

The SAT Subject Tests™

Answer Explanations

TO PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM
THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS STUDENT GUIDE

German and German with Listening

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SAT Subject Test in German and German with Listening

This document gives detailed answer explanations to German practice questions from *The SAT Subject Tests™ Student Guide*. By reviewing them, you'll get to know the types of questions on the test and learn your strengths and weaknesses. Estimated difficulty level is based on a 1–5 scale, with 1 the easiest and 5 the most difficult.

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Reading Questions

1. Difficulty: 4

Choice (A) is correct. Yesterday evening the president gave a speech (A). The expression “to give a speech” is rendered idiomatically by *eine Rede halten*. It does not make sense to say that the president gave a language (B) yesterday evening, and it is much more likely that the president gave a speech than a message (C) or an explanation (D).

2. Difficulty: 2

Choice (D) is correct. The next bus departs at 10:00. The question requires the correct form of the verb *abfahren*. The subject *Der Bus* requires the stem verb form to be the third-person singular form of *fahren*; the third-person singular form is *fährt* (D).

3. Difficulty: 4

Choice (D) is correct. Do you know to whom this dog belongs? *Gehören* (to belong to) takes an indirect (dative) object, in this case *wem* (D).

4. Difficulty: 2

Choice (A) is correct. The given sentence—“I believe with certainty that”—(*Ich glaube bestimmt, dass*) has two parts. The question asks us to find the appropriate word order for the second clause, which begins with *dass*, “that.” *Dass* is a subordinating conjunction that requires inverted word order. The only option that shows correctly inverted word order, with the conjugated verb in the last position, is (A). All of the other options deviate from this pattern and are therefore incorrect.

5. Difficulty: 2

Choice (B) is correct. It is helpful to read the entire sentence with the four blanks in order to get an overall sense of what the situation is. The words *immer pünktlich*, *verstehe ... nicht*, *warum*, and *gelassen* suggest that someone who is usually on time has uncharacteristically failed to show up. The first phrase requires the correctly conjugated form of the verb “to know” in the sense of knowing the person; German uses the verb *kennen* to express that meaning. The subject *ich* requires the first-person singular form of the verb, or *kenne* (B). Note that *weiß/wissen* (A) expresses “to know” in the sense of

knowing some piece of information, *verstehe* (C) means “to know” in the sense of understanding something, and *kann/können* means “to know” in the sense of knowing a language or a skill: *Ich kann Deutsch*. (I know [how to speak] German.)

6. Difficulty: 2

Choice (A) is correct. The first part of the sentence—“As long as I have known him” (*Solange ich ihn kenne*)—provides a context for completing the sentence—“he has always been punctual.” The verb *sein* (to be) is used in the past tense to express “has been.” The past tense can be formed in two parts by combining the required auxiliary verb with the past participle of *sein*. Because the auxiliary verb for *sein* also happens to be *sein*, the third-person subject *er* requires the auxiliary verb *ist* paired with the past participle *gewesen* (A). The completed sentence reads *Solange ich ihn kenne, ist er immer pünktlich gewesen*. (As long as I have known him, he has always been punctual.)

7. Difficulty: 3

Choice (D) is correct. The first clause—“As long as I have known him, he has always been punctual” (*Solange ich ihn kenne, ist er immer pünktlich gewesen*)—needs to be linked to the next clause—*ich verstehe ... nicht*—with a word that indicates that the first clause provides a reason or an explanation, something that we might express in English as “therefore.” In German, “therefore” can be expressed with *deshalb* (D). The resulting clause makes sense: *ich verstehe deshalb nicht* (Therefore, I do not understand). It would not make much sense to say “With which, I do not understand” (A), “Through which, I do not understand” (B), or “In which, I do not understand” (C).

8. Difficulty: 5

Choice (C) is correct. The speaker says that he or she cannot understand “why he left us ... this time” (“*warum er uns dismal ... gelassen hat*”); from the context, we can infer that the person has left them hanging, or left them in the lurch. In German, “to leave someone in the lurch” is expressed idiomatically with the phrase *im Stich lassen*, thus *Stich* (C) is the correct answer. Neither *Loch* (A), *Vergessen* (B), nor *Mangel* (D) results in a meaningful German phrase.

9. Difficulty: 1

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what one could win with this coupon. The heading of the advertisement states that the prize includes a weekend for two in a major city (*Weltstadt-Wochenende zu zweit zu gewinnen*); further down in the ad copy, we learn that all expenses will be paid (*Das alles auf unsere Kosten*). From these clues, we can infer that the prize is *ein bezahltes Wochenende* (A), an all-expense-paid weekend. The ad does not mention the seaside (B) or a fancy car (C). Although a great hotel (D) is mentioned, it is only part of the prize.

10. Difficulty: 2

Choice (D) is correct. The question asks for whom this hotel's location is particularly convenient. In bold text at the bottom of the ad it is emphasized that the hotel is "across from the main train station" (*"Gegenüber Hauptbahnhof"*). It is thus a convenient location for people who are traveling by train, *"Zugreisende"* (D). By contrast, nothing in the text of the ad supports the idea that the location is particularly suited to boaters (A), passengers on airplanes (B), or motorcyclists (C).

11. Difficulty: 1

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what one can do in this hotel. One specific feature of the hotel that is mentioned is the fact that it offers *"Konferenzräume für 10–250 Personen"* (conference rooms for 10–250 people). Choice (A) therefore correctly states that one could "hold big meetings" (*"Große Veranstaltungen halten"*) in the hotel. Choices (B) and (D) are not supported in the text: nothing indicates that this hotel has a fitness studio (B), and there is also no information about there being a swimming pool (D). Choice (C) says that guests can use the Internet for free in the hotel, but this is flatly contradicted in the text of the ad, which states that *"Internetanschluss"* (Internet connection) is available to guests *"für geringe Gebühr"* (for a small fee).

