

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Vocabulary 2026 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. What does it mean to toil?

- A. To play or amuse oneself**
- B. To work long and hard, often with difficulty**
- C. To relax and enjoy leisure**
- D. To avoid responsibility**

2. What does the term 'emaciated' describe?

- A. A figure of impressive strength**
- B. An individual with a healthy body**
- C. Someone abnormally thin or weak due to illness**
- D. A person in peak physical condition**

3. What does the term 'perpetuate' mean?

- A. To make temporary or fleeting**
- B. To make permanent or long lasting**
- C. To clarify or explain**
- D. To extinguish or eliminate**

4. Which of the following best defines the word 'grotesque'?

- A. Charming and delightful**
- B. Comically or repulsively ugly or distorted**
- C. Beautifully crafted and elegant**
- D. Pleasingly attractive and appealing**

5. Which word describes something that is fundamentally different from something else?

- A. Identical**
- B. Disparate**
- C. Similar**
- D. Parallel**

6. What does "conterminous" refer to in a geographical context?

- A. Separate and distinct areas**
- B. Sharing a common boundary**
- C. Inconsistent regions**
- D. Isolated territories**

7. What term best fits the idea of feeling utterly miserable?

- A. Exuberant**
- B. Abject**
- C. Hallowed**
- D. Joyful**

8. What does "transcendence" imply?

- A. Moving beyond normal experiences**
- B. Remaining within known limits**
- C. Transitioning to a new state**
- D. Maintaining the status quo**

9. In the context of writing, what is significant about a polemicist?

- A. They avoid writing**
- B. They argue forcefully**
- C. They write poetry**
- D. They are novice writers**

10. Which of the following traits best describes someone with perspicacity?

- A. Indifference**
- B. Shrewdness**
- C. Humorlessness**
- D. Nostalgia**

Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What does it mean to toil?

- A. To play or amuse oneself
- B. To work long and hard, often with difficulty**
- C. To relax and enjoy leisure
- D. To avoid responsibility

To toil means to engage in laborious work that is often strenuous and demanding. This term is frequently associated with effort that may not yield immediate rewards or can be physically taxing. The choice indicating that to toil is "to work long and hard, often with difficulty" captures this essence perfectly, reflecting the notion of perseverance and effort over an extended period, often under challenging circumstances. The other choices present contrasting concepts. Playing or amusing oneself suggests leisure and enjoyment rather than hard work, while relaxing and enjoying leisure directly opposes the idea of toil. On the other hand, avoiding responsibility implies a lack of engagement or effort, which is the antithesis of toiling. The selected answer appropriately encapsulates the core meaning of toil as hard, often arduous work.

2. What does the term 'emaciated' describe?

- A. A figure of impressive strength
- B. An individual with a healthy body
- C. Someone abnormally thin or weak due to illness**
- D. A person in peak physical condition

The term 'emaciated' specifically characterizes someone who is abnormally thin or weak, often as a result of illness, malnutrition, or starvation. This word originates from the Latin root "emaciare," which means "to make thin." It evokes an image of severe weight loss and a frail appearance, typically due to a lack of nutritional intake or an underlying medical condition. The concept of emaciation is fundamentally tied to a state of ill health, contrasting sharply with the other choices that depict bodily strength, health, and peak physical condition. This context reinforces the appropriateness of the choice regarding someone who is emaciated.

3. What does the term 'perpetuate' mean?

- A. To make temporary or fleeting
- B. To make permanent or long lasting**
- C. To clarify or explain
- D. To extinguish or eliminate

The term 'perpetuate' means to make something permanent or long-lasting. It typically refers to the act of causing something to continue indefinitely or to preserve it so that it does not fade away or die out. For example, if a certain tradition is perpetuated, it means that the tradition is kept alive and passed down through generations, ensuring its ongoing presence. In contrast, the other options suggest actions that negate or diminish the existence of something. Making something temporary or fleeting implies a lack of permanence, which directly opposes the meaning of 'perpetuate.' Clarifying or explaining relates to adding understanding rather than sustaining something over time. Lastly, extinguishing or eliminating suggests a complete removal of something, which is the opposite of making it long-lasting. Thus, the choice that best captures the essence of 'perpetuate' is indeed the one that highlights the idea of permanence.

4. Which of the following best defines the word 'grotesque'?

- A. Charming and delightful**
- B. Comically or repulsively ugly or distorted**
- C. Beautifully crafted and elegant**
- D. Pleasingly attractive and appealing**

The term 'grotesque' is primarily associated with something that is comically or repulsively ugly or distorted. This definition captures the essence of the word, which conveys a sense of distortion that can be both visually unappealing and exaggerated in a way that might provoke laughter or discomfort. The usage of 'grotesque' often appears in art and literature to describe figures or scenes that challenge traditional notions of beauty, emphasizing an unsettling or bizarre quality. In contrast to this, the other choices present definitions that align with positive or aesthetically pleasing attributes. Terms like "charming," "delightful," "beautifully crafted," and "pleasingly attractive" directly contradict the inherent negativity conveyed by 'grotesque.' Therefore, the best definition that accurately reflects the word's meaning is the one relating to a comically or repulsively ugly or distorted appearance.

