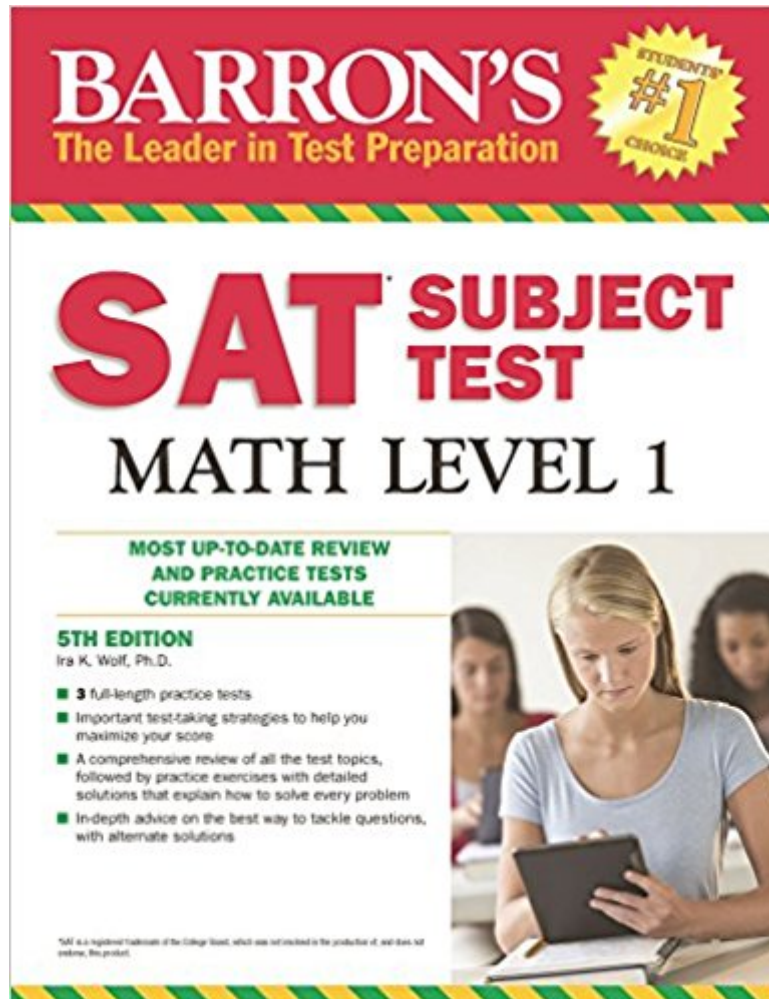


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Barron's SAT Subject Test Math Level 1, 5th Edition



Synopsis

The new fifth edition of Barron's SAT Subject Test: Math Level 1 offers students intensive test preparation with a review of the most important test-taking strategies students need to know to succeed on this exam. Topic review chapters covering all the math students need to know for this test, including: arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry, solid and coordinate geometry, trigonometry, functions and their graphs, probability and statistics, real and imaginary numbers, and logic. Three full-length model tests with complete solutions for every problem. The manual can be purchased alone or with an optional CD-ROM that presents two additional full-length practice tests with answers, explanations, and automatic scoring.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book contains valuable material that not only gives a student an idea of what exam is actually about but really helps to improve the score. It does not replace a regular textbook or a good teacher, but still can help a lot. It is a better tool for preparation to the math part of SAT than any general "all-in-one" SAT preparation book. The book contains 18 chapters which cover most topics well and three model tests. Those tests are very important preparation tools and are well worth the money. Chapter 2: "Tactics" is a really valuable chapter. It covers eight very useful approaches to solving SAT math problems. Exercises (with solutions) are good and as far as I can tell are pretty realistic. Three model tests are the real strong point of the book. Each of them is worth the price of

