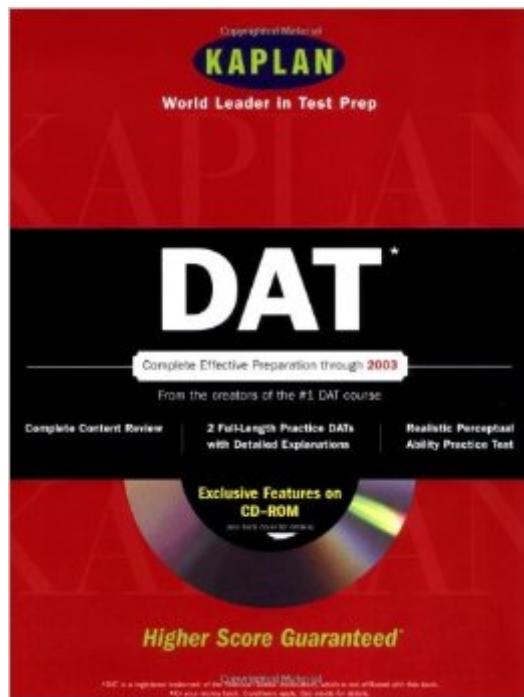


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# Kaplan DAT With CD-ROM (Dat (Dental Admission Test)(Kaplan))



## Synopsis

Higher Score, Guaranteed! With comprehensive review, realistic practice, and Kaplan's exclusive testtaking strategies, this effective guide provides you with the targeted training you need to get the most out of your preparation and maximize your DAT score. **Intensive Review of Skills and Concepts** To help you prepare more effectively, we've included a comprehensive review of all the tested subjects, including 16 biology chapters, 12 general chemistry chapters, 15 organic chemistry chapters, 6 quantitative reasoning chapters, and a special Reading Comprehension Practice Test. **Exclusive PAT Exercises** Only Kaplan provides you with a realistic Perceptual Ability Test. Our CD-ROM features computerized, 3-D figures that you can rotate and view from different angles. **2 Full-Length Practice Tests** Each full-length practice test -- one in the book and one on the CD-ROM -- includes complete explanations for every answer with special tips and strategies to help you score higher. **Special CD-ROM Features** Full-Length Practice Test Interactive Feedback on Your Test Performance Detailed Explanations for Every Answer

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just took the DAT today, scoring a 23 on the PAT and an average of 26 on the academic portion, and thought out I'd review this DAT prep book by Kaplan while the experience was fresh in my mind. My DAT-specific prep was conducted entirely with this book. First things first, this book is not a substitute for a prior well-rounded education in the sciences. You can memorize all 500 or so pages

of science and math review, and there will still be a lot of things you will miss on the DAT. That said, it is a great review tool to assist you in dusting off some of those old concepts you may have learned a year or two ago. It covers the broad, "big idea" concepts very well and it also goes into reasonable detail on some of the more commonly tested areas such as cellular respiration and the endocrine system (a section I found especially helpful). However, if it's been more than a couple years since your last biology or chemistry class or you performed poorly in them, you will most likely want to invest in an actual textbook and/or a tutorial course to help you learn the concepts at a more detailed level. The PAT section is the single most useful feature of the book, but it also has its weaknesses. It gives you a full PAT practice session in addition to the two full length practice DAT's, along with a bevy of useful tips and recommendations. Some of the tips and techniques listed are really helpful in solving the more difficult PAT questions, and the pacing advice they give is very useful too, as it is extremely easy to run out of time on that section. In my opinion, just the familiarity with the kinds of questions the 3 total practice PAT sections give you is of great benefit. Whether you purchase this book or not, I would recommend in the strongest terms some sort of practice PAT materials, practice really helps. You simply don't have time during the actual test to try and figure out what is happening on the fly--you have to come in to it knowing what to expect. The PAT section is far from perfect, however. The practice PAT sections, while challenging, were relatively easy compared to the version of the actual DAT I took. The shapes in the keyhole section were more complicated. The angles in the angle ranking questions were much more similar. The folds in the hole punching section were more complicated. The practice PAT included will help you understand and become familiar with the types of questions, but expect to perform worse on the actual thing and study accordingly. The biggest drawback to Kaplan's book is the lack of proofing. A typo here and there isn't a big deal, but there are occasional serious typos in the questions in the practice sets themselves. An important bond might be missing in an organic molecule. An equation might read  $4x = 5 = 9$  instead of  $4x - 5 = 9$ . Their answer might even be wrong. At least one of their answers for the pen and paper practice test in the organic chemistry sections was flat wrong. Overall the pen and paper practice test is pretty good, only in a question or two did I feel that the question or the answer was seriously compromised. The online test is much worse, there were probably a dozen or so serious errors. On two occasions the online test gave the correct answer as "E" when the only choices were "A" through "D". Furthermore, the answer key for the PAT in the online test does not sure the correct 3 dimensional shapes--you have to figure out what you did wrong yourself. The online test isn't entirely without value: it is presented in the same format as the real DAT so it does help you to get accustomed to the format of the real thing, and even with all of its flaws it still gives

