June 2008 SAT Report

The SAT provided nothing shocking. Both test versions were very straightforward. Both had the "old" 2-and-2 question short reading passages (May and March each had versions with one short passage containing only one question).

We are no longer at liberty to discuss the College Board's reading comp selections. Know that in length and tone, we saw nothing exceptional. While we would love to see more interesting passages, including some excerpts from textbooks, how-to- manuals, and practical articles, this consistency by College Board is admirable and helpful.

The hard Vocabulary included:

1. Remuneration
2. Abstemious
3. Cloistered
4. Olfactory
5. Nuance
6. Iconoclast
7. Parity
8. Vitriolic
9. Obstreperous
10. Salutary
11. Ebullient

Math question concepts

1. There was a height question where you are supposed to look at a bunch of equations and determine the slope of the height function. For example, if the equation was y=2x+5, then you are supposed to understand that the slope would be 2. And if that equation is compared with another equation, say y=3x+5, you are to understand that the 3x has a steeper slope than the 2x one.
2. Arithmetic series question, where after being given a first term and the difference between terms, you are to find an nth term, such as the 67^{th} one.
3. Given two concentric circles and that the difference in their radii is 2, you are to find the difference in their circumferences.
4. Given a rectangular prism with a square base, a height of 11, and a volume of 100, how many 3 by 3 by 2 can you fit completely inside?
5. Two overlapping squares, with Square A's vertex being the dead center of the Square B. Find the overlapping area given that the volume for the Square B is 64.
6. Given that n is between two numbers, say 8 and 72, what is the product of all such (n-1)/n ?
7. Given a Venn diagram, with Circle A being all positive numbers, and Circle B being all integers, you are to recognize that a point inside Circle B but outside Circle A must be a negative integer.
8. Given the coordinates of three points and the fact that the three points are related by a linear function y=mx+b, you are to find b.

9. Given that a photo's area was magnified by 4 and the end product's dimensions, you are asked to find the dimensions of the original photo (key here is that when area is multiplied by 4, sides are only multiplied by 2)
10. Given that $0<x<2<y$, you are to recognize the fact that $(y-x)/(xy)>0$ because both the numerator and the denominator must be positive.
11. Given the percentage of people over 21 and the percentage of people over 40 (and the total number of people), you are to find the number of people who are older than 21 but younger than 40.

Writing --
Subject/verb disagreement remains the most prominent Multiple Choice topic.
Harder questions again seemed to be placed towards the end. The correlation was not as direct as in Math. This is a trend to respect, as the May and January 2008 SAT reports shows a clustering of harder coming later. This does not change our order of attack however.