

Norma & Tony ON TECHNOLOGY



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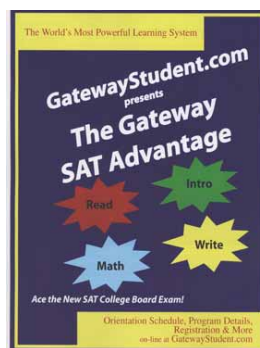
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Prepare For The New SAT



The Gateway SAT Advantage (***) out of four) presents a structured approach to increasing your scores in the SAT exams. It is not necessary to have a computer to use this course, since it will play on a DVD attached to a TV as well as a DVD in a computer. *Gateway SAT Advantage* includes two DVDs containing three hours of video presentations by Dr. Kuni Beasley, a college professor who has been researching test-taking techniques for the past 12 years; the program also includes a 98-page companion booklet that reviews and builds on the points in the videos.

Beasley starts by discussing general test-taking principles, such as familiarizing yourself with the test, the test structure and the best time to take the tests. He then goes on to review specifics of the new SAT test structure and offers a preview of the kinds of questions to be expected. The next set of lectures deals with details in preparing for math, writing, reading and "last minute" items, such as what to eat the night before the exam.

Rules and acronyms abound in the videos and the booklet. For example, in the math prep Beasley uses rules such as the Bikini rule for fractions, the Plug & Chug rule or the Paw of Averages rule; in the reading prep he uses the TOM CAT acronym (Tone, Object, Meaning, Check, Accept, Try) to help analyze questions. He also addresses some types of wrong answers, sorting them into Bonehead, Landmine, Dufus and Sucker categories and how to identify them.

The videos and companion booklet are chock full of useful info on **HOW** to get better scores in the SAT, and it seems reasonable to expect that, if followed, students will better their scores. The course does not include any curriculum review matter.

The videos mimic a classroom lecture, with slides used to outline or demonstrate Beasley's points. The lack of any kind of interactive involvement makes it hard to stay interested, but the videos fortunately are broken up into bite-size chapters that make study and review easier. Overall, the didactic presentation in the booklet and the lecture style of the videos will require considerable motivation on the part of the student and/or much encouragement by parents and/or teachers.

From Gateway Preparatory School, TV with DVD player or computer with DVD player, \$179, available at their web site www.gatewaystudent.com.