

Digital SAT Formula and Strategy Guide

How the Digital SAT actually runs: the adaptive two-module structure, the Bluebook app, built-in Desmos, on-screen reading and writing, and the device and score-report habits that protect a score from a technical or timing mistake, not a content gap.

SECTIONS	5	WORKED EXAMPLES	1	FORMAT	Print friendly
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How to use this guide

A formula you cannot place is not knowledge yet. Work the recall drill below before the questions.

- Module 1 accuracy sets the difficulty (and score ceiling) of module 2 in both Reading and Writing and Math — a rushed module 1 caps the whole section's score before module 2 even starts.
- Practice inside the actual Bluebook app, not only on paper, so the interface itself is never the source of a lost point on test day.
- Know the built-in Desmos calculator's core moves (graphing, regression, sliders) before test day — learning them for the first time during the test costs minutes.

1. Module 1 accuracy and the adaptive structure

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Adaptive scoring model	module 1 performance determines whether module 2 is the harder or easier version	Understanding why pacing and accuracy in module 1 matter more than on a fixed-form test.
No going back between modules	once module 1 is submitted, it cannot be revisited	Deciding how to allocate review time within a module, not across modules.
Flag-and-skip within a module	flag a hard question and return to it before submitting THAT module	Managing time inside a single module.

2. Bluebook app and on-screen tools

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Annotation tool	highlight and underline directly in the passage on screen	Reading and writing questions without printed scratch paper for the passage.
Answer eliminator	cross out choices on screen to narrow options visually	Managing multiple-choice elimination digitally.
Built-in countdown timer	can be hidden but still tracks time; check it at fixed checkpoints	Managing pace without constant visual distraction.

3. Built-in Desmos calculator

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Graphing an equation	type the equation directly into Desmos to see roots, intersections, and behavior	A question is faster to solve visually than algebraically.
Finding an intersection	graph both equations; Desmos marks the intersection point	Solving a system of equations.
Regression on a data table	enter points as a table; Desmos fits a line or curve automatically	A question gives a data table and asks for a model or trend.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Two equations, $y = 2x + 3$ and $y = -x + 9$, need their intersection point.

1. Type both equations into Desmos exactly as given
2. Click the intersection point Desmos marks on the graph
3. Read the coordinates directly: (2, 7)

Check: Algebraically: $2x+3 = -x+9 \rightarrow 3x = 6 \rightarrow x = 2, y = 7$. Matches the graph.

4. Reading and Writing on screen

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Short, self-contained passages	each question has its own 25-150 word passage, not a shared long passage	Every Reading and Writing question, by design of the digital format.
Reading the question first	the question states exactly what to look for before the passage is read	Any Reading and Writing question, to save re-reading time.

5. Math across two timed modules

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Calculator allowed throughout	the Desmos calculator is available for every math question, not just some	Every Digital SAT math question, unlike the older paper test's no-calculator section.
22 questions in 35 minutes per module	roughly 95 seconds per question, faster on quick ones to bank time for harder ones	Planning pace inside a math module.

Notes and tutor hand-off

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Was a missed point caused by content, an unfamiliar Bluebook tool, or a pacing mistake?

One Desmos move (graphing, regression, sliders) to practice before the next full-length test:

Device and login checklist confirmed before test day (charged device, approved app, admission ticket):
