Perfect1600

FREE PRACTICE SET

20 practice questions modeled on the October 3, 2026 SAT

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

Read our full breakdown of the October 2026 SAT:
perfect1600.com/blog/october-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 October 3, 2026 SAT.

- Reading was the hard half. Module 2 had long science passages, several graphs and tough vocab.
- Math felt easier than August or September. The last few questions used letters in place of numbers.
- Hard vocab traps fit the topic but not the sentence. Read the whole sentence before you pick. A country that saved while its neighbors borrowed was anomalous, which means unusual.
- Graph questions made claims with two parts. The right answer backed up both parts. A choice that covered only one part was wrong.
- Study design questions came up. To prove a cause, assign groups at random. To apply results to everyone, pick people at random.
- Watch out for dividing both sides by the same factor. In $15(x + c)(x + 7) = 5(x + 7)$, dividing by $x + 7$ throws away the solution $x = -7$.

Want the full picture, with worked examples? Read the breakdown:
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READING AND WRITING

1 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Volcanic beaches owe their dark color to basalt - a rock rich in iron and magnesium that shatters into glossy black grains when lava meets cold seawater. Because basalt must reach the shore while still fresh, black sand accumulates in only a few kinds of coastal _____ volcanic islands such as Hawaii, subduction arcs such as Japan, and rift zones such as Iceland.

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

A settings;

B settings:

C settings,

D settings; namely

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2 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Known for avoiding interviews, the singer-songwriter Elena Varga nonetheless spent 2017 on a punishing tour of 140 shows that made her a household name. _____ in 2016 she had played only a handful of concerts, most of them in small clubs near her hometown.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A Additionally,

B On the other hand,

C Similarly,

D Therefore,

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3 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

A widely repeated claim holds that three-toed sloths sleep up to 16 hours a day, a figure derived from observations of captive animals. When zoologist Niklas Brandt equipped wild sloths in Panama with lightweight electroencephalographic monitors, he discovered that they slept fewer than 10 hours daily, results that helped _____ the popular assumption that sloths spend most of their existence motionless and unconscious.

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

A corroborate

B debunk

C popularize

D acknowledge

4 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

To test how livestock grazing affects grassland vegetation, ecologist Batbayar Ganbold and colleagues compared fenced plots that kept animals out with nearby plots grazed by sheep, goats, or yaks at four sites in Inner Mongolia that differed in yearly rainfall. The researchers concluded that grazing reduced plant biomass at every site, whatever the type of animal and whatever the local climate. They argue that this effect is a general feature of these grasslands rather than a result of conditions at particular sites.

Aboveground Plant Biomass in Fenced and Grazed Plots (grams per square meter)

Site	Grazing animal	Annual rainfall (mm)	Fenced plot	Grazed plot
Site 1	sheep	210	148	96
Site 2	goats	265	171	118
Site 3	yaks	340	226	159
Site 4	sheep	405	262	190

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the researchers' conclusion?

A Biomass at Site 4 was higher than at Site 1 in both the fenced and the grazed plots, matching its greater rainfall.

B Grazed plots at the yak site held more biomass than grazed plots at either the sheep or the goat sites.

C Fenced plots at every site held more biomass than grazed plots did, whether the plots were grazed by sheep, goats, or yaks.

D Grazed plots lost the most biomass relative to fenced plots at the site with the lowest annual rainfall in the study.

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5 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Literary historian Philippa Graves argues that Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South, first published in weekly installments in 1854 and 1855, was shaped less by Gaskell's own convictions than by her editor's demands for cliffhangers that would sell magazines. _____ Graves concedes that the novel's sympathetic portrait of striking mill workers reflects beliefs that Gaskell's middle-class Victorian readers were beginning to share.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A For this reason,

B In other words,

C Likewise,

D Still,

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6 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Throughout the eighteenth century, the governments of Britain, the Dutch Republic, and most German states financed their wars by borrowing heavily and repaying slowly. Against this background, historian Maren Lindqvist describes Sweden under King Adolf Frederick, whose treasury ran steady surpluses and retired its debts early, as fiscally _____ among its neighbors, a case that did not fit the prevailing pattern.

