

Prepare for the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT®

What Is the PSAT/ NMSQT®?

Some Key Facts

Scores for the SAT® Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing to Educators measure students' progress

Propels students toward college and career readiness

Is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Serves as an entry point to nearly \$180 Million in scholarship dollars

4+ million students took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2015 to get feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT

What to know about the PSAT/NMSQT?

2 hours 45 minutes

No penalty for guessing or blank responses also known as “rights-only scoring”

Personalized SAT® practice through Khan Academy® with students own PSAT/NMQST scores

Scale ranges for the scores are 320 – 1520 for the total score

Benefits of the PSAT/NMSQT®:

Personalized SAT® practice on Khan Academy based on students PSAT/NMSQT answers

Aligned to the SAT

Increased access to additional scholarship providers

Online college and career planning tools

Admission and financial aid information from colleges

Majors and career exploration with College Board and Roadtrip Nation

Reading Test · Writing and Language Test · Math Test

Each test assesses the academic skills that students have developed over the years, primarily through their course work.

These skills are considered essential for success in high school and college and career.

Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.

Reading Test

5 Passages 47 Passage-Based Questions; 60 minutes

quick facts

All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.

No mathematical computation is required.

Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

What to expect?

In the Reading Test, students will encounter questions like those asked in a lively, thoughtful, evidence-based discussion.

Writing and Language Test

4 Passages 44 Passage-Based Questions; 35 minutes

quick facts

All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.

Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.

Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

No mathematical computation is required.

What to expect?

The Writing and Language Test puts students in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask students to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.

Math Test

2 Test Sections 48 Questions (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins, 2 sections, 70 minutes)

quick facts

Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).

The Math Test is divided into two portions:

Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.

Some parts of the test will present students with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.

Know How the PSAT/NMSQT® Is Scored

Rights-Only Scoring:

1 point for each correct answer 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

Math Grid-ins

You can enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals. If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box.

Scale

160 – 760 for each test section

320 – 1520 for the total score