

🐝 Test-Taking Plan, Week by Week 🐝
- Greg / GregsTutoringNYC@gmail.com

"8 weeks/2 months Prep Plan"

High level thoughts:

* Is there enough time?
Yes

* Put some time in
An hour a week won't cut it
10 hours a day is a problem too
Let's say 14 hours a week
Doesn't have to be daily
But it should be balanced, not too heavy as in just one day a week

* Try to understand the test.
* Study with purpose.
* Don't study for another/some other test!
* Know your pre-requisites WELL
* Be fluid

* All along: Read lit, historical, science, mags, NYT, novels, +vocabulary

* Do a reset if you need to
Get external help, even if temporary
If not you, somebody else will

* Week 1
Learn about the test, tips, high-level strategies
Learn about topics you're unaware of

Consider doing a practice test
For the math, don't use a calculator
Get rid of ALL distractions

Don't worry about timing yet, just worry about answering questions
But DO note the time it takes you

* Week 2
Figure out your strengths and weaknesses
This is important, look for exact subtopics and issues
Go over EVERYTHING
Use what you learned in Week 1
Use what you learned via feedback from the practice test

Write out a list!
This will be your guide going forward to work through and to tweak!

STUDY TOPICS not just questions
Memorize the things you need to memorize

Something you'll have major concerns with or not?
Decide which is in which category

Start going over your list
Do more than one group of concerns, you need to pace all the content out
As you learn and/or dot i's etc, follow up what you learned with examples

Consider external help, etc.

* Week 3

Focus on the reading comprehension

Try to understand what passages and questions and choices are about
And not just what the passage says.

Start going through passages ONE AT A TIME, otherwise it will be a blur

Read with purpose! Do questions with purpose!

Kick and scream to find why an answer is what it is

If you're not sure YOU MUST FIND OUT WHY!!!!

Now is the time to do this

Don't punt over this, resolve these things sooner than later

STUDY TOPICS not just questions

Learn how to approach passages

Do more of your list, including math, writing, etc.

Revise it as necessary

* Week 4

You reviewed math topics

You delved deeper into reading comprehension

Take another practice test

Don't worry about timing yet.

Again make note of which you got wrong AND which you got right

How many did you guess on?

You shouldn't be

I'm implored about to resolve questions you're unsure of or don't know

Revise your notes/lists as appropriate

STUDY TOPICS not just questions

Do more of your list

By now you should have amply distinguished the different parts of the test

X parts on math, Y parts in ELA

Including your strengths and weaknesses

* Week 5

You're a month in.

You should have a handle on many parts of the test.

You should be acing many parts of the test.

Which also means you still need work on some parts.

Keep at it!

Also: Consider this a transition week.

Start thinking about timing and pacing

Start thinking about the different sections of the test

Start thinking about how you'll work the the different sections

Start thinking about how YOU are organizing the test -- personalize it!!

Start thinking about test-taking skills

Continue working on resolving the issues on your lists

You should have done lots of it at this point

Revise them as necessary

* Week 6

Take another practice test

Try to mimic the real test and its conditions as much as possible

Time of day, private time, no distractions, real timing, no breaks, etc.

Use a bubble sheet (and learn how to use it beforehand, including grid-ins!)

Fine tune your notes! (both in resolving things and adding new things)

Final stretch on major content this week!!

Should only be tweaking at this point

* Week 7

See Week 6

Solidify things!!

Don't worry about things you can't control

You CAN control so many things, work on those.

FOCUS!!!!

* Week 8

Morph further from learning concepts, topics, and questions towards test-taking

Retake past tests and see if past errors have disappeared

And that new ones have not appeared

Resolve final concerns

Make sure outstanding problems are clear

If you need to, obtain external help, even if just on a single topic

* The week of the test

Take another practice test, or more

Tie loose ends into a bow!!

Prepare your go-bag

Prepare mentally

You're a boss! Kick its butt!

- Greg / GregsTutoringNYC@gmail.com LLAP ☺