

Prepare for the 2018 PSAT/ NMSQT®

PSAT/NMSQT®

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION



What Is the PSAT/NMSQT?

A blue-tinted photograph of four students jumping over a wooden fence in a grassy field. The students are wearing backpacks and have their arms raised in the air, suggesting a moment of triumph or joy. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

What to know about the PSAT/NMSQT



Test length: 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/NMSQT scores

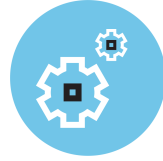


Scale ranges for the scores are
320–1520 for the total score

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

Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT

A blue-tinted photograph of three students working together on a project. They are focused on a task, possibly a science or engineering project, with one student using a tool on a component. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the students' concentration.

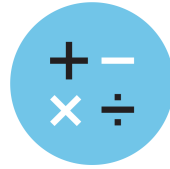
Skills Tested



Reading Test



Writing and Language Test



Math Test

- Each test assesses the academic skills that students have developed over the years, primarily through their coursework.
- These skills are considered essential for success in high school, college, and career.

Reading Test



-
- 5 Passages
 - 47 Passage-Based Questions;
60 minutes
 - What to Expect: In the Reading Test, students will encounter questions like those asked in a lively, thoughtful, evidence-based discussion.

Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- No mathematical computation is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

Writing and Language Test



-
- 4 Passages
 - 44 Passage-Based Questions; 35 minutes
 - 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.

Quick Facts

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Math Test



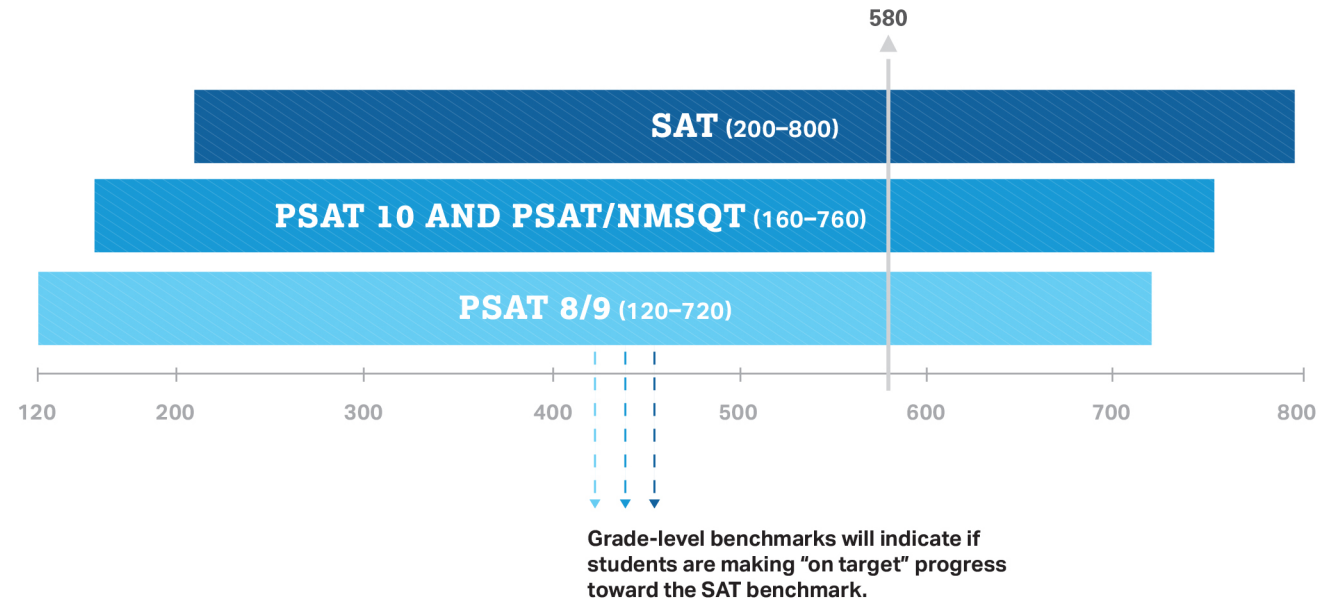
- 2 Test Sections; 70 minutes
- 48 Questions (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins)
- What to Expect: The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most for college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.

