Synopsis

If it’s on the SAT Physics Subject Test, it’s in this book. Cracking the SAT Physics Subject Test, 2011-2012 Edition brings you:-Practical information on the what, when, where, and how of the SAT Physics Subject Test-Tons of sample problems and drills-Thorough review of work, energy and power, linear momentum, rotational motion, electric potential and capacitance, electromagnetic induction, and much more-Planning and organization tips to get you all the way to test day! Cracking the SAT Physics Subject Test, 2011-2012 Edition also includes 2 full-length practice tests with detailed explanations.

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Customer Reviews

I took the test after taking AP Physics B as a sophomore. I did well in the class and had a great teacher. I did the first practice test in this book a few days before the and got about a 770. It was great review. I did the second one the night before the exam (too late at night). I got a 700 (probably because I was tired). I panicked and couldn’t really sleep that well. I got up and took the test the next morning. Right before, someone told me that they had taken it at the previous date and got an 800. *panic* I took it and left 6 blank (and made some educated guesses. Remember, if you can narrow it down, guess). I came home thinking I definitely did not get as high of a grade as I would have liked (high 700s, 800 ideally). .. . Turns out I got an 800. I really just bought this book for the practice tests. I always find physics review books confusing because you probably learned different
problem solving methods. Here's my advice: The real physics SAT is harder than the practice questions on the SAT website but slightly easier than the practice tests in this book. These practice tests are great review, but don't take your "practice score" from the score conversion chart in this book too seriously. It's all approximate. Also this book goes into a lot of interesting but unnecessary detail about topics such as special relativity. For this topic, know how the variables in the equations are related (i.e. direct vs inverse), not the equations themselves. Remember, this test is fast paced and done WITHOUT A CALCULATOR (someone in my test room did not know this no-calculator rule coming in, which is weird because the AP is the same way). You're not going have to do any sort of difficult calculation. Honestly, the review found on sparknotes and other sites is probably fine. I think the practice tests are the highlight and the best help IF AND ONLY IF you go back and figure out what you did wrong. If you can't figure out your mistake (or just didn't know how to do it) ask your teacher. Overall, take this test seriously, it's harder than most people make it sound. But don't freak out if your score on a practice test isn't good. This book made me and some of my friends panic, and that's not a good thing. Don't let it make you panic. You'll probably score quite a bit higher on the real thing. So that's my advice. Now the question is if it's worth the money. I say why not.

I chose Princeton Review because I have used them previously, but I do not recommend this book for the SAT2. The book essentially only focuses on the math--many of the equations were not even used. The emphasis on the conceptual math was minimal; I had to find other resources to fulfill the conceptual studying.

This book really prepped my kid for the test. It has all the necessary material and good review questions. She had to go to her physics teacher for more explanations on some of the questions though. However it only has 2 practice tests. Get barron's for more practice tests.

No problem with this book, but I think the editor made some mistakes with the contents inside. Overall is good, and we got a discount on the price of it.

My son used this book to improve on his SAT scores. They did go up a lot but I do not know whether it is the book or the fact that he studied more. Any way it helped him organize his studying and is a lot cheaper than the SAT prep courses offered in my neighborhood.
I took this test at the beginning of my senior after I had taken AP Physics B in junior year. About 2 weeks before the test, I used this book and Brightstorm Physics videos (can be found on youtube, highly recommend!) to review and received a score of 740. It’s not the 800 I was hoping for, but had I used a review book that had similar practice problems to the subject test, I believe I would have gotten a higher score. So what are some of the flaws in this book? The SAT Physics Princeton Review book focuses on too much calculation as opposed to concepts. Since students are not permitted to use calculators, the SAT Physics test is mostly concept based. Half of the book contains math-based problems that were not similar to the questions on the actual SAT Physics test because they were too calculation intensive. So about half of the book contains unnecessary practice problems. This book needs more explaining of concepts and conceptual practice questions rather than complex math-based questions. So, in terms of how well this review book is geared towards the SAT Physics Subject Test, I give it 3 stars. Do I recommend this book? For the SAT physics subject test, no.

Used this book to prepare for the June 2014 physics SAT. Explanation of some concepts were unclear and practice problem explanations were often confusing too. Practice tests were harder and more specific than the actual exam but I found this to be a good thing (better to over-prepare than under-prepare). Decent resource overall; I also used Sparknotes to help me study. I wouldn’t use this as my only study guide--maybe use it in conjunction with Barron’s or Sparknotes.

I find this book useful, but I think it has some mistakes in it. It helped me to remind myself with the physics I already know. I know someone who knows very little about physics the he spent a lot of his time studying it and he got an awesome score. So if you buy it to get a good score, it will help. But if you buy it and you think it is going to help you know more about physics, then I think it has some mistakes and it is not the right book for you.

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