

About the PSAT/NMSQT

Measuring Important Skills

The PSAT/NMSQT assesses the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need for college and beyond. Find out what the test is like and try practice questions.

Promoting College Readiness

The PSAT/NMSQT helps students become college ready. It provides detailed feedback on skills, access to scholarships and personalized online tools, and excellent practice for the SAT.

College Readiness and College Access

The PSAT/NMSQT assesses reading, math, and writing skills; provides excellent practice for the SAT; and connects students to scholarships and personalized online tools.

Scholarship Opportunities

Students in 11th grade may be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship program and other programs that use PSAT/NMSQT scores.

SAT Advantage

The PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT have the same format and evaluate the same skills. PSAT/NMSQT students also get a custom SAT study plan based on their results.

Feedback on Strengths and Weaknesses

After the test, students receive feedback on how ready they are for college and access to tools that help them improve.

What's on the PSAT/NMSQT

Students who know what the PSAT/NMSQT is like do better on test day.

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections in three skill areas. Testing time totals 2 hours and 10 minutes. That doesn't include the time it takes to complete personal information on the answer sheet and listen to instructions.

PSAT/NMSQT Structure			
Area	Timing	Question Types	Measures how well students
Critical Reading	Two 25-minute sections	Sentence completion Passage-based reading	Analyze, evaluate, and think logically about what they read
Math	Two 25-minute sections	Multiple-choice Student-produced response (grid-ins)	Use arithmetic, algebra, and geometry to think logically and solve familiar and unfamiliar problems
Writing Skills	One 30-minute section	Improving sentences Identifying sentence errors Improving paragraphs	Express ideas in standard written English, recognize faults, and use language with sensitivity to meaning