

DAT PRACTICE TEST (Web-based format)

Purpose of the DAT Practice Test

The DAT Practice Test contains samples of the four tests used in the Dental Admission Test. The DAT Practice Test will enable examinees to become familiar with the types of material included in the test as well as with the general format of the test.

General Information and Disclaimer

The DAT Practice Test includes questions compiled from Dental Admission Tests administered previously by the American Dental Association (ADA). Periodically, the ADA releases items no longer in use to familiarize applicants, educators, and others with the general format and content of its test. The DAT Practice Test is also available for purchase in paper-based format at www.ada.org.

The ADA does not guarantee that the information in the DAT Practice Test is accurate, current, or relevant. Released materials may no longer be consistent with the current test specifications, content emphasis, or test structure. Due to the dynamic nature of the sciences, these materials may be outdated. The current DAT *Test Specifications* may be found in the DAT Program Guide at www.ada.org.

Structure of the DAT Practice Test

The DAT Practice Test is 4 hours and 30 minutes (including a 15-minute optional break) in length and follows the time limits in the actual DAT. The time limit will be indicated in the upper right hand corner on the computer screen. Therefore, you will need to pace yourself as you proceed through each test in the DAT Practice Test. If you have time remaining in a section of the test, you can review your responses. When time expires, the computer screen will move to the next test or optional break period. The structure of the test is given below.

You are encouraged to review the DAT Tutorial at www.ada.org under Step 4 before taking the DAT Practice Test. The tutorial provides some sample items and information on navigating through the test.

DAT Practice Test		
Components of the Test	Number of Items	Time Allowance
Survey of the Natural Sciences	100	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test	90	60 minutes
Optional Break		15 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	50 across three reading passages	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	40	45 minutes

Content of the Dental Admission Test

The **Survey of the Natural Sciences** is a test of achievement. The content is limited to those areas covered by an entire first-year course in biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry. The examination is comprised of 100 items: 40 biology items, 30 general chemistry items, and 30 organic chemistry items. Since separate sub-scores will be given for each of the three science sections, you should pace yourself through each section. A periodic table will be available for this test by clicking an *Exhibit* button.

The **Perceptual Ability Test** includes various types of nonverbal visual acuity items. There are six sections in the Perceptual Ability Test. One section covers two-dimensional perception, while the other sections cover three-dimensional perception. It is important that you read and understand the instructions at the beginning of each section. You must pace yourself so that you complete all six sections of the Perceptual Ability Test within the given time frame. You are not permitted to use measuring devices (i.e., pencils, fingers, erasable note board) while taking the Perceptual Ability Test.

The **Reading Comprehension Test** consists of three reading passages, each with 16 to 17 items. The reading passages are scientific in nature and may reflect topics covered in dental school. Applicants are encouraged to read each passage before attempting to answer the corresponding questions. The Reading Comprehension Test is presented in a split-screen format with the items presented on the upper half of the screen, and the reading passage presented in a scrollable format on the lower half of the screen.

The **Quantitative Reasoning Test** measures your ability to reason with numbers, to manipulate numerical relationships, and deal intelligently with quantitative materials. For the DAT Practice Test, a calculator will not be present. However, a basic calculator will be available as a pop-up image on the screen for the Quantitative Reasoning Test section in the real DAT.

Score Information for the Practice Dental Admission Test

In the practice test, only the number of correct answers (raw scores) for each of the four tests on the DAT is reported. Sub-scores in terms of raw scores will also be given for each of the three sections (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry) under the Survey of the Natural Sciences (SNS). In the real test, raw scores are converted to a standard score metric ranging from 1 to 30. The academic score (average standard score of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, quantitative reasoning, and reading comprehension) is only reported on the actual DAT. Unlike raw scores, standard scores allow users to meaningfully compare performance on the DAT among examinees. In both practice and real tests, there is no penalty for guessing.

Immediately upon completion of the practice test, you will receive a printout of your raw score performance. The report includes the total number of items as well as the number of correct responses (raw scores) for each of the four tests and the three sections under SNS.

General Testing Rules

- Each section of the DAT consists of multiple-choice items. Read the item, decide which choice is best, and click on the corresponding circle.
- Read the test directions for each test section carefully.

- The DAT Practice Test is a timed test, which reflects the actual DAT testing time.
- After you select a response for an item, you can click for feedback, which will indicate the correct answer. However, to receive your true raw score for each test, you should not change your responses. Remember that the test is timed.
- When you exit each test section (i.e., Survey of the Natural Sciences, Reading Comprehension, etc.), you cannot return to that section. If you finish a section before time has expired, you can use that time to review your responses. When time has expired, you will no longer be able to review your responses for that section.
- While the actual DAT would display a basic calculator for the QRT section only, the DAT Practice Test will not display a calculator. In addition to the calculator, during the real DAT the test center will provide two erasable note boards, two low-odor, fine-tip markers, and an eraser upon request.
- At the end of your practice Dental Admission Test, you will receive a printout of your raw score performance. Do not dwell on the raw scores. The score are only a general indicator of your strengths and weaknesses across the subject areas. Instead, use the information to better judge what you need to do before you take the actual Dental Admission Test.

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