Perfect1600

FREE PRACTICE SET

20 practice questions modeled on the September 12, 2026 SAT

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

Read our full breakdown of the September 2026 SAT:
perfect1600.com/blog/september-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 September 12, 2026 SAT.

- Reading was harder than usual. Both halves saved their hardest questions for Module 2.
- Vocab was the biggest part of Reading again. The trap answer often meant the opposite of the right one.
- Pyramid questions gave the height, but surface area needs the slant height. Build a right triangle to find it.
- Some right triangles had a height drawn to the long side. Its length is the square root of the two pieces multiplied. Pieces of 15 and 24 give $\sqrt{360}$.
- Circle equations came in the long, messy form. Complete the square to find the center and radius.
- Table questions asked which row breaks a claim. One row that goes the wrong way is enough.

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

A gallery devoted to the first century of recorded sound displays three formats in chronological sequence: the tin-foil cylinder, demonstrated by Thomas Edison in 1877; the shellac disc, brought to market by Emile Berliner in _____ magnetic tape, refined by German engineers working for AEG during the 1930s.

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

A 1887, and

B 1887: and

C 1887 and

D 1887; and

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2 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

The Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum whose eight member states and six permanent participant organizations coordinate environmental research across the polar north, _____ to publish a comprehensive assessment of Arctic change every four years. It has honored that commitment in every cycle since the forum was founded in 1996.

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

A commit

B committing

C has committed

D have committed

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3 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

Economists modeling the spread of municipal composting programs have concentrated on the quantities that are easiest to price: tipping fees, hauling contracts, and the resale value of finished compost. _____ the programs also depend on residents willing to separate kitchen waste at home, a condition so obvious that the literature rarely pauses over it. Building that condition into the model explicitly, Adaeze Okonjo argues, changes which cities are predicted to succeed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A Instead,

B Of course,

C Likewise,

D As a result,

4 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

An owl's facial disc, the ring of stiff feathers surrounding its eyes, funnels faint sounds toward the ear openings, and its width varies considerably among species. Reasoning that prey is harder to see in cluttered vegetation than on open ground, the ornithologist Wiktoria Ostrowska hypothesized that species hunting in dense forest would have wider facial discs than species hunting in open country, since the forest hunters depend more heavily on hearing. She compiled measurements for five North American species.

Hunting Habitat, Facial-Disc Width, and Nightly Hunting Time for Five Owl Species

Species	Typical hunting habitat	Facial-disc width (mm)	Mean nightly hunting time (h)
Boreal owl	Dense conifer forest	96	5.5
Barred owl	Dense mixed forest	112	4
Great gray owl	Dense conifer forest	124	5
Short-eared owl	Open grassland	71	6.5
Burrowing owl	Open scrub	58	3.5

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support Ostrowska's hypothesis?

A Both dense-forest hunters, the barred owl and the great gray owl, have wider facial discs than either open-country species.

B At 124 millimeters, the great gray owl's facial disc is the widest recorded for any species listed in the table.

C Hunting 6.5 hours each night, the short-eared owl forages longer than any other species included in the table.

D Although both hunt in dense conifer forest, the boreal owl has a narrower facial disc than the great gray owl.

5 READING AND WRITING · MEDIUM

The choreographer Ama Dzidzor is celebrated for extended passages in which her dancers sustain a single position for several minutes, scarcely breathing, while the accompaniment continues beneath them. She maintains that these prolonged suspensions, far from generating _____ in an audience, intensify its concentration, since spectators eventually register the slightest tremor as a significant event.

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

A agitation

B bewilderment

C torpor

D detachment

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6 READING AND WRITING · HARD

When the Massachusetts General Court ordered in 1647 that every town of fifty households maintain a schoolmaster, it attached no revenue to the requirement, leaving each community to recruit, house, and pay a qualified teacher out of its own rates. For the scattered inland settlements, whose taxable property amounted to a fraction of the coastal towns', that annual obligation proved _____ .