5. Which word describes something that is fundamentally different from something else?

- A. Identical**
- B. Disparate**
- C. Similar**
- D. Parallel**

The term that best describes something fundamentally different from something else is "disparate." This word conveys a sense of distinctness and highlights the lack of similarity between two subjects, indicating that they come from different sources or have different characteristics. When things are described as disparate, it emphasizes their varied and contrasting nature. In contrast, "identical" suggests complete sameness, implying that there are no differences at all between the items in question. "Similar" indicates that there are some commonalities between the items, but it does not denote any fundamental difference; rather, it emphasizes resemblance. "Parallel" refers to aspects that run alongside one another, potentially in similarity but also can indicate sameness in direction or purpose, which does not align with the concept of fundamental difference. Thus, "disparate" is the most fitting word in this context.

6. What does "conterminous" refer to in a geographical context?

- A. Separate and distinct areas**
- B. Sharing a common boundary**
- C. Inconsistent regions**
- D. Isolated territories**

The term "conterminous" specifically refers to areas that share a common boundary or are contiguous. In a geographical context, this means that the regions being discussed are adjacent and border one another without any intervening space. Understanding this concept is important for recognizing how different regions relate to one another geographically, as "conterminous" highlights the proximity and interconnectedness of those areas. The other choices describe characteristics that do not align with the definition of "conterminous." For instance, separate and distinct areas, inconsistent regions, and isolated territories all imply separation or lack of boundaries, which contrasts with the idea of sharing a common boundary. This is why the correct answer accurately reflects the meaning of the word in its geographical usage.

7. What term best fits the idea of feeling utterly miserable?

- A. Exuberant**
- B. Abject**
- C. Hallowed**
- D. Joyful**

The term "abject" is best suited to describe the feeling of being utterly miserable. This word conveys a state of extreme sadness, hopelessness, or despair. When someone is described as being in an abject condition, it often implies that they are experiencing intense suffering or degradation, signifying a depth of misery that aligns perfectly with the idea presented in the question. In contrast, the alternative options carry opposite or unrelated meanings. "Exuberant" suggests a state of being full of energy and enthusiasm, which is far removed from feelings of misery. "Hallowed" refers to something that is regarded as holy or sacred, also not associated with any sense of misery. "Joyful" directly denotes happiness, which is again the opposite of feeling miserable. Thus, "abject" captures the essence of the profound negativity associated with feeling utterly miserable, making it the most fitting choice.

8. What does "transcendence" imply?

- A. Moving beyond normal experiences**
- B. Remaining within known limits**
- C. Transitioning to a new state**
- D. Maintaining the status quo**

Transcendence implies moving beyond normal experiences or limits, suggesting a state that surpasses ordinary understanding or existence. This concept often relates to achieving a higher level of awareness, realization, or existence, such as in philosophical, spiritual, or artistic contexts. When something transcends, it goes beyond the usual constraints of reality or the common experiences that define a person's understanding of life. The other choices indicate concepts that do not align with the essence of transcendence. Remaining within known limits suggests a lack of growth or elevation beyond current experiences. Transitioning to a new state could imply a change or shift but does not necessarily convey the idea of surpassing those experiences to reach a higher level. Maintaining the status quo relates directly to stasis, which is in direct contrast to the notion of transcending something or pushing beyond current boundaries.

9. In the context of writing, what is significant about a polemicist?

- A. They avoid writing**
- B. They argue forcefully**
- C. They write poetry**
- D. They are novice writers**

A polemicist is significant in the context of writing because they engage in strong, often controversial arguments on particular subjects, advocating for a specific viewpoint while critiquing opposing opinions. Their writing typically aims to persuade, incite debate, or provoke thought through assertive and eloquent expressions of their ideas. This characteristic is what differentiates polemicists from other types of writers; they are not merely presenting information but are actively engaging in discourse, often in a combative or passionate manner. The other options do not accurately reflect the essence of a polemicist. Avoiding writing does not align with their role, as polemicists are known for their prolific and assertive contributions to discussions. Writing poetry represents a different genre and style, which is not inherent to the polemical approach. Being novice writers contradicts the expertise generally required to articulate and defend complex arguments effectively, which is a hallmark of a polemicist's work.

10. Which of the following traits best describes someone with perspicacity?

- A. Indifference**
- B. Shrewdness**
- C. Humorlessness**
- D. Nostalgia**

The choice of shrewdness as the best descriptor for someone with perspicacity is grounded in the meaning of both words. Perspicacity refers to the ability to notice and understand things that are not obvious; it implies keen insight and intelligence. A person with perspicacity has an acute understanding and perception of various situations or nuances, enabling them to make well-informed judgments. Shrewdness is similar in that it denotes a sharpness of understanding or judgment, often in contexts involving practical matters or strategic decisions. The two terms align well because both highlight the ability to perceive and interpret information effectively, demonstrating insight and acumen. In contrast, indifference signifies a lack of interest or concern, which does not resonate with the active engagement in intellectual perception implied by perspicacity. Humorlessness suggests a rigidity in outlook, lacking the nuanced understanding often associated with someone who has good perceptive abilities. Nostalgia refers to a sentimental longing for the past, which does not connect with the clarity or sharpness of understanding that is characteristic of perspicacity. Thus, shrewdness is the most fitting trait to describe someone known for their perceptive and insightful nature.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://sat-vocabulary2025.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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