

Educator Guide: Building Your Students' Skills Through Practice



You can use official practice resources from College Board year-round to inform classroom activities and build your students' skills. Here's how.



DIAGNOSTIC

For a helpful snapshot into your students' skills at the beginning of the year, have students try an official Bluebook™ practice test for any of the exams in the SAT® Suite of Assessments. Students can download their practice score reports in My Practice and share them with you so you can identify their individual strengths and growth areas. You may also recognize specific skills where your class as a whole could use some more support, empowering you to tailor your curriculum to their needs. Plus, by practicing in Bluebook, your students will have a chance to see what a real test is like.



EDUCATOR QUESTION BANK

If you're looking for a way to prepare students' minds for learning, our Educator Question Bank is a perfect resource for bell-ringer questions. Filter by assessment, test (Reading and Writing or Math), domain, and skill to find the questions that fit your classroom. Additionally, the state standards filter provides questions directly aligned to a growing list of states. You can also scaffold instruction by increasing the difficulty level throughout the year as students work toward mastery.



QUESTION OF THE DAY

For another bell-ringer activity that feels more like a game, encourage your students to answer the Question of the Day. Each day, students can choose to answer a Reading and Writing question or a Math question, earning a variety of fun badges and building streaks for different accomplishments while they work on practice questions. For more information, visit gotd.collegeboard.org.



MOCK EXAM

For a practice experience that's as close to test day as possible, consider hosting a mock SAT or PSAT-related exam for your class—or with your entire school. The Test Day section of the *Test Coordinator Manual* includes step-by-step instructions. The official full-length practice tests in Bluebook replicate the testing experience for students, including testing with accommodations. Not only will this exercise help students understand what to expect on test day, but it will also prepare you to administer the tests as you practice organizing testing rooms with appropriate seating arrangements, reading through a [sample proctor script](#), and monitoring for any irregularities.



SKILL SUPPORT

You can find free, engaging videos to walk students through how to solve a problem or answer a question on [Khan Academy](#)[®]. Their Official SAT Prep can support your instruction by reinforcing key ideas and showing how classroom learning may appear on the SAT and other assessments. Your students can also use Khan Academy to review skills at different difficulty levels as they progress toward mastery.



GOAL SETTING

When your students share their practice score reports with you, you'll see a progress bar that shows their level of understanding across each domain on the test. If a student's score falls in the first three bands on the progress bar, they may need help to solidify their [knowledge of that domain](#). The middle two bands on the progress bar represent a basic understanding of the skills in that domain, but the student may struggle with more challenging questions. Students who score in the final two bands on the progress bar are nearing mastery of the skills in that domain. You can use this information to help students practice questions at the appropriate difficulty level as they continue to build skills.



CROSS-DISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

The SAT Suite may focus on math, reading, and writing, but the content in our passages and questions covers a wide range of academic subject areas, including history/social studies, the humanities, and science. If you teach one of these subjects, spend some time looking through the Educator Question Bank for questions to use in your classroom. Your students can engage with relevant content while getting important practice for their next big assessment.

To access our practice resources and discover effective ways to use them, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice.

“I’ve personally used all these methods with my classes. The diagnostics helped me differentiate instruction all year, the questions of the day and practice tests gave my students confidence, and Khan Academy helped them build their skills outside of class. With these practice resources, my juniors saw substantial growth from their fall PSAT/NMSQT to their spring SAT. They improved their scores by 60 points and outperformed the state average as well!”

—Erin Carlson, Sandusky Junior/Senior High School