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.

How Does the PSAT/NMSQT Connect to the SAT?

That means the score students get on the PSAT/NMSQT is the same score they would have gotten on the SAT if they'd taken it on the same day.



How Does the PSAT/NMSQT Compare to the SAT?

PSAT/NMSQT

SAT

2 hours
45 minutes



Time

3 hours
50 minutes

X



Essay

Optional

160—760



Section Score
Range

200—800

How to sign up for the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT

A blue-tinted photograph of three students walking in a hallway. The student in the center is a young man with a backpack, looking towards the right. To his left is another student, and to his right is a young woman, also with a backpack. They are walking past a brick wall.

Take the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT

When: October 10

Where: GWHS

Main Gym

Time: 7:45 AM

Make sure you bring:

- Two No. 2 pencils
- Calculator (optional)

Who should take the PSAT

- Students who are planning on going directly to a 4-year University after high school
- 9th, 10th, and 11th graders
- 11th- PSAT/NMSQT is used by scholarship programs


Test Sales start on Monday, September 24th at Lunch in the Finance Office

- Cost is \$16 (Cash or Checks: made out to GWHS)
- Test will be sold on a first come first serve basis (Last year we sold out in 2 days)
- Test will be sold before school, during lunch, and after school

Fee Waivers

- See Mrs. Shaewitz starting Monday, September 24th at Lunch
- Limited number of fee waivers available

Sample PSAT/NMSQT Questions

A young man with dark, wavy hair is sitting at a desk in a room. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. In front of him is a silver laptop. The room has a desk with various items on it, including a lamp and some papers. There is a window with curtains in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Reading Test

Passage-Based Questions

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

*Adapted from Richard Florida, *The Great Reset*.
© 2010 by Richard Florida.*

As used in line 2, “intense” most nearly means

- (A) emotional.
- (B) concentrated.
- (C) brilliant.
- (D) determined.



Reading Test

Passage-Based Questions



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- (C) brilliant.
- (D) determined.

Reading Test

Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine word meaning within a social science context. While students may frequently use the word “intense” to describe personalities or emotions, the context of this sentence requires students to recognize that “intense” can also mean “concentrated.” The best answer here is choice B because the context makes clear that the clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity is expected to be denser, or more concentrated in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions, over the coming decades. In these ways, the question draws students back to the text rather than rewarding only isolated vocabulary knowledge.



Writing and Language Test

Passage-Based Questions



Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, **5** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [. . .]

5

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) evacuated
- (C) departed
- (D) retired

Writing and Language Test

Passage-Based Questions



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5

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) evacuated
- (C) departed**
- (D) retired

Writing and Language Test

Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine which word makes the most sense in the context of a sentence. “**Departed**” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways. In this sort of question, students must demonstrate not only facility with language in general but also skill in using language in particular contexts to convey meaning clearly and precisely.



Math Test

Calculator: Permitted

Aaron is staying at a hotel that charges \$99.95 per night plus tax for a room. A tax of 8% is applied to the room rate, and an additional one-time untaxed fee of \$5.00 is charged by the hotel. Which of the following represents Aaron's total charge, in dollars, for staying x nights?

- (A) $(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5$
- (B) $1.08(99.95x) + 5$
- (C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$
- (D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



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(C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



Math Test

Calculator: Permitted

This problem asks students to interpret a situation and formulate a linear expression that represents the situation mathematically. The construction of mathematical models that represent real-world scenarios is a critical skill.

The total charge is the room rate, the 8% tax on the room rate, and a fixed fee. If Aaron stayed x nights, then the total charge is $99.95x + (0.08 \times 99.95x) + 5$, which can be rewritten as $1.08(99.95x) + 5$.



Math Test

Calculator: Not Permitted

In this equation, what is the value of k ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

- (A) $\frac{9}{7}$
- (B) $\frac{9}{13}$
- (C) $\frac{33}{17}$
- (D) $\frac{33}{13}$



Math Test

Calculator: Not Permitted



In this equation, what is the value of k ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

In this problem, students will demonstrate their fluency in solving equations in one variable.

Choice B is correct. Simplifying the numerators yields

$$\frac{5k+3}{6} = \frac{9+k}{9}$$

and cross-multiplication gives $45k + 27 = 54 + 6k$.

