Perfect1600

FREE PRACTICE SET

20 practice questions modeled on the August 22, 2026 SAT

10 Reading and Writing, 10 Math. A mix of easy, medium and hard.

Read our full breakdown of the August 2026 SAT:
perfect1600.com/blog/august-2026-sat-breakdown

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How to use it: give yourself about 1 minute per question. The answers and short explanations are at the back.

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What was on this test

What students told us about the August 22, 2026 SAT.

- Math was the hard half. Nearly all the tough questions were in Math Module 2.
- Vocab caused the most arguments. Watch for sentences that call something an exaggeration. Pick the word that overstates it.
- Some data questions asked what the data can't prove. If the numbers don't settle it, pick the choice that says so.
- Hard math questions were normal topics with one extra step. A rectangle inside a circle has a diagonal equal to the circle's diameter.
- Spacing questions asked how many posts or fasteners fit. Find the number of gaps first. There's always one more post than gaps.
- Desmos helped on graph questions. Zoom out first so you see the whole graph.

Want the full picture, with worked examples? Read the breakdown:
perfect1600.com/blog/august-2026-sat-breakdown

1 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Untreated cotton absorbs moisture readily, which is precisely why the textile chemist Marisol Ferreira undertook to _____ the fiber with a property it does not naturally possess. Drawing the woven cloth through a bath of plant-derived wax and subsequently curing it under comparatively low heat deposits a coating thin enough to preserve the weave's breathability while causing water droplets to bead and roll away from the treated surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A reconcile

B supplant

C imbue

D appraise

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2 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Ecologists once assigned each species to a single rung of the food chain, a scheme that fails wherever an animal takes food from several rungs at once. _____ the brown bear draws on salmon, on the carcasses of deer killed by other predators, and on sedge shoots and berries, feeding as carnivore, scavenger, and herbivore within one season.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A Likewise,

B Nevertheless,

C In summary,

D For example,

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3 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Plants sharing a habitat may meet the same drought by opposite means. Rosemary reduces water loss by closing its stomata early in the day, whereas soybean instead sends roots deeper into the soil profile. One species may therefore still be drawing water from depth, _____ another has already shut its pores for the day.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A for instance, while

B for instance while

C for instance; while

D for instance, while,

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4 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Roughly 90 percent of people in every population yet studied favor the right hand, a skew considerably stronger than anything documented in other primates. The primatologist Emeka Adeyemi scored hand preference in 212 chimpanzees performing a standardized reaching task at two separate locations in the same region. Animals housed at a sanctuary, where keepers handle and feed them daily, reached with the right hand in 78 percent of trials, while animals in a forest enclosure with minimal human contact reached right in 54 percent of trials, a figure close to chance.

Which choice best explains the difference Adeyemi recorded between the two groups?

A Chimpanzees in the forest enclosure faced a reaching task that was less standardized than the one used at the sanctuary.

B Daily contact with strongly right-handed keepers led the sanctuary animals to take up the same preference.

C Right-hand preference in chimpanzees strengthens with age, and the sanctuary animals were older on average.

D Chimpanzees held in enclosures reach with whichever hand is nearer the food, regardless of any preference.

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5 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

The following text is an excerpt from Tamsin Oyelowo's 2019 poem "The Long Field."

Once she would carry every discovery homeward,
the fledgling, the chipped blue egg, the limestone
with a fern impression pressed into its surface,
and arrange them along the kitchen windowsill
for any visitor to examine and admire.
Now she walks the identical hedgerow at nightfall
and leaves the abandoned nest wherever the wind deposited it.
She mentions nothing whatever at supper
of the fox she watched for a long minute
standing motionless in the frozen winter stubble.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

A The speaker's subject has lost the interest in the hedgerow that once drew her out to explore it

B Years of walking the same ground have made her far more observant than she used to be

C Animals she meets on her walks now hold more appeal for her than her own family does

D She is less inclined than she once was to gather up what she finds and display it for others

