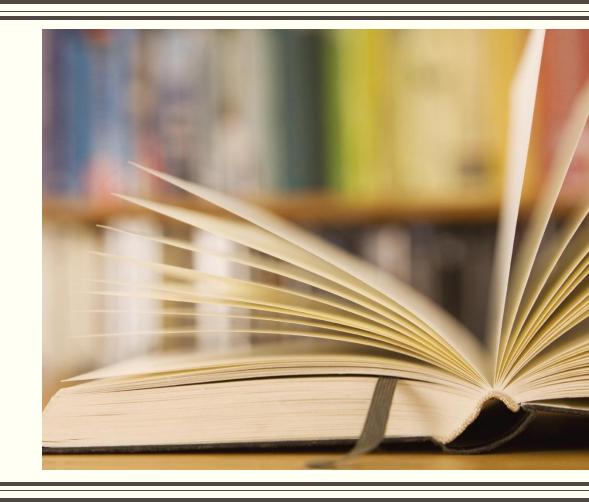# BREAKDOWN AND TYPES OF QUESTIONS ON SAT READING

Distribution of Question Types

Question Type	Average Number of Questions per Section	Percentage of Total Reading Questions
Big Picture	11	21%
Little Detail	7	13%
Inference	5	10%
Function	5	10%
Vocabulary in Context	8	15%
Analogy	1	2%
Author Technique	1	2%
Evidence Support	10	20%
Data Reasoning	5	10%
All Critical Reading Questions	**52**	**103%** (due to rounding)

Big Picture Questions – Approximately 11/52

Big picture questions are about the author's point of view, the primary purpose of the passage, and the rhetorical strategy of the author.

Little Picture/Detail Questions – Approximately 7/52

Little picture/detail questions will be about a **specific small detail in a passage.** They might ask you what a phrase in a passage specifically refers to or give you a line number and ask you to find a detail in that part of the passage.

Function Questions – Approximately 5/52

Function questions will ask you to **figure out what the purpose or effect of a line or paragraph is in the context of a passage** or why the author used a certain phrasing in the passage.

Vocabulary in Context Questions – Approximately 8/52

Words in context questions will ask you the **definition of a word as it is used in the context of a passage.** Answering these questions correctly requires an understanding of nuance in the meanings of common words rather than a wide-ranging vocabulary.

Analogy Questions – Approximately 1/52

Analogy questions will ask you to make a comparison between a condition or relationship described in the passage and a condition or relationship that is **not** mentioned in the passage. Basically, you have to **detect the underlying similarity between something in the passage and a separate hypothetical situation.** Analogy questions are a subset of inference questions.

The "experts" (line 53) would most likely argue that which of the following is guilty of the "sin" mentioned in line 58?

A. A veterinarian who is unwilling to treat a sick animal
B. A cat owner who believes his cat misses its siblings
C. A dog owner who is unwilling to punish her dog for misbehaving
D. A zoologist who places the interests of people before those of animals

Author technique questions will ask you about **the author's tone in the passage or the mood the passage conveys to the reader**

The first paragraph of the passage establishes a mood of

A. jaded dismissal
B. nervous apprehension
C. dramatic anticipation
D. initial concern

Evidence support questions will aks you a question about the passage, for example an inference or little detail question, and the next question (the evidence support question) will ask you to **cite evidence** that supports your answer to the previous question.

For data reasoning questions, you'll need to interpret the data in the figure and place it in the context of the overall passage - for example, how does this figure support the author's argument? Especially tricky will be data reasoning questions that require you to make inferences- for example, "the author is most likely to support which interpretation of the data in this figure?"