in my opinion. Some parts discuss general ideas related to studying for the SAT, such as time management and how to guess in the most effective way. Then, the book covers the different sections, such as the reading, math, and writing. For each section, the authors provide complete analysis and solutions for every single question in four SAT's available from the College Board. These solutions are presented in a way that makes the thought process very clear. The solutions also include alternative approaches most of the times, so you really start to understand how many ways there are to do a question. In my opinion, these detailed solutions are the things that make this book really the best for SAT preparation. They make it so you are basically sitting in the authors' mind while they dismantle test after test. (The authors' explanations are much better than the explanation from the College Board. The authors cover why it's so important to have good explanations for real SAT questions in the early part of the book.) My only small quibble is that the explanations are for questions that can only be got from the College Board, but this has to be this way, because you need those questions no matter what and it is illegal to copy entire questions

from the College Board, so they have to refer you to the College Board questions. You should also know that it is possible to download free copies of the questions from the College Board site, so you don't have to buy the College Board book, but you can if you want. Overall, it is the best book for the SAT I've seen that just fully explains every facet of the SAT, and it provides hundreds of demonstrations against real test questions from the SAT, making it unique in my experience. It gives the reader full confidence that they can defeat anything they see on the real SAT. Even though it has a lot of pages, it is clear and concise and easy to read. It also has little hints of humor, which I appreciate!

I had a great experience with the first edition of the SAT Prep Black Book, so I ordered the new edition for my cousin. Here is his review: (Before I really start my review, remember that when you get ready for the SAT, no matter what you need to get practice tests from the College Board! Either from the College Board's book or you can download them free from their website. Then you can get the most out of this book/your prep in general.) The book is HUGE (more than 600 pages) but a lot of that is him explaining the practice SAT questions from the College Board. The actual advice for the different SAT sections is surprisingly easy to read and understand and made me feel a lot better when I used to be really nervous about this test. I haven't read all the question explanations yet (there's SO MANY) but the one's I looked at really helped and made the practice questions they were for seem a lot simpler than I realized. Love it!

The second edition of the SAT Black Book by Mike and Patrick Barrett is a real find. The authors provide many effective strategies for dealing with all the sections of the SAT. They have a coherent plan from which they never stray. Their clear and flowing conversational style of writing enhances the readability of the text, but it is the obvious value of their strategies and the compelling way in which they present them that turns the SAT Prep Black Book into a page-turner. Any time they seem to go off on a tangent, they do so for a clear purpose and immediately snap back to the point at hand. In the beginning of the book, they offer very simple ideas for the student to keep in mind while doing the reading test: The College Board can't afford to be ambiguous, there is only one answer for each question, and the correct answer can be found in the text. To me, those ideas constitute such an effective strategy, that if the remaining 542 pages of the book were blank, I would not have asked for my money back. Far from blank, those remaining pages take the students on a guided tour of hundreds of real SAT questions in which they are given front-row seats to the authors' thinking process and endless opportunities for practice. The book

further ingratiates itself with the reader with small details. The spacing, the variety of fonts, and the very white pages contrasted with the black print all make the book more inviting and easier to read. On every page, I can feel that the book has been a labor of love for the authors and that they have a genuine concern for the futures of their students. I sincerely thank Mike and Patrick Barrett. Their innovative ideas and the brilliance of their explanations will redound to the success that both my students and I are sure to enjoy for years to come.

Great book! Has a lot of useful information regarding the SAT and how it works. Explanations are much more in-depth than College Board

This book is hands down the most useful book you could use to raise your score for the New SAT. I'm a rising junior scheduled to take the SAT this October, and so far my family's spent hundreds of dollars on outside tutors and tuition programs to teach me the "hidden secrets" of the SAT and understand the ins and outs of this standardized test. This book will cover nearly all the strategies taught by outside, private tutors AND teach you how to truly understand the test, why the College Board designed it the way it is, and how to exploit its weaknesses to your advantage. Not only that, but you get detailed answer explanations for every question of every section of four real College Board SAT tests, covering why every wrong answer is wrong and why every right answer is objectively right. This book has been my holy grail in self-preparation for the New SAT, and I highly recommend you buy it if you are serious about raising your score by at least a couple hundred points. If you are still unsure about this book, just let its five-star reviews speak for themselves. Enjoy!

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