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6 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Immersion cooling circulates a dielectric fluid past the servers themselves and returns the collected heat to the outside air through a sealed loop, so that the quantity of water consumed over a year of operation is smaller than that of a single household. Siting such a facility in a basin where the aquifer is already drawn down faster than it recharges would therefore do little to _____ a shortage that decades of irrigation have produced.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A exacerbate

B chronicle

C assuage

D anticipate

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7 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Gardeners and field guides alike maintain that nectar-feeding birds preferentially seek out the blossoms offering them the richest available energetic reward. A particular flower's sugar yield ought, on that assumption, to predict reasonably accurately how frequently foraging birds will visit it. Working across 41 flowering species in the Kenyan highlands, the ornithologist Beatrix Solheim measured both the sugar concentration of every blossom and the correspondence between its corolla geometry and the characteristic curvature of the malachite sunbird's bill. Visitation rates tracked the geometric correspondence closely and demonstrated no relationship whatever to sugar concentration, a pattern which suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A the sunbirds are able to assess a bloom's sugar concentration only after they have probed it with the bill.

B sunbirds will regularly feed at blooms of low sugar concentration when those blooms fit the bill well.

C corolla shape and sugar concentration vary together across the 41 species Solheim examined.

D sunbirds treat sugar concentration as a secondary consideration once a suitable corolla shape has been found.

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8 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Cadmium dissolves more readily in acidic conditions, so agronomists have long anticipated that raising a field's pH with agricultural lime will reduce the quantity of the metal that crops accumulate in their tissues. Testing that expectation across 60 experimental plots, the soil scientist Anika Roussel applied lime at four different rates, measured acidity in samples drawn from the uppermost ten centimeters, and assayed cadmium concentrations in the harvested grain. Soil pH rose substantially in every treated plot, exactly as the treatment intended. Grain cadmium, however, did not decline at any application rate.

Which finding, if true, would most directly account for the outcome Roussel observed?

A In the narrow zone of soil surrounding the roots, organic compounds released by the crop keep cadmium in solution regardless of the surrounding pH.

B Cadmium concentrations in the harvested grain varied more between plots receiving the same lime rate than between plots receiving different rates.

C Lime applied at the highest rate raised soil pH more slowly during the first season than at the lower rates.

D Grain from untreated plots in an adjacent field contained cadmium at concentrations comparable to those Roussel measured.

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9 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Six experimental alloy samples were prepared for comparison, three of them by arc heating and three by induction heating, with cobalt content deliberately varied within each group of three. The metallurgist Ines Vargas contends that tensile strength in these particular alloys is governed by their cobalt content rather than by the heating process employed to produce them, an assertion implying that two samples of comparable cobalt content ought to reach comparable strength regardless of which process produced them. The accompanying table reports the heating process, the measured cobalt content, and the resulting tensile strength for each of the six samples.

Tensile Strength of Six Alloy Samples by Heating Process and Cobalt Content

Sample	Heating process	Cobalt content (%)	Tensile strength (MPa)
S1	Arc	2.1	640
S2	Arc	8.4	1,180
S3	Arc	5.0	910
S4	Induction	2.3	655
S5	Induction	8.1	1,160
S6	Induction	4.8	895

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support Vargas's contention?

A The three arc-heated samples reached a higher average tensile strength than the three induction-heated samples did.

B Sample S2 had both the highest cobalt content, at 8.4%, and the highest tensile strength, at 1,180 MPa.

C Samples with similar cobalt content reached similar tensile strengths whether they were arc-heated or induction-heated.

D Tensile strength across the six samples ranged from 640 MPa to 1,180 MPa, a spread of 540 MPa.

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10 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Text 1

Surveying 3,400 published papers, Dario Lindqvist reports that studies in the social sciences record a positive result, one confirming the hypothesis the authors set out to test, in 87 percent of cases, against 62 percent in the physical sciences. He reads the gap as a measure of methodological looseness: the softer the field, the easier it becomes to arrive at the finding one went looking for.