the book alone. Shortcomings are few. IMHO ideas of chapter 2 are not sufficiently reinforced in other chapters. The geometry section can (and should) be enlarged as this topic usually creates for student the most problems. Also topics are treated as isolated without pointing to bridges between them (for example between trigonometry and geometrical problems). Some neat tricks possible because a graphic calculator is allowed on the test (and it is IMHO a must) are not covered. This is an area that needs another book and a lot of dedicated self-study as few high schools use it. Usage of HP graphic calculator can improve your results considerably. But the problem is that you need to master it. Other things equal it is better to use the calculator that you know well and get used to. Highly recommended as an additional book to a good "all-in-one" SAT preparation book because math part of the test is the most important and most difficult part of SAT test. It can help to improve the score and at the same time save the family some money if (and only if) the student has adequate motivation to study himself/herself.

My recommendation: If you're a math person, this is the book for you. If you're not a math person, do not get this book (unless you have a ton of time on your hands; and as long as you don't get too down on yourself when you're receiving 100-150 lower on practice tests than you will on the real thing). Going into the real exam, I figured I was going to get around a 650 because I had miserably failed all of Barron's tests. Luckily, I am not a nervous person going into exams, but if I was, I would have been VERY nervous about this test because Barron's terrified me. Not being a math guru, I did not understand some parts of this book initially. It certainly covered all the topics, but I think it went too detailed into some parts--distracting from the main points. I was very happy to get my 720. I am sure my relatively high score was due to my becoming accustomed to the difficult material in Barron's.

After having spent several years prepping for/taking standardized tests I'm familiar with the difficulty of Barron's test prep books. They are indeed excellent content review books, but the practice tests included at the end are well above the difficulty of the actual tests. While this may seem like a good thing, I feel that this extra difficulty is mostly a disadvantage - it will lower your confidence. Not only will you be less likely to pick up the book and do the practice tests, you will also go into the test itself with the wrong mindset. I wish I could provide specific examples of the excess difficulty, but the problems are copyrighted. To give you an idea, you will encounter geometry questions in the teens/20 range on the practice tests that would rarely, if ever appear on the SAT 1 Math sections as the hardest problem. You will also encounter questions about imaginary roots, trig identities, and

other Algebra 2 topics that are more likely to appear on the Math 2 subject tests, if anywhere. I was a 740 student on the SAT 1 Math, a 780 student on the Official SAT guide to Subject tests Math 1 test and a 680 student in this book. If you're looking for a challenge, pick this book up, but otherwise go for something easier. Good luck!

My daughter used the Barron's Math level 1 5th edition, as well as the Math level 2 Barron's book, when preparing for her SAT Math 2 subject test. Like many have noted, the practice tests in Barron's for the math subject tests tend to be much harder than what you encounter on the actual test day. However, my daughter found this very assuring, as she felt over-prepared rather than under prepared going into the test. It really depends on what type of student you are, but at least for my daughter she found motivation from attempting the most challenging Barron's math problems, and was able to score in the top percentile in her actual SAT Subject Test. When using the Barron's book, it is important to go through the content review, at least for areas that you need to brush up on, and then attempt the practice tests. When doing the practice test, don't feel discouraged by the difficulty. Correct all your incorrect problems at the very end, and focus on understanding the concepts and theories used to arrive at those solutions. If you're able to understand that, then you'll be well equipped to solve any problem that is thrown your way on the real test day!

Covers all the topics of the Math I, I just took it today and this Math book sufficiently prepared me for the questions I faced. As with all Barron's books the questions the questions in this were harder, so I was relieved as compared to the Math I test. The chapter reviews are very helpful and it discusses each topic, although some are rarely even tested, this is a full comprehensive guide, and possibly one of the best guides you can purchase. If only I had had enough time to complete the entire book, it is a very helpful teaching and reference guide.

Contains review of all critical material for the level 1 exam and the review is quite good. The practice tests are *way* on the hard side relative to what you will actually see on the real exam, but if you can solve those problems the real test should be a relative cakewalk.

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