Bangalore: Sixteen-year-old Nischal Nadhamuni’s achievement is awesome: a SAT score of 2,400 out of 2,400 in his first attempt. This Bangalore boy is perhaps one of the few worldwide to have scored cent percent in the test.

SAT (earlier Scholastic Aptitude Test but now an empty acronym) is the most widely used college admission test in the US. Designed to assess a student’s academic readiness for college, the four-hour test consists of three components: mathematics, critical reading, and writing.

Nischal, a Grade 11 student of Malaya Aditi International School, wrote the exam on November 20. When the results came out on November 29, it took him some time to digest it. “When I started preparing for SAT, it was intimidating. My scores were around 2,000. There was motivation to work hard, practice did the rest. As much as you learn the techniques, you won't move forward unless you practice,” Nischal says.

Nischal, who says he is not particularly studious, took 26 practice tests.

“I am more of a TV person. Once in a while, I get hooked to a book. For the test, I learnt 5,000 words in three months. Every day, I'd sit with my mom and cards and figure out new ways to remember words. I've forgotten a lot of them now! I knew most words in the test. The few I didn't know could be easily inferred from the context,” Nischal told STOI.

Nischal found SAT maths very easy.

Bangalore: Maths was a cake-walk for Nischal Nadhamuni, the 16-year-old Bangalorean who scored a perfect 2,400 in SAT. “It’s Grade 8 questions and I never found it tough,” he said. “Yes, you have to work hard. But you also need some luck,” he said. Both his parents are computer engineers. He’s a keen tennis player and played many All-India Tennis Association tournaments at state and national levels.

“I’m not a good writer, so we did a lot of research. The subjects are usually based on philosophy and the one I got was ‘Are people too serious?’ The prompt was whether we spend too much time at work. I cited Beethoven and Obama - the musician was never good with people, and Obama tried to have a good work-life balance,” said Nischal, who idolizes the American president.

An avid debater, Nischal has participated in many interschool competitions and Model United Nations conferences.