you more practice. I've listed quite a few drawbacks here, but I would still recommend this book because I feel that I was able to use it to great advantage. I cannot compare it against any other prep materials, but I will certainly say that this book is useful and worth the price, despite its flaws. One last thing: the book isn't clear on this but you do, in fact, get a basic, non-scientific on screen calculator for the (and only for the) quantitative reasoning section in the real DAT. Go ahead and use one on the practice tests. The DAT one is a bit of a pain to use, but it can do basic functions mathematical including square roots, but not exponents.

All I used to study for the DAT was the Kaplan book and the Top Score Pro software by ScholarWare. I'm an excellent case study as to the effectiveness of this study material because I've recently taken the DAT and I haven't taken a science class in more than 5 years. Needless to say, I had pretty much forgotten everything that I'd ever learned about the natural sciences, and I relied almost exclusively on this book to prepare me for the test. ... For the most part, the tests that are provided with this book have outstanding validity. After taking the DAT, I was especially impressed with the Organic and Inorganic sections of the written exam in the back of the book. The questions provided with the book are very good examples of the type of questions that you're likely to see on the test. Unlike some of the people who are critiquing the sample tests in this book, I care much less about presentation and far more about content. Currently, I am a computer programmer by trade and I can make a test look like the DAT fairly easily, but the trick is in the questions. I knock this book down a star because I believe that they need to update the biology portion of the text. The sample tests provided with this book, as well as with the Top Score Pro software, indicated that biology was an obvious area of strength for me, but that turned out not to be the case at all. The real DAT biology section is very heavy in asking questions about evolution, ecology, and topics in genetics that aren't addressed in this book. Of the 40 questions I received, I'd say that more than 25 of the questions were over these topics. I didn't receive any questions over the topics that I studied very heavily, which included the Kreb's Cycle, the Calvin Cycle, Mitosis and Meiosis and I received only a small handful of questions about the Nervous System, the Digestive System, the Musculoskeletal System...etc. etc. These general topics were simply not addressed very heavily in my DAT, and if my DAT was typical of the sort of thing that you can expect from your DAT, then they should update their biology portion to reflect the changing times. Based on my results to this point, I'd have to say that this book is a very good study tool and that I highly recommend it.

The software seemed to crash a lot and I didn't get much help from the company. Once I got it to

work (a few times) I could not practice any section I wanted from the one computer test they give. Also, when I took the real DAT yesterday, the real DAT computer format was much different than Kaplans. The screens, reading comprehension, and the important question review screen, etc. were not the same. Kaplan only gave me one computer test too. Their book cover seemed to imply 2 full tests! (I guess they are counting the paper one in the book (a little deceiving...so BEWARE of that). I could not print out questions from the computer and it was difficult to go through their review screens to get to the questions I missed. There are NO TOPICS for the questions so it was hard reviewing a little bit more about the questions I missed in my college text books. One important thing was my scores on the real DAT were lower than my Kaplan scores. My overall was 18/19 PAT and my Kaplan was 21/22 PAT. If I were to do it again, I would depend more on my college text books. The text reviewed some sciences, and general math. Not bad, but not great. I found myself going to my college text books for more explanations. Overall, I don't think I can recommend it. Hope to see you in dental school in 2001 :)

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