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

A arduous

B anomalous

C contentious

D ruinous

---

7 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Historians have long treated the Norwegian marriage rate as a rough proxy for general prosperity. Sifting five centuries of parish registers, the demographer Aslaug Tvedt has documented a sharp fall in that rate along the coast after each failure of the herring fishery, _____ the region's household formation to the fortunes of a single volatile industry.

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

A ties

B it ties

C tying

D and tied

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8 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Bumblebees, unlike most solitary bees, are capable of endothermy: by contracting their flight muscles without moving their wings, a foraging bumblebee raises the temperature of its thorax well above that of the surrounding air. To establish whether this capacity frees the insect from its thermal environment altogether, entomologist Ingrid Salvesen recorded thoracic temperatures in foraging bumblebees and in mason bees, which cannot shiver. Readings were collected across ambient temperatures ranging from eight to twenty-eight degrees Celsius. The bumblebees maintained a thorax roughly ten degrees warmer than the surrounding air at every reading, yet that temperature nonetheless rose and fell in step with the air itself, which suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A both species' thoracic temperatures remain at least partly determined by the temperature of the air in which the bees are foraging.

B the bumblebees' capacity for shivering allows them to hold a thoracic temperature that is independent of conditions in the surrounding air.

C only the mason bees, which are unable to warm themselves by shivering, take on the temperature of the air around them.

D shivering confers an advantage that grows larger as the surrounding air becomes warmer rather than as it becomes colder.

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9 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Closing an area of coastline to fishing is expected to let depleted stocks rebuild, and marine reserves are now a standard instrument of fisheries policy worldwide, from the tropics to the temperate shelves. Reviewing surveys conducted before and after reserves were established at four sites along the Patagonian shelf, the fisheries scientist Odalys Mercado hypothesized that designating a reserve reliably increases the mean biomass of resident fish within its boundaries. A colleague reviewing the same surveys argued that one of the four sites is difficult to reconcile with that hypothesis as Mercado has stated it.

Mean Resident Fish Biomass Before and After Reserve Designation at Four Patagonian Shelf Sites

Site	Year designated	Biomass before (kg per hectare)	Biomass after (kg per hectare)	Change (percent)
Golfo Nuevo	2009	41	58.6	+43
Bahia Camarones	2011	27.5	39.1	+42
Punta Tombo	2013	62.4	55.9	-10
Caleta Olivia	2016	18.2	26.4	+45

Which choice best describes data from the table that undermine Mercado's hypothesis about marine reserves?

A Golfo Nuevo and Bahia Camarones both recorded increases in mean biomass of more than forty percent within a few years of protection.

B At Punta Tombo, mean biomass fell from 62.4 to 55.9 kilograms per hectare after the reserve was designated there in 2013.

C Caleta Olivia, the most recently protected of the four sites, recorded the largest percentage increase in mean biomass of any site listed.

D Punta Tombo recorded the highest mean biomass of any site before protection and still exceeded two of the other sites afterward.

10 READING AND WRITING · HARD

Mr. Havelock had accumulated his fortune early and had never afterward managed to leave off mentioning it, generally in company entirely indifferent to the subject or to himself. He was, in the precise sense, cabinet-proud rather than son-proud, although only the second variety of pride had anything whatever to justify it. The cabinets contained perhaps four hundred pieces of Delft, a collection which three dealers in the county could have assembled within a single season. The son, meanwhile, had returned from the university carrying a mathematics prize and a manner so retiring that visitors repeatedly mistook him for a clerk.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

A It states the misdirection of Havelock's pride, which the following sentences then illustrate by comparing the collection with the son.