12. Difficulty: 1

Choice (B) is correct. The sentence to be completed describes what people can do to decrease the likelihood of a heart attack. Note the prominence in the first paragraph of *Gesundheit* (health or being healthy) and *Bewegung* (exercise): *mit Joggen, Schwimmen und Schwitzen ... Herzinfarktrisiko zu verkleinern hoffen* (hoping to reduce the risk of a heart attack by jogging, swimming and sweating). The passage suggests that staying healthy and exercising—remaining fit (B)—reduces the risk of a heart attack. Overeating (A) and avoiding exercise (C) would have the opposite effect. And there is no reason to suggest that experimenting on animals (D) would directly reduce the risk of a heart attack.

13. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks you to identify what the author of the report makes clear. Toward the end of the second paragraph, the author emphasizes a near-necessity: *Natürlich muss das Experiment wiederholt und verbessert werden* (of course the experiment will have to be repeated and refined). In other words, the author makes it clear that the experiment must be repeated (C). Rather than indicating that the study groups have no relationship (A), that exercise can only harm one's health (B), and that the pulse can never be accelerated (D), the author indicates the opposite on all three points: There is a relationship between the study groups, exercise can reduce the risk of a heart attack, and the pulse can be speeded up.

14. Difficulty: 3

Choice (D) is correct. The question asks about the main idea of the report. In the first paragraph, the author asks, "Is exercise good for one's health?" (*ob Bewegung ... der Gesundheit dient*) and wonders whether exercise helps "to reduce the risk of heart attack" (*Herzinfarktrisiko zu verkleinern*). He or she goes on to discuss the effects of exercise. The author's main focus is health (D). Sports training (A), nutrition (B), and laboratory methods (C) are all mentioned in the text, but these topics are part of the larger discussion of health; none of them is the primary topic.

Listening Questions

15. Difficulty: 2

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what Rainer does not like or is unhappy about. In the scenario, Klaus enters the room and asks Rainer, who has been cooking, "What is for dinner?" Rainer gives him the ungenerous answer *"Für dich nichts"* ("For you, nothing"). Rainer explains in the second part of the sentence: *"weil du immer so spät nach Hause kommst"* ("because you always come home so late"). The best explanation for why Rainer is upset is therefore (A) *Klaus kommt spät*. (Klaus comes [home] late.)

16. Difficulty: 1

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks why Herr Lenz is still sitting at his desk. Herr Lenz explains by saying that he is about to go on vacation—*"in Urlaub fahren"*—and does not want to leave his work half finished: *"ich wollte keine Arbeit liegen lassen."* The best explanation is therefore (C) *Er arbeitet*. (He is working.)

17. Difficulty: 1

Choice (D) is correct. The question asks where the two men are talking. It can be inferred that the scenario is an office or place of work because the man who speaks to Herr Lenz uses a formal *Sie* address and is surprised to see Herr Lenz still there at 6 p.m.: “*Es ist schon 6 Uhr!*” (“It is already 6 o’clock!”). The man, probably Herr Lenz’s boss, says that he will be getting an assistant—“*eine Hilfskraft*”—to help with additional work and tells Herr Lenz to go home and pack: “*Gehen Sie nach Hause und packen Sie.*” On the basis of these multiple pieces of evidence, one has to say that the men are (D) *Im Büro* (in an office [at work]).

18. Difficulty: 3

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks how the man knew that the woman (Frau Müller) had a car that she wanted to sell. The answer is contained in his first sentence—*Ich habe in der “Morgenpost” gelesen, dass Sie ein Auto zu verkaufen haben.* The man read about the car in something with the title *Morgenpost*. A personalized *Brief* (letter), as in choice (B), would not have a title. The best choice is therefore (A) *Er hat es in der Zeitung gelesen.* (He read about it in the newspaper.)

19. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks why the car was in the repair shop. The seller says nothing about an accident (*Unfall*) (A) or a window (*Fenster*) (D) or about the car having been scratched (*verkratzt*) (B). She does say, “*Die Tür auf der Fahrerseite ließ sich nicht schließen.*” The best answer is therefore (C) *Weil die Tür auf der Fahrerseite nicht zging.* (The driver’s side door did not close.)

20. Difficulty: 4

Choice (B) is correct. The question asks when the man has arranged to see the car. He says that he gets off work (*Ich habe ... Feierabend*) at 5 p.m., asks if that time is convenient, and estimates that he will be at the seller’s house just after 6 p.m. (*Ich werde kurz nach 18.00 Uhr bei Ihnen sein.*) The best choice is therefore (B).

21. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks why the car is in such good shape, indeed *wie neu* (like new). We can eliminate answers that imply that the car has a lot of wear and tear: Its like-new condition cannot be explained by the fact that it is due for an inspection (B) or by the fact that it has more than 45,000 kilometers on it (D). Choice (A) is plausible: A car can seem new again after it comes out of the repair shop, *weil es gerade aus der Werkstatt kam.* But we were told that this particular car was last in the shop several months ago, and that was for a relatively minor adjustment to a door: “*Vor einigen Monaten haben wir sie [die Tür] reparieren lassen.*” The only choice that helps explain the good overall condition of the car is (C) *Weil es nachts nicht auf der Straße steht* (because it is garaged at night).