

Test Practice and Homework Help

Introduction

One of the biggest pressures on students is to do well on standardized tests. Whether they are at the elementary level of their education, at the high school level trying to get into the best colleges, or at the college level trying to get into graduate school, today's world requires that students take these tests and be assessed by their performances on them. Studies show that preparation for standardized tests, particularly practice related directly to the kinds and format of the questions being asked, can make a significant difference in a student's results. Teachers should familiarize themselves with the tests students will need to take and the ways they can receive help online or in their local community.

Students need ways to practice what they are learning. Homework is often required by teachers to help students practice and reinforce the skills they are learning at school. Having good homework habits and the appropriate resources available to students is essential. The appropriate use of technology, computers, and the Internet can help students be successful in school and in their preparation for their lives after they finish school.

SUGGESTED activity

Have high school students look at the Test Prep Review site at <http://www.testprepreview.com/>. Have them look through the Test Preparation section to see what suggestions they make for doing well on tests. Make sure they focus on what activities would work for them so they could do their best. Have them explore specific test Web pages too. Visit Teacher Created Materials Publishing at <http://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com> and search for materials that might be relevant your students. The activities are standards based and titles relate to specific skills. Two examples are *Standards-Based Comprehension Strategies and Skills Practice Book*, and *Writing Preparation for the SAT*. Each publication provides free downloadable sample pages, the table of contents for the material, and the related standards and grant money that may be available to teachers or schools to purchase the materials. This type of search for materials is always worth the time.

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General

Test Prep Review

<http://www.testprepreview.com/>

This site offers a review of the top test-taking sites and free practice tests. This is a great site to begin with when you are checking into required tests for private schools, high schools, colleges, and professional college programs like law or business. This exceptional site should be shared with students and parents.

Internet 4 Classrooms—Assessment

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/assistance.htm>

This site provides a variety of resources to help students practice skills required on various assessments. They have divided their resources into elementary, middle school and high school level tests. They also provide a countdown timer that can be of benefit to some students.

The New York Times—Who's Who and What's What Quiz

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/quiz/index.html>

Have your students see what they know about the day's news. The daily quiz provides questions and images that relate to articles published in *The New York Times* each day. Students can play every Monday through Friday. This is a great way to keep students interested in studying what is happening in the world on a daily basis. The site also includes News Summaries, Daily News Quizzes, Word of the Day, Test Prep Question of the Day, Science Question and Answer, Letters to the Editor, and Ask a Reporter.

High School Ace: The Academic Homepage for High School Students

<http://highschoolace.com/ace/ace.cfm>

The Academic Homepage for High School Students is a site that will help students prepare for their college-prep exams and standardized tests. If students visit this site each day and participate in the test-taking prep activities, they will benefit from the professional help available at this site as they work on their skills. This site offers high school homework help and college-prep study guides to students in the areas of English, foreign languages, math, science, U.S. history, and world history. They also have a College Guide, Daily News Quiz, Test Prep Question, Today's News, Weather Forecast, and a Word of the Day section.

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Homework Help

Homework Spot

<http://www.homeworkspot.com/>

HomeworkSpot.com is a free homework information site that features the some useful K–12 homework-related sites. With the help of students, parents, and teachers, their team of educators, librarians, and journalists has collected the best resources for English, math, science, history, art, music, technology, foreign language, college prep, health, life skills, extracurricular activities, and much more. They have organized these resources into grade-appropriate categories with access to many of the world’s best libraries, museums, and current event sources. Because no homework is complete without a study break, they have also included a wide assortment of fun mind-stretching activities and contests for students to enjoy. This is a great site for your students to use.

BJ Pinchbeck’s Homework Help

<http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bjpinchbeck/>

BJ Pinchbeck’s Homework Help from The Discovery Channel School is for anyone who needs help with homework. “If you can’t find it here, then you just can’t find it” is the promise on the site’s header. The homework links at this site include Art/Music, Computer Science and the Internet, English, Foreign Languages, Health and P.E., Math, News, Recess, Reference, Science, Search Engines, and Social Studies. This is a great site for your students to bookmark or add to their favorites list.