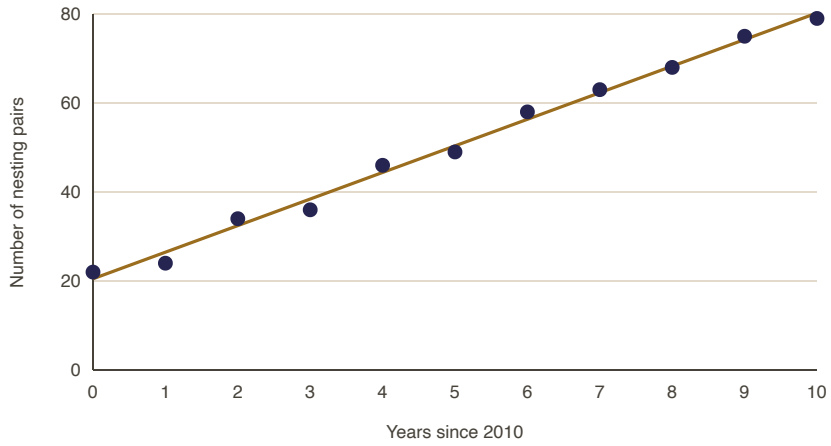
B It concedes that Havelock's fortune was large enough to justify the display he regularly made of it.

C It introduces the son as the character whose achievements the remainder of the passage will catalog in detail.

D It explains why visitors to the house so often failed to recognize the son's standing in the household.

11 MATH · EASY

Nesting Pairs of Terns at a Coastal Reserve, 2010-2020



The scatterplot shows the number of nesting pairs of terns recorded at a coastal reserve for each year from 2010 through 2020, along with the line of best fit for the data. Which of the following is closest to the slope of the line of best fit?

A 0.17

B 2

C 3

D 6

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12 MATH · MEDIUM

Point P lies on a circle with center O, and line segment PQ is tangent to the circle at P. If $OP = 24$ and $PQ = 24$, what is the length of OQ?

A $12\sqrt{2}$

B 24

C $24\sqrt{2}$

D 48

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13 MATH · MEDIUM

Regional Science Olympiad Competitors by Grade Level and Team

Team	Sixth grade	Seventh grade	Total
Green	52	78	130
Blue	44	39	83
Red	30	21	51
Total	126	138	264

The table summarizes the 264 students who competed in a regional science olympiad, classified by grade level and by the team to which each student was assigned. If one of the students on the green team is selected at random, what is the probability that the student selected is in seventh grade?

A $\frac{78}{264}$

B $\frac{130}{264}$

C $\frac{78}{138}$

D $\frac{78}{130}$

14 MATH · MEDIUM

Distribution of Sapling Heights in a Nursery

Height (cm)	Number of saplings
30 to 39	24
40 to 49	41
50 to 59	52
60 to 69	38
70 to 79	25

The table summarizes the heights, in centimeters, of the 180 saplings growing in a nursery, grouped into five intervals. Based on the table, what is the greatest possible number of these saplings whose height is at least 55 centimeters?

A 63

B 115

C 117

D 156

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15 MATH · MEDIUM

The edge length of cube A is 35 times the edge length of cube B. The surface area of cube A is how many times the surface area of cube B?

A 35

B 105

C 1,225

D 42,875

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16 MATH · MEDIUM

The equation $x^2 + kx = 10x - 49$ has exactly one solution, where k is a negative constant. What is the value of k?

A -24

B -4

C 4

D 24

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17 MATH · HARD

In the xy-plane, the equation $x^2 + 4bx + y^2 - 8y - 12b + 7 = 0$ represents a circle, where b is a positive constant. Which expression gives the radius of this circle in terms of b?

A $2b - 3$

B $2b + 3$

C $2b + 9$

D $4b^2 + 12b + 9$

---

18 MATH · HARD

A sculptor casts two solid bronze right pyramids, each with a square base. The first has a base edge of 10 centimeters and a height of 12 centimeters. The second has a base edge of 6 centimeters and a height of 4 centimeters.

What is the positive difference, in square centimeters, between the total surface areas of the two pyramids?

Write your answer: _____

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19 MATH · HARD

In right triangle PQR, the right angle is at Q. The altitude drawn from Q meets the hypotenuse PR at point S, dividing it into segments PS of length 15 and SR of length 24.

What is the length of the altitude QS?

A 3

B $\sqrt{39}$

C $6\sqrt{10}$

D $\sqrt{801}$

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20 MATH · HARD

A sample of a radioactive isotope decays so that its mass, in grams, after t hours is given by $f(t) = 96R^{t/4}$, where R is a positive constant.

