

01: Introduction To the DAT Biology

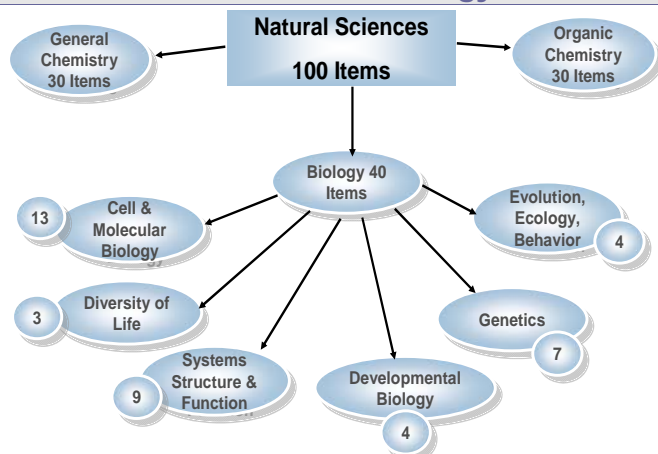
Key DAT Terms

- **DAT:** The computer-based Dental Admissions Test is a standardized exam required to gain admission to dental schools in US and Canada.
- **Composite Score:** A test-taker's overall DAT score.
- **Passage-Based Question:** Are part of the Reading Comprehension portion of the test. The questions relate to information in an accompanying passage as well as your own knowledge. No passages in science or math.
- **Multiple Choice Questions:** A question that has a topic independent of a passage or other questions.
- **Cheat Sheet:** A brief outline summarizing key terms and concepts, such as this one.
- **Flash Cards:** Index cards with questions written on one side and a brief answer written on the reverse.
- **Guessing Penalty:** A deduction of points for choosing an incorrect answer (rather than omitting the answer). The **DAT DOES NOT** penalize guessing.
- **Calculator:** No calculator is allowed in the test, practice the problems without one. Also no watch/timer or scratch paper/pen of your own.

About the DAT

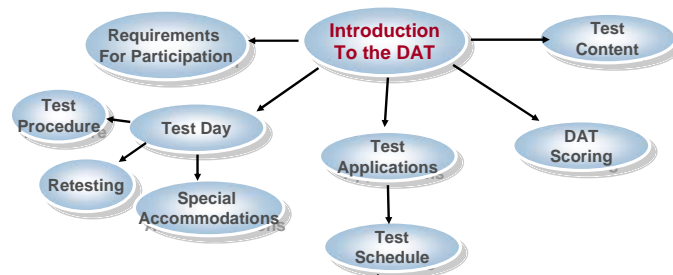
- You may take the DAT almost any day of the year.
- You may register on line or via your college advisor or paper application. www.ada.org.
- Test Sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension.
- After you register for the DAT you will be given instructions to call a Prometric Testing Center to schedule a test date.
- Scoring: Each section independently scored.
- Scoring scale is 1-30.
- Each Natural Science subsection, Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry gets its own score.
- Scores for all sections except for the Perceptual ability test are combined for an academic average.
- Your scaled scores and percentile ranking are reported to the dental schools.
- No penalty for wrong guessing.
- You will be given your score immediately after the test.

DAT Natural Science: Biology Section



- Natural Sciences is broken down into Biology 40%, General Chemistry 30% and Organic Chemistry 30%. Biology weights heavily so prepare it well.
- Biology is divided as shown having the number of questions indicated.
- Use the official ADA's program guide for biology topics to study.

DAT Overview



Tutorial	15 min
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 min
Perceptual Ability	60 min
Optional Break	15 min
Reading comprehension	60 min
Quantitative Reasoning	45 min
Post Test survey	15 min

- Dental Admissions Test time allotments and tested areas are shown.
- The tutorial includes time to practice using the computer effectively. The ADA's computer based tutorial may be found at the ADA.org site.

Test-Preparation Strategies

- Do it once and prepare it powerfully. The retest will require 90-day waiting. Go all out as it is your first and last.
- Time Management – Use a day planner to plan ahead your study daily and execute your plan faithfully.
- Study only the relevant Biology topics, no more no less.
- Spend your best study hours on your weak areas.
- Focus on the understanding of core concepts and memorize them in the way you can recall with ease.
- Unlike MCAT passages, Most of the DAT Biology questions are fact-based. Visually study the facts to keep them on long term memory.
- Generalize concepts to save memorization and time. Use mnemonics for easy memorization.
- Learn it on-screen and practice on-screen to prepare the CBT. Program your brain.
- Practice – Practice – Practice. Do the problems in these tutorials. Practice the full length tests.
- Study the cheat sheets powerfully and recite them out on the blank sheets.
- Make your own mock questions based on what you learn.
- Make your own flash cards for key facts and difficult concepts only. Don't copy the entire textbook onto the flash cards. Remove the cards that you have mastered until your deck of cards is all gone.

Test-Taking Strategies

- Know The Test. Read the program guide multiple times.
- Use double alarms and arrive early with required materials.
- Memorize the DAT time format ahead of time.
- Memorize the instructions ahead of time.
- Plan Your Attack. Skim the section to budget time.
- Set approximately a 1-minute time limit per question.
- Build focus and confidence. Believe that you can do it.
- Go with your first instinct answer. Don't second guess.
- If distracted, pull back to regain focus.
- Write in the test booklet.
- Zoom in on the right answer and substantiate it.
- Think of the answer first, and then scan the choices.
- Beware the familiar and the absolute.
- Deal with similar or opposite answer choices.
- Never leave a question blank. Guess instead.
- Eliminate incorrect answers to improve guessing odds.

How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the keys related this topic. Try to read through it carefully twice then recite it out on a blank sheet of paper. Review it again before the exams.