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

A exemplary

B portentous

C anomalous

D conventional

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7 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Scholars of the Mahabharata note that its earliest recoverable core told the war between two royal houses in a brisk, tightly sequenced narrative, while later redactors added long philosophical dialogues and embedded tales. The expanded epic, critic Anand Raghavan argues, gained interpretive depth at the cost of _____: episodes that once moved swiftly now pause for hundreds of verses.

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

A grandeur

B concision

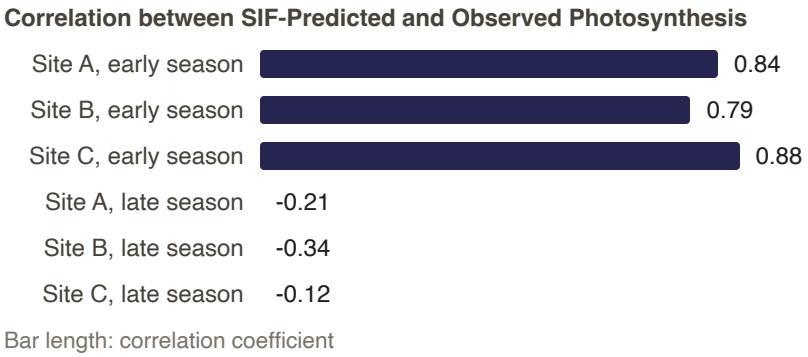
C ambiguity

D solemnity

8 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Because chlorophyll faintly re-emits some of the sunlight it absorbs, satellites can measure this solar-induced fluorescence (SIF) and use it to estimate how much carbon plants are fixing through photosynthesis. Ecologist Renata Okafor tested the method by comparing SIF-based predictions with direct measurements of photosynthesis taken at three cropland sites early and late in the growing season. She argues that late-season photosynthesis, when aging leaves respond unevenly to cold nights and dry spells, varies too much to be predicted reliably from SIF alone. As evidence, she notes that

_____



Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

A the correlation between predicted and observed photosynthesis was strongly positive at all three sites early in the season but negative at all three sites late in the season.

B the strongest early-season correlation between predicted and observed photosynthesis occurred at Site C, where it was slightly higher than at Site A or Site B.

C Site B had the weakest correlation between predicted and observed photosynthesis in both the early part and the late part of the growing season.

D late-season correlations between predicted and observed photosynthesis were closer to zero at Site C than at Site A, which in turn was closer than Site B.

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9 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Text 1

Sociologists have long complained that "culture" is used so loosely that it explains everything and therefore nothing. Yet Sofia Arenas argues that the more fundamental obstacle is not the definition itself. Even scholars who accept an identical definition, culture as the shared meanings through which a community interprets its world, routinely disagree about which practices constitute expressions of those meanings and how powerfully those meanings determine behavior. Agreement on terminology, in her estimation, settles considerably less than it appears to.

Text 2

A recent survey found that most sociologists now endorse a single definition of culture as shared meanings. Kwame Ofori concludes that this consensus has resolved the discipline's long-standing disputes about culture, freeing researchers to pursue new questions about how cultural meanings spread.

Based on the texts, how would Arenas (Text 1) most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 2?

A She would point out that even sociologists who accept the same definition of culture continue to disagree about how that definition applies to particular practices.

B Most sociologists, she would argue, in fact reject the definition of culture as shared meanings, contrary to the results of the survey that Ofori cites.

C Agreeing that a common definition has resolved earlier disputes, she would add only that new questions about how cultural meanings spread remain open.

D The term culture, she would claim, should be abandoned altogether because no definition of it can ever explain the behavior that sociologists study.

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10 READING AND WRITING · HARD

The following text is from William Shakespeare's 1609 poem Sonnet 130. Elizabethan love poetry customarily celebrated idealized mistresses through extravagant, conventional comparisons to celestial and botanical imagery, and in this sonnet Shakespeare's speaker deliberately subverts those literary expectations by describing his beloved realistically.

