

# POWERSCORE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

# INSTRUCTIONS

The following matrices are designed to help you determine your strengths and weaknesses in each subject area on SAT practice tests.

- Instructions:**
1. If you are assessing your skills in Math, Reading, and Writing, take a full-length practice test and score it. If you are focusing on a single subject area--such as Math--take the three Math sections from a single test and score them.
  2. Start with the Math Diagnostic. Write the test name and/or any identifying test information on the line on the top right of the diagnostic.
  3. To determine your weaknesses, review each question that you missed, omitted, or guessed correctly in all Math sections. Determine what concept the question was assessing. For example, a question in which you must multiply fractions is assessing your knowledge of "Fractions & Decimals." For each question, list the section number and question number in the corresponding row. **Some questions may assess two or three concepts; be sure to record them in all rows that apply.** Consider an example of a Math Diagnostic that maps wrong answers:

Question Type	Explanation or example:	Section & Question #	Notes:									
Number Properties	Integers, primes, factors, multiples, digits, consecutive, sum, product, etc.	2-6	2-7	2-18	4-16	8-3	8-12					Missed two about prime #s
Remainders												Not assessed on this test
Fractions & Decimals		2-7	2-15	4-10	8-11							
Percentages	%											
Ratios	"There are 3 dogs for every 2 cats"	4-8										
Proportions & Rates	"The bike goes 2 feet for every revolution of the front tire..."	8-6										
Number Lines												Not assessed

In this diagnostic, the test taker has glaring weaknesses in Number Properties and Fractions & Decimals. Because Remainders and Number Lines were not tested, more data is needed to determine her abilities in those concept areas. **The more practice tests you map on the PowerScore Skills Assessment, the more accurate your results will be.** But even with just this one test, it's clear she needs to work on Number Properties and Fractions & Decimals. Note that Section 2--Question 7 tested both Number Properties and Fractions & Decimals, and is thus listed in both rows.

4. Record your wrong answers in the Writing Diagnostic in the same manner. Note that the last six rows pertain to Improving Paragraphs only; the four error types listed there will only occur in Improving Paragraphs questions. However, Improving Paragraphs will likely still test some common grammar concepts listed in the Improving Sentences and Identifying Sentence Errors section.
5. **The Reading Diagnostic both maps the questions you missed and shows why you missed them.** Fill the top portion of each box with the section and question number of wrong or omitted questions. If you were tricked by a particular type of common answer trap, list its abbreviation in the bottom portion of each box. Consider an example:

Main Idea	The passage is primarily concerned with, the author's main point is, etc.												
Facts and Details	"According to the author/passage, she/it indicates/refers to/asserts, etc."	3-9 TP	3-10 C	5-6	5-12 F	9-10 TV	9-12 C	9-13 TP	9-15	9-16 C			Copycat answers!
Reasons and Results	because, since, due to, caused by, etc.	9-9 C											
Comparison and Contrast	both, agree, parallel, is most like, shared by, unlike, contrast, differ, etc.	5-7	5-14 C										Both ?s from paired passages

The test taker here has self-diagnosed his weaknesses as Copycat Answers and Comparing and Contrasting paired passages. He has the most difficulty with questions about Facts and Details from the passage. Note that some wrong answers were not the result of wrong answer traps. Only mark the answer trap if it applies.

6. (Optional) To determine your strengths, map each question that you answered correctly without guessing. Determine what concept the question was assessing, and record the section number and question number in the corresponding row. **You can map the strengths on a separate Diagnostic printout, or you can map it on the same printout, being sure to use two different colors for right and wrong answers.**

Remember, the more practice tests you input into PowerScore's Skill Assessments, the more accurately you will be able to pinpoint your strengths and weaknesses. But even if you're only mapping a single test, you can gain invaluable insight into the areas on which you most need to improve. Feel free to circle similar errors, notate problem areas, or draw connections between questions. This tool is designed for self-reflection, and you should graphically represent the data in a way that works best for you.





	Question Stem	Explanation or example:	Sect. & #/ Trap	Notes:										
Sentence Completion	Contrast	Uses words like <i>although, despite, however, but, while, even though</i> , etc.												
	Similarity	Uses words like <i>and, also, similarly, as well as, even, just as, like, moreover</i> , etc.												
	Definition	The sentence defines the word in the blank or the blank helps define another word												
	Cause and Effect	Uses words like <i>because, as a result, consequently, so that, in order to</i> , etc.												
	Combination	Sentences that use more than one of the question stems above												

Fill the top portion of each box with the section and question number. If you were tricked by a particular type of common answer trap, list its abbreviation in the bottom portion of each box.

