DAT Preparation Resources

Elisa’s note: I recommend that you pick and choose among the resources below, which have been used successfully by students who earned very high scores on the DAT. You will not need everything mentioned on the list of resources below – here are a few common combinations:

Combo #1 (for people who like video review of the sciences):
   a) Chad’s Videos (You may need to supplement with additional Biology review materials, as the Bio section is still under construction. Suggested additional Bio materials are mentioned below.)
   b) QVault practice problems
   c) Crack the DAT practice problems for the PAT section
   d) Practice tests.

Combo #2 (for people who like online, written review of the sciences):
   a) DAT Boot Camp
   b) Crack the DAT practice problems for the PAT section
   c) Additional practice tests

Combo #3 (for people who like book-based review of the sciences)
   a) The DAT Destroyer book (and Math Destroyer, if you think that would also help you)
   b) Q Vault practice problems
   c) Crack the DAT practice problems for the PAT section
   d) Practice tests

And if you need to improve your Reading Comprehension score, also do this:
   a) Subscribe to the online version of a scientific journal, such as Science, Discover Magazine, Scientific American, or the Journal of the American Dental Association.
      • Read an article every single day, with the intention of maintaining good comprehension while reading quickly.
      • When you encounter words you don’t know, underline them. After reading the entire article, look up each new vocabulary word and create a list (or a set of flashcards) of vocabulary words to practice.
      • Be sure to practice reading on screens to ensure that you will maintain good reading comprehension and speed with that format (some people tend to read more slowly from screens than from paper).
   b) Use DAT Boot Camp for Reading Comprehension materials that are very similar in difficulty to the real DAT.
   c) Use DAT Achiever for Reading Comprehension materials that are even harder than the real DAT. After doing a bunch of practice Reading sections from the DAT Achiever, the real DAT will feel easy in comparison. Don't worry about getting lower scores than you would expect – just use this resource to challenge yourself and learn from your mistakes.
1) Useful videos to review subject matter: Chad’s Videos (coursesaver.com)
   - Monthly subscription fee
   - Quantitative Reasoning videos are DAT-specific
   - O Chem materials are considered to be very similar to that on real DAT
   - Bio resources are currently in development (you may still need to supplement with some of the other Bio resources listed below)
   - Tip: Use note outlines while going through videos

2) Useful preparation books:
   - DAT Destroyer ($150) and Math Destroyer ($100), or both for $200.

3) Online resource for both subject review and practice tests:
   - DAT Boot Camp
     - “My favorite resource for reviewing all of the sections and for taking practice tests. The author personally – and quickly! – responds to inquiries. Inexpensive, and all sections were great.”

4) Other resources for preparing for the Biology section (needed to supplement Chad’s Videos):
   - Cliff’s AP Biology
     - “Probably the most detailed and comprehensive biology review book that I came across, and if I had to choose one source to study from for the biology section, this would be it.”
   - Barron’s AP Biology
     - “Also a great resource and an easy read. When combined with Cliff’s AP Bio, you should cover all the major topics for the exam.”
   - Campbell Biology PowerPoints
     - The test makers draw their test questions from Campbell's Biology book (the textbook used for General Biology 1 and 2 at CU Boulder)
     - PowerPoints for every chapter in the book can be found for free at: http://www.course-notes.org/biology/slides/campbells_biology_8th_edition
       - “These Powerpoints cover all of the topics on the biology section of the test, as well as topics/details that were otherwise completely absent in other review books. One of the things that I took away from my own experience was that the bio section can be a little random, so you need to expose yourself to as much material as possible (the motto "breadth before depth" is a good one to follow). Although maybe a little overkill and not completely necessary, the Campbell Biology PowerPoints are an invaluable resource for those who are looking to cover all their bases and get those extra few questions (I saw at least two on my exam).”

5) Essential material for preparing for the Perceptual Abilities Test:
   - Crack the DAT: Students consistently report that these materials are the most similar to the real DAT. They also consistently report that the PAT-prep materials from other companies were “too easy.”
     - Students recommend purchasing only the Perceptual Abilities Test materials, not the materials for other sections.
     - Pricing starts at $100.
6) Huge bank of practice problems:
   - *DAT Qvault* (online, subscription-based service)
     - “An excellent study tool for the sciences. I felt their timed sections (10 tests per science section) were very similar to the actual test. I would highly recommend this to anyone taking the exam.”

7) Practice Tests:
   - The ADA (American Dental Association) has a web-based practice test (this was a real test that was used a few years ago) available for purchase on their website for about $40.
   - *DAT Boot Camp*
     - As mentioned above, in #3.
   - *Top Score Pro* offers three full practice tests that are considered to be very similar to the real thing, for a total of about $60.
   - *Barron’s DAT book*
     - Includes two print-version practice tests and two electronic practice tests
     - Explains why correct answers are correct AND why wrong answers are wrong.
   - *DAT Achiever* (can purchase up to 7 electronic tests)
     - “Definitely more difficult than the actual exam – do not read into your scores too much. Use it as a learning tool, rather than as an accurate reflection of the test.”

8) Online DAT Prep Course taught by dental school faculty, including access to Top Score Pro practice tests:
   - University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) DAT Prep
     - Can choose on-demand or term-based options. Cost: $500.