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare.

Which choice best describes the function of the last two lines in the text as a whole?

A The final lines apologize for the unflattering descriptions earlier in the poem, retracting them so the speaker can praise his beloved conventionally.

B Continuing the list of comparisons, the couplet adds one more way in which the beloved fails to match the ideal beauty of other love poems.

C Earlier plain comparisons are revealed as a rejection of exaggerated praise, affirming that the speaker's love is as genuine as any flattered beloved's.

D Attention shifts from the beloved to the speaker himself, who admits that his own lack of poetic skill caused the unflattering descriptions.

11 MATH · EASY

A chemist uses a sample of potassium with a positive mass of m grams in an experiment. The mass of the sample is at most 18 grams. Which inequality represents all possible values of m?

A $0 < m \leq 18$

B $0 < m < 18$

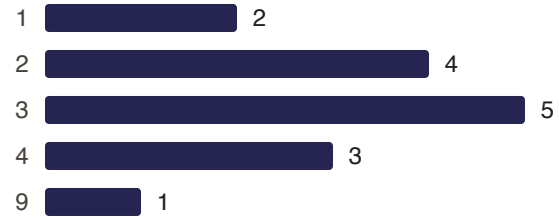
C $m \geq 18$

D $m > 18$

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12 MATH · MEDIUM

Number of Books Read Last Summer by 15 Students



Bar length: number of students

The bar graph shows the number of books read last summer by each of 15 students. If the student who read 9 books is found to have actually read 19 books, how will the mean and the median of the data change after the correction?

A Both the mean and the median will increase.

B The mean will be unchanged, and the median will increase.

C Both the mean and the median will be unchanged.

D The mean will increase, and the median will be unchanged.

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13 MATH · MEDIUM

A bacteria population has an initial size of 400,000 and doubles every 45 minutes. Which function gives the population $P(x)$ after x hours?

A $P(x) = 400{,}000(2)^{45x}$

B $P(x) = 400{,}000(2)^{\frac{3x}{4}}$

C $P(x) = 400{,}000(2)^{\frac{4x}{3}}$

D $P(x) = 400{,}000(2)^{\frac{x}{45}}$

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14 MATH · MEDIUM

Marco budgets $\frac{1}{4}$ of his monthly income, m dollars, for rent and $\frac{2}{9}$ of it for groceries. Together, these two expenses total \$1,700 each month. Which equation, written without fractions, represents this situation?

A $9m + 8m = 61{,}200$

B $9m + 8m = 1{,}700$

C $4m + 9m = 61{,}200$

D $m + 2m = 1{,}700$

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15 MATH · MEDIUM

The mean score of 160 students on a history exam was 72. The 160 students were divided into two groups: the 40 students in the first group had a mean score of 60. What was the mean score of the remaining 120 students?

Write your answer: _____

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16 MATH · MEDIUM

A concrete pipe is shaped like a hollow right circular cylinder with a length of 50 inches. The outer radius of the pipe is 10 inches, and the inner radius is 8 inches. What is the volume, in cubic inches, of the concrete in the pipe?

A 200π

B $1{,}800\pi$

C $3{,}200\pi$

D $5{,}000\pi$

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17 MATH · HARD

Priya's earnings in 2024 were 12% greater than her earnings in 2023, and her earnings in 2025 were 5% greater than her earnings in 2024. Her earnings in 2025 were $p\%$ greater than her earnings in 2023. What is the value of p?

A 6.7

B 7

C 17

D 17.6

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18 MATH · HARD

$$15(x+c)(x+7)=5(x+7)$$

In the given equation, c is a constant. If the sum of the solutions to the equation is $-\frac{38}{3}$, what is the value of c?

Write your answer:

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19 MATH · HARD

Points B and D lie on a circle with center O and a diameter of 540. The lines tangent to the circle at B and at D intersect at point P, and the measure of angle BPD is $80°$. The length of minor arc BD is $b\pi$. What is the value of b?