Study Buddy

<http://homework-help.aol.com/>

This is a search engine specifically developed by AOL for homework help. Students can search by subject area or enter a question into Study Buddy search and find the homework answers they need. StudyBuddy.com searches many content databases and thousands of educator-approved websites. Study Buddy presents results in these categories: Best Results, Articles, Audio and Video, Photos/Maps, Quizzes/Games, Web Sites, and Family Library. Students can also choose their grade level and browse through thousands of articles on hundreds of topics, all designed to help with their homework. Study Buddy also has a dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, and a translator. Students can also test their U.S. IQ by taking the American Quest for grades 3–5 or 6–8.

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Jiskha Homework Help

<http://www.jiskha.com/>

At Jiskha Homework Help, more than 200 experts volunteer their time to assist students. More than 4,000 students receive personal help with homework every day. Students can look for help by jumping to different curriculum-related sections or they can search the site for specific help. There are literally thousands of educational articles that are used for guidance and support of students with troublesome assignments.

Reference Desk—Homework Help

<http://www.refdesk.com/>

<http://www.refdesk.com/homework.html>

The Reference Desk site and its subsection, Homework, are a bit busy looking in appearance but they offer a wealth of information. It is well worth exploring to see what these two sites have to offer your students. Students may need some guided assistance with navigating this site to see its full potential.

TIME for Kids Homework Helper

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/hh>

TIME for Kids has a kid-powered Rapid Research Tool that helps direct students to the best sites on the Web by using subject selection. They also have a Write Ideas and a Go Places section that can be of help to students too.

DiscoverySchool—Homework Helper and More

<http://school.discovery.com/students/>

Discovery Channel offers Cosmeo, a fast and fun online homework-help service. Besides homework help, Cosmeo offers reliable report information, math help, and brain games.

Science Fair Central

<http://school.discovery.com/Sciencefaircentral/>

This site provides students, teacher, and parents with a comprehensive guide to creating a science-fair project.

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Kid Info—Student Homework Help

http://www.kidinfo.com/School_Subjects.html

This site offers homework help in the basic subject areas, plus links to search engines, reference resources, and fun sites to try when the homework is done.

First Gov for Kids—Homework Help

http://www.kids.gov/k_homework.htm

This site opens with “Confused by a computer question? Stumped on a science question? Heartburn over a history question? Here are some great links to help you with your homework—this may even help you finish it faster!” This site has many links to homework related websites. Students should explore this site, to see what it has to offer.

Teacher-Generated Worksheets and Study Guides

Half-Baked Software

<http://hotpot.uvic.ca/>

The Hot Potatoes software suite at this site includes six applications, enabling you to create interactive multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering, and gap-fill exercises for the Web. Hot Potatoes is not freeware, but it is free of charge for those working for publicly funded nonprofit educational institutions that make their pages available on the Web. If you are making a class Web page, try this software to make your Web page more interactive.

Personal Educational Press

<http://www.educationalpress.org/>

At this site, you can create free educational test practice aids such as flashcards, game boards, study sheets, and quizzes for your students. After you create your materials, they can be printed directly from your browser. You can use words and definitions that have been provided for specific educational curriculum content areas, or you can insert your own material to make the practice aids relevant to what needs to be studied or reviewed in your class.

Test Practice and Homework Help *[cont.]*

Teacher-Generated Worksheets and Study Guides *[cont.]*

RHL School

<http://www.rhlschool.com/>

RHL School has hundreds of free worksheets for teachers and parents to copy for their children. They have worksheets for English basics, mathematics, reading comprehension, and reference skills. You can print these worksheets right from your Web browser.

Homeschooling Adventures—Worksheets

<http://www.homeschoolingadventures.com/worksheets.html>

A homeschooling mom created this site. There is more to this site than the worksheet section, but this section is worth a look. It has a listing of online sites with free worksheets, as well as software to help you create your own!

TLS Books.com—Worksheets

<http://www.tlsbooks.com>

This site offers worksheets for classroom use for the following categories: preschool, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, multigrade, spelling, holidays, math, English, geography, history, and science. Look to see if there are resources here that you can use with your class.
