

Pacing

We won't beat around the bush. There's a lot to read on the SAT Reading test. And if you aren't careful with balancing your time between reading and question answering, you very well might find yourself in a panic when the proctor announces there are five minutes left. So let's discuss about how you can learn well to pace yourself appropriately.

Time Per Question

On average, you have only one minute and fifteen seconds (01:15) to answer each question on the SAT Reading test, but this includes reading time. Time you actually have per question will depend on exactly how long the passage is, how complex the passage is, and how fast of a reader you are.

Time Per Passage

Since everyone reads at a different pace and some passages are denser than others, it's better to think about the approximate time you can spend per passage, rather than per question. With 65 minutes for the whole SAT Reading test, this means you have 13 minutes per passage for each of the five passages--if you pace evenly. So just check your watch after each passage and make sure you are dedicatedly on track. Don't panic or take tensions if you are a little bit over; some passages might take you longer than others, but try to make up the ground as you go.

Time to Spend Reading

The trick to conquering & solving the SAT Reading section is finding the perfect balance between question-answering time and reading time. This is going to vary based on the discret, but in an ideal world you want to have both enough time to carefully read and understand the passage (as described above) and sufficient time to answer each question thoughtfully.

For most people, this is easier said than done. But you have to definitely figure out whether you are wasting too much time trying to understand every morsel of what you read or whether you are reading too quickly and thus wasting too much time re-reading or simply getting questions wrong because you blew through the passage in a mad sprint.