Solving for k yields $k = \frac{9}{13}$

(A) $\frac{9}{7}$

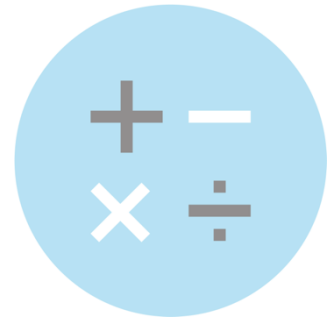
(B) $\frac{9}{13}$

(C) $\frac{33}{17}$

(D) $\frac{33}{13}$

Math Section

Student-Produced Responses



Sample Grids

Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, students will need to solve problems and enter their answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.

Answer: $\frac{7}{12}$ Answer: 2.5

Write answer in boxes. → ← Fraction line ← Decimal point

Grid in result.

Acceptable ways to grid $\frac{2}{3}$ are:

Answer: 201– either position is correct

NOTE: You may start your answers in any column, space permitting. Columns you don't need to use should be left blank.

Math Section

Math Test – Calculator



Students: Know Your Calculator

- A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
- Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.

Math Section

Math Test – Calculator



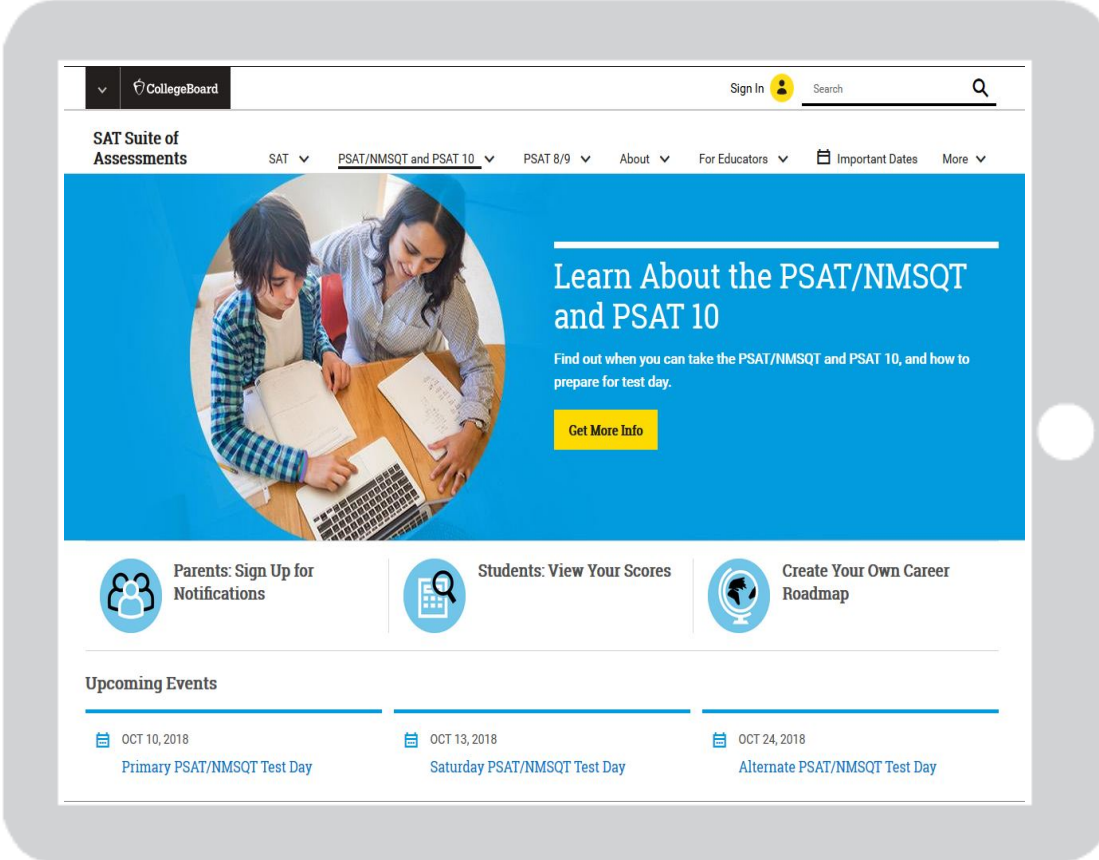
Additional Calculator Tips for Students

- Don't try to use the calculator on every question—no question requires one.
- Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
- Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.