Write your answer:

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20 MATH · HARD

In rectangle $ABCD$, diagonal AC is drawn. The measure of angle BAC is $x°$, and the measure of angle BCA is $y°$. Which of the following must be true?

I. $\sin x° = \cos y°$

II. $\tan x° \cdot \tan y° = 1$ **III.** $\sin x° = \sin y°$

A I only

B I and III only

C II and III only

D I and II only

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ANSWERS

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

1	**B**	The blank comes right before a list of three kinds of settings. A colon introduces a list. A semicolon needs a full sentence on both sides, and the list isn't one.
2	**B**	In 2017 she played 140 shows. In 2016 she played only a few. Those facts point in opposite directions, so you need a contrast word like "On the other hand."
3	**B**	Wild sloths slept under 10 hours, far less than the claimed 16. So the results proved the popular idea wrong. That's what debunk means. Corroborate means to back it up.
4	**C**	The claim says grazing cut plant growth at every site, with every animal. Only C checks all four sites and all three animals. The other choices talk about rainfall or one site.
5	**D**	Graves says the editor shaped the novel more than Gaskell's beliefs did. Then she admits the novel does show beliefs readers shared. She's taking a small step back, so use "Still."
6	**C**	Other countries borrowed a lot and paid back slowly. Sweden saved and paid early. It didn't fit the pattern, and anomalous means unusual. Exemplary means a model to copy, which the text never says.
7	**B**	Later writers added long speeches. Scenes that once moved fast now stop for hundreds of lines. The epic lost its shortness, and concision means saying things in few words.
8	**A**	Okafor says late-season predictions don't work. Early in the season, all three sites show strong positive numbers. Late in the season, all three are negative. Only A shows that switch at every site.
9	**A**	Arenas says agreeing on a definition settles less than it seems. People who share a definition still argue about what counts as culture. So she'd say the arguments aren't over.
10	**C**	The speaker spends the poem saying his love looks nothing like the sun or roses. The last two lines say she's as special as any woman praised with fake comparisons. So the plain descriptions were on purpose. He's mocking over-the-top love poems.
11	**A**	At most 18 means 18 is allowed, so use $\leq$. The mass is positive, so it's more than 0. That gives $0 < m \leq 18$.
12	**D**	Changing 9 to 19 adds 10 to the total, so the mean goes up. The median is the 8th value. It's 3 books before and after the fix, so it stays the same.
13	**C**	45 minutes is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. In x hours, the population doubles $x \div \frac{3}{4} = \frac{4x}{3}$ times. So the exponent is $\frac{4x}{3}$.
14	**A**	Start with $\frac{1}{4}m + \frac{2}{9}m = 1{,}700$. Multiply both sides by 36 to clear the fractions. That gives $9m + 8m = 61{,}200$.

15	**76**	All 160 students scored $160 \times 72 = 11{,}520$ points. The first 40 scored $40 \times 60 = 2{,}400$. The other 120 scored 9,120, and $9{,}120 \div 120 = 76$.
16	**B**	Find the volume of the full cylinder, then subtract the hole. $\pi(10^2)(50) - \pi(8^2)(50) = 5{,}000\pi - 3{,}200\pi = 1{,}800\pi$.
17	**D**	Percent increases multiply: $1.12 \times 1.05 = 1.176$. So earnings grew 17.6%. Adding 12 and 5 gives 17, which is the trap answer.
18	**6**	Don't divide both sides by $x + 7$, or you lose a solution. One solution is $x = -7$. The other comes from $15(x + c) = 5$, so $x = \frac{1}{3} - c$. Then $-7 + \frac{1}{3} - c = -\frac{38}{3}$ gives $c = 6$.
19	**150**	A tangent line makes a right angle with the radius. So angle BOD is $180 - 80 = 100$ degrees. The arc is $\frac{100}{360}$ of the circle: $\frac{100}{360} \times 540\pi = 150\pi$.
20	**D**	Angle B is a right angle, so $x + y = 90$. When two angles add to 90, $\sin x = \cos y$ and $\tan y = \frac{1}{\tan x}$. So I and II are true. III only works if both angles are 45.

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