

Instructor Quality Defines Outcomes in Standardized Test Preparation

Without experienced instruction, neither materials nor practice volume produces consistent results on the SAT, ACT, GRE, or GMAT.

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, April 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The test preparation industry tells students to focus on study materials and practice volume. The Best Test Prep takes a different position: without effective instruction, neither produces meaningful results.

"Students need both knowledge and razor-sharp test-taking mechanics," says Eric Gutman, Founder and CEO of The Best Test Prep. "But an effective instructor is the medium through which both are delivered. Without that layer, significant improvement is very difficult."



Eric Gutman, Founder

The Real Issue Is Not Effort—It's Execution

Standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, GRE, and GMAT are performance-based. They require students to apply knowledge quickly, accurately, and under time pressure. Most students already put in significant effort, but effort alone rarely channels into effective test-taking mechanics. Students may review large amounts of material or complete extensive practice sets, yet without a structured, professional approach, performance never stabilizes. "When students aren't taught how to execute, they default to inconsistency," Gutman notes. "And that shows up on Test Day every time."

Why Many Strong Test-Takers Fail as Instructors

A common misconception in the industry is that high-scoring test-takers automatically make strong instructors. The Best Test Prep rejects this entirely. Performing well on a test requires intuition, pattern recognition, and speed, whereas teaching requires the opposite: breaking



Test-taking mechanics are what turn knowledge into performance. We rely on proven methods and consistency.

— Eric Gutman, Founder and CEO of The Best Test Prep”

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down automatic processes into deliberate, step-by-step methods that another person can learn and replicate.

"There's a fundamental difference between doing well on a test and teaching someone else how to do it," Gutman explains. "One is individual performance. The other is the ability to impart that performance to another person, which involves a completely different skillset." Without that ability, students receive explanations that are difficult to apply under time constraints.

When Instruction Lacks Experience or Effectiveness
Students working with amateur instructors display

predictable patterns: inconsistent approaches to similar questions, repetition of the same mistakes, difficulty maintaining pacing across sections, and reliance on instinct instead of a structured approach. "These aren't random issues," Gutman states. "They appear when instruction lacks depth and experience. A great test-taker can do what they did. A great instructor can explain it to the student. Those are not the same."

What Effective, Professional Instruction Provides

At The Best Test Prep, instruction focuses on helping students apply effective methods for each question type—methods that are designed to maximize time efficiency. Students learn to apply consistent approaches to every question, identify and correct errors systematically, reinforce efficient techniques through deliberate repetition, and execute accurately under timed pressure. "Test-taking mechanics are what turn knowledge into performance," Gutman says. "We rely on proven methods and consistency."

Success Stories

The Best Test Prep does not publish anonymous score averages. The office walls tell a different story—framed thank-you letters from students who turned potential into admission. One student started SAT prep at 1210 and ended up at 1540, improving by 330 points. Another arrived with two jobs and a full course load, prepared for the GRE, and earned admission to Stanford's Ph.D. program in Psychology. A veterinary technician who pivoted into nursing used the firm's methodology to gain admission to Columbia University's School of Nursing. And a public health applicant who bounced between tutors finally received an acceptance letter from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health after training with The Best Test Prep. "We don't put these letters on the wall for marketing," Gutman says. "We put them there because every single one represents someone who needed better instruction and now is a trophy to our company. "

No Amateurs

One immediately noticeable difference between The Best Test Prep and other test prep companies is that the company employs only professional, full-time instructors who are fully trained and have years of experience—no rookies, no recent grads, no part-timers, no side-giggers, and no "passion project" tutors. The firm does not use part-time tutors, recent graduates, or inexperienced educators. Its methods have been refined through more than a decade of working with thousands of students and are designed to be practical and effective on Test Day. "Familiarity is your best friend on a standardized test," Gutman concludes. "The test is entirely predictable. The exact words change, but the question structures remain the same. There should be no surprises."

About The Best Test Prep

Founded by Eric Gutman, formerly the highest-ranked student instructor in the largest market at the world's largest test preparation company, The Best Test Prep is a boutique firm based in New York City. Since 2010, the company has prepared students for the SAT, ACT, GRE, and GMAT using methods refined through more than a decade of experience working with thousands of students. The firm employs only experienced, full-time instructors and focuses on performance-based preparation designed for success on Test Day.

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