The same function can also be written as $f(t) = 96c^{t/60}$, where c is a constant. What is the value of c in terms of R?

A $15R$

B $R^{\frac{1}{15}}$

C R^{15}

D R^{240}

ANSWERS

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

1	**D**	The list items already have commas inside them, like "demonstrated by Thomas Edison in 1877." So semicolons go between the items. The first two use a semicolon, so the last one does too.
2	**C**	Skip the long middle part. The subject is "The Arctic Council," which is one thing. So use "has committed." "Have" is for more than one.
3	**B**	The sentence says something obvious: programs need people to sort their waste. "Of course" signals a fact everyone already knows. "Instead" would mean the economists were wrong, and the text never says that.
4	**A**	Ostrowska says forest hunters have wider facial discs than open-country hunters. A is the only choice that compares forest owls with open-country owls. C is about hunting time, which her idea doesn't cover.
5	**C**	The dancers hold still for minutes, and she says this sharpens attention. "Far from" sets up the opposite of what you'd expect. You'd expect the crowd to get sleepy, and torpor means sleepy and sluggish.
6	**A**	Small inland towns had little money but still had to pay a teacher every year. That was hard to do, so arduous fits. Ruinous is too strong, since nothing says the towns went broke.
7	**C**	The sentence already has its main verb, "has documented." The blank adds a phrase that explains the result. "Tying" does that. "Ties" would be a second main verb with no "and" to join it.
8	**A**	The bumblebees stayed about 10 degrees warmer than the air. But their temperature still rose and fell with the air. So the air still matters for both kinds of bee. B says shivering makes them independent of the air, and the data show otherwise.
9	**B**	Mercado says reserves reliably raise fish biomass. Three sites went up, but Punta Tombo went down 10 percent. One site that went down is enough to undermine "reliably."
10	**A**	The sentence says Havelock is proud of the wrong thing. He brags about his cabinets of Delft, and his prize-winning son gets no credit. The next sentences prove it: the collection is ordinary, and the son is gifted.
11	**D**	Pick two points far apart, like $(0, 22)$ and $(10, 79)$. The slope is $(79 - 22) \div 10 = 5.7$. The closest choice is 6.
12	**C**	A tangent line makes a right angle with the radius. So OPQ is a right triangle with legs 24 and 24. Then $OQ = \sqrt{24^2 + 24^2} = 24\sqrt{2}$.

13	**D**	You only pick from the green team, so the bottom of the fraction is 130. Of those, 78 are in seventh grade. So the answer is $\frac{78}{130}$. Using 264 or 138 is the trap.
14	**B**	Heights of 55 or more include all of 60 to 69 and 70 to 79. That's 38 + 25 = 63. Some of the 50 to 59 group could also be 55 or more. At most, all 52 are, so the answer is 63 + 52 = 115.
15	**C**	Surface area grows with the square of the edge. So multiply by $35^2 = 1{,}225$. The choice 42,875 is 35^3, which is for volume.
16	**B**	Move everything to one side: $x^2 + (k-10)x + 49 = 0$. One solution means $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, so $(k-10)^2 = 196$. That gives $k = 24$ or $k = -4$. k is negative, so $k = -4$.
17	**B**	Complete the square on x and y. You get $(x+2b)^2 + (y-4)^2 = 4b^2 + 12b + 9$. The right side is $(2b+3)^2$, so the radius is $2b + 3$. Choice D is the radius squared.
18	**264**	Find each slant height first. Big pyramid: $\sqrt{12^2 + 5^2} = 13$, so its area is $100 + 4(\frac{1}{2})(10)(13) = 360$. Small pyramid: $\sqrt{4^2 + 3^2} = 5$, so its area is $36 + 60 = 96$. The difference is 264.
19	**C**	The height drawn to the long side equals the square root of the two pieces multiplied. So $QS = \sqrt{15 \times 24} = \sqrt{360} = 6\sqrt{10}$.
20	**C**	Make the exponents match. $\frac{t}{4}$ is 15 times $\frac{t}{60}$. So $R^{t/4} = (R^{15})^{t/60}$, which means $c = R^{15}$.

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