Text 2

Lindqvist's two rates are not counting the same thing. A physical scientist testing a hypothesis can usually run the decisive experiment and publish whatever it returns, a clean negative included. A social scientist ordinarily cannot, and the discipline's journals have long declined to print null results, so the population of published social science papers has already been filtered by editorial preference rather than by what the research itself found.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to Lindqvist's reading of the gap in Text 1?

A Methodological looseness afflicts the physical sciences too, so the gap Lindqvist reports understates the difficulty.

B The two rates are accurate, but a rate computed from published papers does not measure what Lindqvist takes it to measure.

C Lindqvist's 3,400 papers were drawn disproportionately from the social sciences rather than from the physical ones.

D Confirming a starting hypothesis indicates little about research quality in any field, whichever of the two rates is higher.

11 MATH · MEDIUM

The equation $x^2 + 12x + k = 0$ has exactly one real solution. What is k?

A -36

B 3

C 36

D 144

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12 MATH · MEDIUM

In the xy-plane, the graphs of $y = rx + 4$ and $y = -2x + 20$ intersect at the point where $x = 4$. What is the value of r?

A 0

B 2

C 3

D 6

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13 MATH · MEDIUM

The population of a town doubles every 40 years. In the year 2000, the population was 96,000.

What was the population of the town in the year 1800?

Write your answer: _____

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14 MATH · MEDIUM

In the xy-plane, line j is defined by $3x + By = 0$, where B is a constant. Line k passes through the points $(2, 5)$ and $(10, 11)$, and line k is perpendicular to line j.

What is the value of B?

A -4

B $-\frac{9}{4}$

C $\frac{9}{4}$

D 4

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15 MATH · HARD

A carpenter drives fasteners along a straight rail that is $12x$ feet long, where x is a positive integer. She places one fastener at each end of the rail and spaces the rest evenly, with $\frac{4}{7}$ of a foot between consecutive fasteners.

Which expression represents the number of fasteners she uses?

A $\frac{48x}{7}$

B $\frac{48x}{7} + 1$

C $21x$

D $21x + 1$

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16 MATH · HARD

Spheres A and B touch at exactly one point, P. The radius of sphere A is 7 times the radius of sphere B, and the volume of sphere B is 288π. Segment $\overline{MP}$ is a diameter of sphere A, and segment $\overline{NP}$ is a diameter of sphere B, so that M, P, and N lie on one line.

What is the length of $\overline{MN}$?

Write your answer:

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17 MATH · HARD

In the xy-plane, line m is defined by $4x + 8y = c$ and line n is defined by $y = x + c$, where c is a constant. The point (p, r) lies on line m, and the point $(9p, 10r)$ lies on line n, where p is positive.

What is r in terms of p?

A $\frac{5p}{18}$

B $\frac{13p}{10}$

C $\frac{13p}{2}$

D $14p$

---

18 MATH · HARD

The system of equations $6x + 15y = c$ and $\frac{2}{5}x + y = d$ has infinitely many solutions, where c and d are nonzero constants.

What is the value of $\frac{c}{d}$?

Write your answer:

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19 MATH · HARD

In the equation $\frac{x-a}{x^2-a^2} = \frac{3}{4x}$, a is a constant and $x = 6$ is a solution.

What is the value of a?

Write your answer:

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20 MATH · HARD

Each of two samples, P and Q, consists of 27 values, and every value is an integer from 10 through 59. The table groups the values of each sample into five intervals of equal width but does not record the individual values.

Frequency Distributions of Two Samples, Each of 27 Values

Interval	Sample P frequency	Sample Q frequency
10 to 19	4	9
20 to 29	6	5
30 to 39	9	3
40 to 49	5	4
50 to 59	3	6

What is the smallest possible value of the difference between the mean of sample P and the mean of sample Q?

A 0

B 1

C 4

D 23

ANSWERS

Step-by-step explanations for every question are at perfect1600.com.

