

PSATs

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Compiled from collegeboard.org

WARM UP

- What are the PSATs and why are they important?

PSATs

- PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- Over 3.6 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year. Only 11th-grade students can qualify for scholarships and recognition, but younger students benefit from early feedback on their skills.
- The PSAT/NMSQT assesses the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need for college and beyond.

PURPOSE

- This test has two purposes.
- One, it is a kind of rehearsal for students who plan to take the SAT, which is the test most colleges require for admission.
- Two, it is used to select students seeking National Merit Scholarships which are awarded spring term of the senior year.
- A further side benefit of the test is that you can have your scores reported to colleges interested in students scoring in your range, and you will receive a barrage of pamphlets, catalogs, and brochures telling you about those schools.

Why should you care?

- Why should you care about the PSAT?
- It is *extremely important* to take the PSAT seriously. Since the PSAT contains the same type of questions as the SAT, it is the best way to help prepare for the SAT.
- You will receive direct feedback about which sections you score well on, and which you need to work on improving. The SAT is often the first step toward admission to college and *therefore you should work diligently to score as highly as possible*

BENEFITS OF THE PSAT...

- receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.

But what's on the PSAT??

CRITICAL READING

- **Critical Reading**
- **Sentence Completion** questions measure your knowledge of the meanings of words and ability to understand how the different parts of a sentence logically fit together.
- **Passage-Based Reading** questions measure your ability to read and think carefully about a single reading passage or a pair of related passages.

MATH

- The math section of the PSAT/NMSQT requires a basic knowledge of number and operation; algebra and functions (though not content covered in third-year math classes--content that will appear on the new SAT); geometry and measurement; and data analysis, statistics, and probability.
- You can use a calculator to answer math questions, but no question on the test requires a calculator.

Writing Skills

- The multiple-choice questions on writing skills measure your ability to express ideas effectively in standard-written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning.
- **Identifying Sentence Errors** questions test your knowledge of grammar, usage, word choice, and idiom. You are required to find errors in sentences or indicate that there is no error.
- **Improving Sentences** questions ask you to choose the best, most effective form of an underlined portion of a given sentence.
- **Improving Paragraphs** questions require you to make choices about improving the logic, coherence, or organization in a flawed passage.

Helpful Internet Sites

- Helpful Internet Sites:
- <http://www.kaptest.com/psat?PPC1>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>
- http://education.yahoo.com/college/essentials/practice_tests/psat/

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Fill out demographic information to prepare for the PSAT on Wednesday October 15th.
- Complete several sections in PSAT practice booklets.

REMINDER

- On Wednesday you will report to first block (1A) to take attendance and then will come to advisory at around 8:15 until approximately 11 AM.
- We will be in Room 214 for the test. I will place a sign on the door to remind you.