



# Dear Tutees, Here is Our SHSAT Advice!

*Stuy Prep*



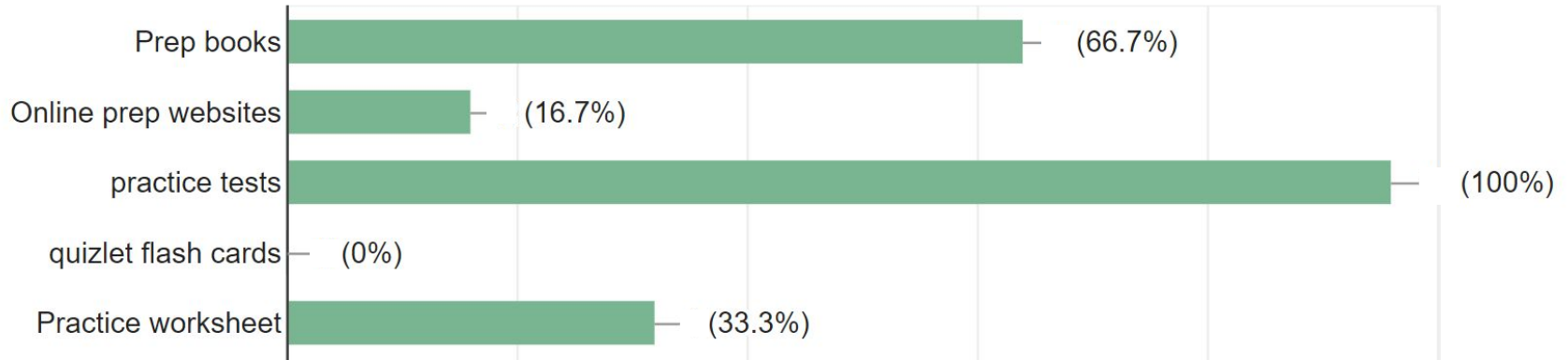
BY Angel Xie, Monica Lai, Karen Zhang, & Jennifer Zeng



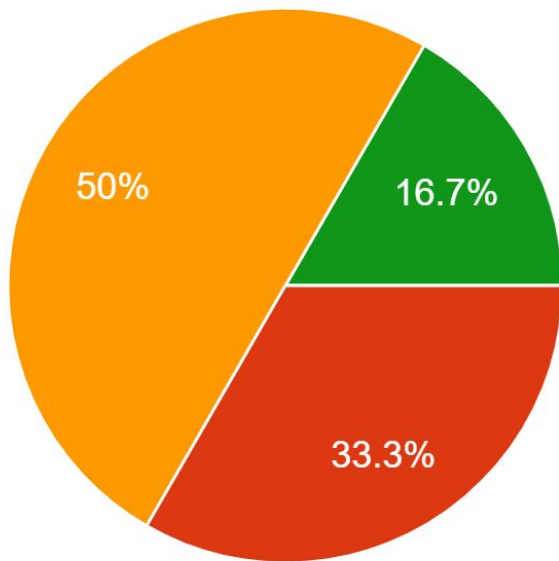
6th - 8th  
Grade



# What did you find most helpful while preparing for the SHSAT?

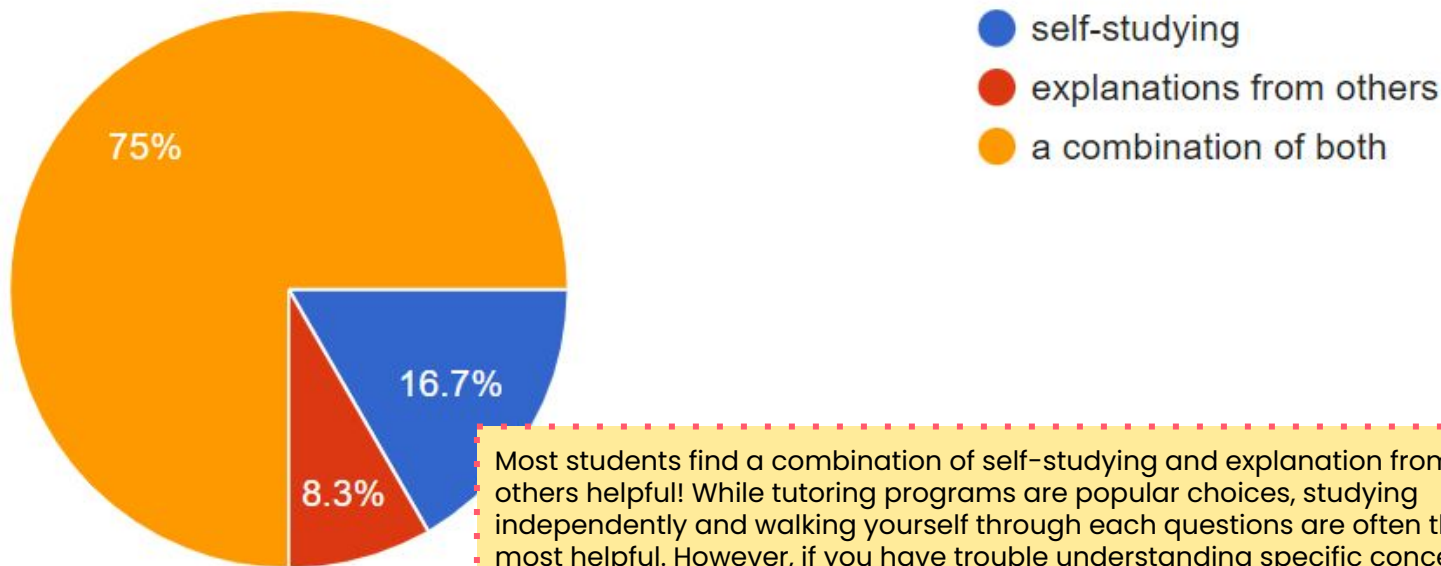


# How frequently did you practice with practice tests?



- Never
- Occasionally
- Once to twice a week
- More than twice a week
- Everyday