Common answer traps:  
**DD** *Double Definitions Answers* are words that have a second, less common definition. For example, *pedestrian* can mean *boring*.  
**O** *Opposite Answers* use a definition that is opposite of your prephrase and of the correct answer.  
**R** *Related Answers* are those that have to do with the topic of the sentence but have nothing to do with your prephrase nor with the right answer.  
**KO** *"Kind Of" Answers* are those that sort of work but are not a perfect fit. All correct answers fit perfectly when you read their definition.  
**I** *Imposters* are words with roots that look like they should mean one thing, but have an unrelated definition. For example, *histrionic* is unrelated to *history*.

		Question Stem	Explanation or example:	Sect. & #/ Trap	Notes:										
Passage-Based Reading	VIC	Vocabulary-In-Context	In context, "jump" most nearly means....												
	Literal Comp.	Main Idea	The passage is primarily concerned with, the author's main point is, etc."												
		Facts and Details	"According to the author/passage, she/it indicates/refers to/asserts, etc."												
		Reasons and Results	because, since, due to, caused by, etc.												
		Comparison and Contrast	both, agree, parallel, is most like, shared by, unlike, contrast, differ, etc.												
	Extended Reasoning	Purpose	the purpose of, serves to, functions to, because												
		Author's Attitude	attitude, tone, feeling												
		Rhetorical Devices	uses, makes use of, with answers like <i>analogy, simile, metaphor</i> , etc.												
		General Inferences	suggests, implies, it can be inferred, assumption												
		Hypothetical POV	The author/character/person would most likely or would probably												
		Strengthen and Weaken	supports, substantiates, strengthens, refutes, undermines, detracts, challenges,												
	Parallel Reasoning	most similar to, most analogous to, additional example/situation													

Fill the top portion of each box with the section and question number. If you were tricked by a particular type of common answer trap, list its abbreviation in the bottom portion of each box.

Common answer traps:  
**C** *Copycat Answers* use the same adjectives, adverbs, and verbs that are used in the passage.  
**O** *Opposite Answers* contain an idea that is opposite of your prephrase and of the right answer.  
**E** *Extreme Answers* use extreme words--like *always, never, and vicious*--that are difficult to prove.  
**TW** *True But Wrong Answers* are true somewhere else in the passage, but they are not true about that particular question.  
**TP** *True to a Point Answers* are partially true, but one word or idea makes the entire answer choice wrong.  
**TY** *True to You Answers* play on true general knowledge outside of the passage, but those facts are never stated in the passage.  
 For more about these answer traps, check out the free chapter from the *PowerScore SAT Reading Bible* on our website ([www.powerscore.com/sat/help/](http://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/))

	Area for review:	The PowerScore SAT Bible Trilogy	Full Length & Live Online Courses	Weekend Course	Free PowerScore Bible Chapters
Math	Arithmetic	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 5	Lesson 1	Session 2	
	Algebra	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 6	Lesson 2	Session 2	
	Algebra II	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 7	Lesson 5	Session 3	
	Geometry	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 8	Lesson 4	Session 1	
	Coordinate Geometry	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 9	Lesson 6	Session 3	
	Data and Statistics	<i>The SAT Math Bible</i> : Chapter 10	Lesson 7	Session 2	Free Help Area

Writing	Verbs	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 4	Lesson 3	Session 1	
	Nouns and Pronouns	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 5	Lesson 4	Session 1	Free Help Area
	Modifiers	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 6	Lesson 5	Session 4	
	Conjunctions	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 7	Lesson 5	Session 4	
	Sentence Structure	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 8	Lesson 5	Session 4	
	Style	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 9	Lesson 5	Session 4	
	Improving Paragraphs	<i>The SAT Writing Bible</i> : Chapter 11	Lesson 7	Session 4	

Reading	Sentence Completion Question Types	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 4	Lesson 2	Session 3	
	Answer Traps	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 5	Lesson 2	Session 3	
	Vocabulary-In-Context	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 11	Lessons 3 and 6	Sessions 2 and 3	
	Literal Comprehension	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 12	Lessons 3 and 6	Sessions 2 and 3	
	Extended Reasoning	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 13	Lessons 3 and 6	Sessions 2 and 3	
	Answer Traps	<i>The SAT Reading Bible</i> : Chapter 9	Lessons 3 and 6	Sessions 2 and 3	Free Help Area