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SAT Subject Test Physics



SAT SUBJECT TEST

PHYSICS

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Robert Jansen, M.A.,
and Greg Young, M.S.Ed.

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- Provides the methodology used to solve physics problems



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Synopsis

One diagnostic test and three complete SAT Subject Tests in Physics reflect the most recent actual tests in length, subject matter, and degree of difficulty. All questions are answered and explained. Self-assessment guides after each test can help improve the test-taker's score. An extensive subject review covers all topics on the SAT Subject Test, including mechanics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, thermodynamics, and more. Unique new features include a "What's the Trick?" approach to solving problems quickly and effectively. Added tips, called out with "If You See" are included within the chapters to give test takers critical insight into difficult concepts. Each chapter is followed by several review questions with answers and explanations. The authors also provide general examination strategies and a detailed appendix with equations, physical constants, and a basic math review.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I began reviewing for the Physics SAT II, I was two years removed from my high school's Honors Physics class, and much of the information was foggy at best. I chose this book mainly because Barron's helped me do well on AP Calc and AP Spanish Language (longest and hardest

exam of my life!). So I chose this book rather blindly, on 'general principles,' knowing Barron's had worked for me in the past. **My Experience:** A quick summation - I began studying with this book after AP exams in May 2013, for the June 1, 2013 Subject Test. I had taken honors physics (geometry-based) freshman year, or in other words, two years prior. This book (with my parents' nudging) pretty occupied a lot of my time for those two weeks in May. In the end, I got an 800, largely thanks to this book. **Point #1:** It works (see my testimonial :) There are a ton of practice tests and problems, and in keeping with Barrons, they are harder than the actual test (Disclaimer: I like that, some people don't). **About the test:** There are something like 50-60 (I think it is sixty) questions in an hour. As you can guess, it's about remembering concepts more than solving multi-step problems. Any math is pretty much plug-and-chug. So, if you are worried that this book will be an encyclopedia, I have bad news. But so is the test. On the test, there are questions on every topic you will have covered in a comprehensive course, from Galileo to relativity, and **NO EQUATIONS ARE GIVEN**. Therefore, the fact that every topic is covered in this book (and the handy equations index is present at the back) is an enormous boon. **Point #2:** It asks the right (if unenjoyable) questions.

This book provides a lot of information and makes it easy to understand. There are a few chapters that could use some more, such as the ones on waves and reflections. I had to watch videos on YouTube to gain a grasp of these. Anyhow, here's how it went. **Before the test:** I had been taking AP Physics C: Mechanics from September to December. I enrolled in this test for January. My teacher was mediocre at best, and I had no previous exposure on any of the other physics concepts like electricity and magnetism. And I was vaguely familiar with Newton's Laws and Kinematics from my class. Basically, I was self-studying for the test with some help from my physics teacher when I didn't understand something. I didn't realize that schools recommended a subject test relating to the field of your prospective major, so I didn't decide to take this until December. I took the diagnostic during Winter Break and scored 480. Yikes. I guessed on the vast majority of questions. This book became my bible for the next few weeks. I read it during my physics class (since we weren't learning anything anyway), during lunch, after school, etc. I was really learning a lot and this book made learning physics enjoyable. When I finished with the book, I took one of the practice tests. I scored 630. I needed to score in the 700s if I wanted to be competitive for the schools I was applying to, so I studied some more. I took the second test and scored 650. I only had a few days before the test, so I studied for hours straight (about 5pm until 2am). I took the last practice test in the book and finally scored a 730 with a few minutes left over. I no longer had to guess on the questions and felt

confident.

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