# I find \_\_\_ more helpful when I prepare for the SHSAT...



Most students find a combination of self-studying and explanation from others helpful! While tutoring programs are popular choices, studying independently and walking yourself through each questions are often the most helpful. However, if you have trouble understanding specific concepts, don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers or email us through [stuyprep2020@gmail.com](mailto:stuyprep2020@gmail.com)!

**How many hours  
did you spend on  
SHSAT preparation  
each week?**



As you can see, the number of hours students spent on SHSAT preparations tend to **vary** from person to person.

There is not a set amount of time one should commit to studying the SHSAT, because the emphasis here should be **quality over quantity**. Please do not over stress yourself! **The key here is to find the most productive methods of studying that will suit yourself best!** As long as you are ensuring that you have a good comprehension of each topic on the SHSAT, you are in very good shape!

# How specifically did you study?

I took a practice test a week for like 3-4 weeks

I tried talking 1 or 2 practice test every week to get used to sitting in one place for 3 hours, understanding the format of the test, and making a strategy for myself. I did practice worksheets to do a variety of questions and vocabulary. I did prep books to find the fastest strategy for answering the questions.

I took practice tests regularly during the summer leading up to the exam. I also attended a prep school where I received worksheets and prep materials to practice each week.

I did the questions in the book, took a break, and then reviewed all the questions I got wrong. In the beginning I recommend reading explanations for every question you do and only sticking to around 25 questions a day and slowly building it up to around 200.

I mostly read prep books and used their strategies to implement in my practice tests, then fix my work accordingly.

I used prep books to review topics of the SHSAT, especially for the math section. But for me, doing a lot of practice problems and taking practice tests were the most helpful because I can practice thinking like I am taking the actual test.

I went to a prep school where they would give me practice worksheets, practice tests, and practice tests. I found it especially helpful though to look for prep books at the library for more practice tests.

## (Cont.)

“ Just taking a lot of practice tests helps with applying the knowledge from classes. **You get taught techniques and tips but it's up to you to determine what works for you and what you like. It's from test taking that you find these things out.** Also, a bunch of tests also gets you into that testing mindset.... If you've taken a lot of tests this might just be second nature so that when you're actually taking the test, the feeling of familiarity will help put your mind at some ease and help you get through the test.”



# What is something that you wish you knew when you prepared for the SHSAT?

- "Time management is very important during the test"
- "Don't wait for the last minute to study for the test and **spread the work out over many weeks**. Make sure you understand how the test works and you know which schools you want to go to. Don't be afraid to ask questions and study."
- "After a year of practice questions of the english section, I still barely improved. **I only started improving when I started to annotate the answer explanations. from the handbook and try to apply that when doing questions,** which made me improve by a lot. Also take note of what types of mistakes you make, because that will also help you improve."
- "Take it slow, and don't worry about it! I was nervous, especially after the test, that I didn't do well because of my inability to read under time constraints. If I knew to slow down, I think I would've done better"
- "**Do a crash course on math (you can find a lot of useful resources online)! Math is probably where you can improve your score most quickly as long as you master those materials well!**"

## (Cont.)

- **"The SHSAT is a test based on how well you know a topic and how well you can use what you learned to solve the problem...** I got into Stuyvesant, and guys please don't stress out. You will all be fine and wherever you go, you will do amazing! CALM DOWN! You have time to practice. Do your best and I wish you all the best of luck! Hope to see some of you next year! ;) :))))"
- "I wish I had a clearer picture of myself and the SHSAT, because compared to English, I am better at math. If I learned that earlier, I would have studied more for the reading and writing part. My advice would be to **find your strengths, and more importantly, your weaknesses. These things can be a subject in general or specific topics within one subject.** Then you will have a clear plan of how you should study and address any weaknesses."
- "Looked at every English question more literally. There is only one right answer and it can always be found in the text."
- "I would **pay a lot more attention to the grammar rules.** In addition to studying for the SHSAT exam, I would have focus more on my writing skills because it was essential for excelling in high school."
- "Analyzing what types of questions appear more frequently so it would be easier to study."

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. . . **The test is important but so is your mental health.** Study hard. But **while spending time preparing, spend time for yourself.** Don't think of this as a chore because once it becomes so mundane and annoying that it's a chore you'd lose motivation and that's not good....You have all the knowledge you'd need, you just need to get used to test taking.

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Specialized high schools will win you wonderful education opportunities. However, also know that you can find other ways to succeed as an independent learner. **Look beyond the “boundaries” set by our classrooms.** Many Stuy students take on personal initiatives to self study for the subjects of their passion and engage in activities outside of schools to pursue what they love, whether that be enrolling in an online course on creative writing or starting a club that helps elders learn an instrument! These amazing activities all requires many more important skills beyond the SHSATs. And I sincerely hope that you **do not let your SHSAT score define your high school career.** The happy memories you form with friends

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and your willingness to chase your passions are what count. Good luck!! :)



**Best of  
luck! ;)**