1	**C**	Cotton doesn't repel water on its own. Ferreira wanted to give it that property. Imbue means to fill something with a quality. Supplant means to replace, which doesn't fit.
2	**D**	The first sentence says the old system fails when an animal eats from several levels. The brown bear eats fish, dead deer and berries. That's one case of it, so use "For example."
3	**A**	"For instance" is an extra phrase, so commas go on both sides of it. Then "while" joins the two halves with no comma after it. Only A does both.
4	**B**	The sanctuary chimps spend every day with people, and most people are right-handed. Those chimps were much more right-handed. B explains the gap with that daily contact. The task was the same in both places, so A is out.
5	**D**	She used to bring home every find and show it off on the windowsill. Now she leaves the nest where it is. She doesn't even mention the fox at dinner. She still notices things, but she keeps them to herself.
6	**A**	Immersion cooling uses less water than a single household. So putting one in a dry area would barely make the shortage worse. Exacerbate means make worse. Assuage means ease, and the plant adds no water.
7	**B**	Bird visits matched flower shape and had nothing to do with sugar. So birds must visit low-sugar flowers that fit their bills. D says sugar still counts a little, but the text found no link at all.
8	**A**	The lime raised pH in the soil samples, but cadmium in the grain didn't drop. A says the soil right around the roots keeps cadmium dissolved anyway. That explains why the lime didn't help the grain.
9	**C**	Vargas says cobalt matters and the heating method doesn't. So compare samples with similar cobalt but different heating. S1 and S4 both land near 650. S3 and S6 both land near 900. Only C makes that comparison.
10	**B**	Text 2 says the numbers are right but don't mean what Lindqvist thinks. Social science journals refuse to print studies that found nothing. So published papers look more positive than the research really was.
11	**C**	One solution means $b^2 - 4ac = 0$. Here $144 - 4k = 0$, so $k = 36$. You can also spot the perfect square: $(x + 6)^2 = x^2 + 12x + 36$.
12	**B**	Both lines meet where $x = 4$. The second line gives $y = -2(4) + 20 = 12$. Then $4r + 4 = 12$, so $r = 2$.

13	**3000**	1800 is 200 years before 2000. That's $200 \div 40 = 5$ doublings. Go backward by halving 5 times: $96{,}000 \div 32 = 3{,}000$.
14	**C**	Line k has slope $\frac{11-5}{10-2} = \frac{3}{4}$. A perpendicular line has slope $-\frac{4}{3}$. Line j has slope $-\frac{3}{B}$, so $-\frac{3}{B} = -\frac{4}{3}$ and $B = \frac{9}{4}$.
15	**D**	The rail is $12x$ feet, and each gap is $\frac{4}{7}$ foot. That makes $12x \div \frac{4}{7} = 21x$ gaps. There's one more fastener than gaps, so the answer is $21x + 1$.
16	**96**	$\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 = 288\pi$ gives $r^3 = 216$, so sphere B's radius is 6. Sphere A's radius is $7 \times 6 = 42$. The two diameters line up end to end: $84 + 12 = 96$.
17	**C**	Plug each point into its line. Line m gives $c = 4p + 8r$. Line n gives $10r = 9p + c$. Substitute: $10r = 13p + 8r$, so $2r = 13p$ and $r = \frac{13p}{2}$.
18	**15**	Infinitely many solutions means the two equations are the same line. Multiply the second one by 15: $6x + 15y = 15d$. So $c = 15d$, and $\frac{c}{d} = 15$.
19	**2**	Factor the bottom: $x^2 - a^2 = (x - a)(x + a)$. The left side becomes $\frac{1}{x+a}$. With $x = 6$, $\frac{1}{6+a} = \frac{3}{24} = \frac{1}{8}$, so $a = 2$.
20	**A**	The table hides the exact values, so each mean has a range. P's total can be anywhere from 780 to 1,023. Q's total can be anywhere from 740 to 983. Those ranges overlap, so the means could be equal. The smallest difference is 0.

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