Resources



Resources

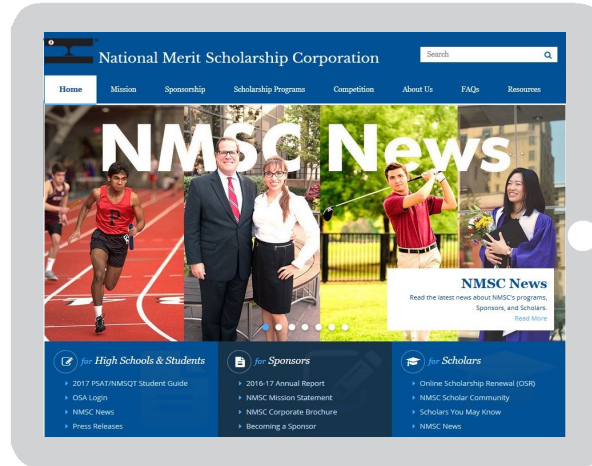


The screenshot displays the CollegeBoard website's 'SAT Suite of Assessments' page. The navigation bar includes 'SAT', 'PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10', 'PSAT 8/9', 'About', 'For Educators', 'Important Dates', and 'More'. The main content area features a blue banner with a circular image of a student and a teacher. The banner text reads: 'Learn About the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10' and 'Find out when you can take the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10, and how to prepare for test day.' A yellow 'Get More Info' button is present. Below the banner are three action buttons: 'Parents: Sign Up for Notifications', 'Students: View Your Scores', and 'Create Your Own Career Roadmap'. The 'Upcoming Events' section lists three dates: 'OCT 10, 2018 Primary PSAT/NMSQT Test Day', 'OCT 13, 2018 Saturday PSAT/NMSQT Test Day', and 'OCT 24, 2018 Alternate PSAT/NMSQT Test Day'.

For general information about the PSAT/NMSQT, please visit:

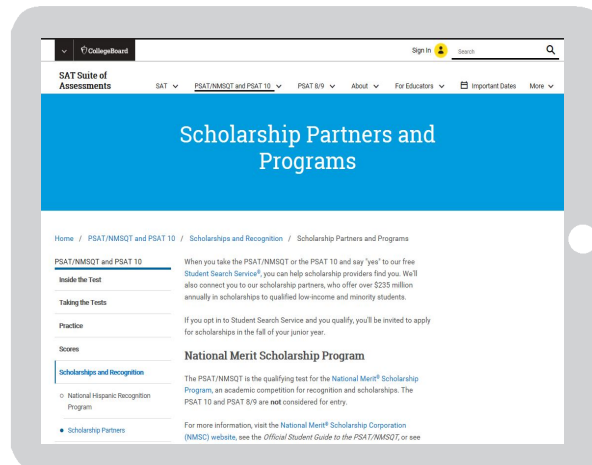
collegeboard.org/psat

Resources



To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit:

nationalmerit.org



To find out more about PSAT-related scholarships, visit:

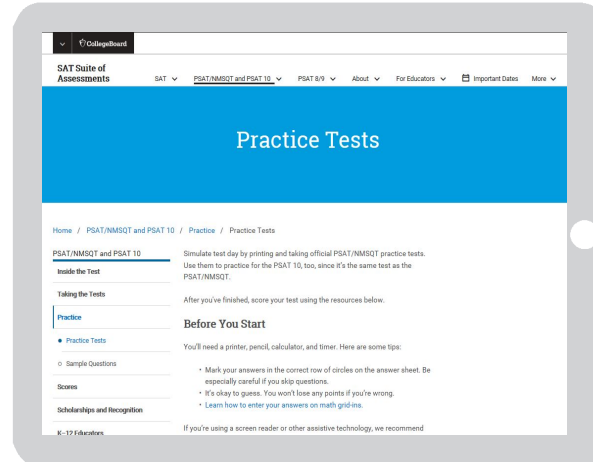
psat.org/scholarships

Resources



For personalized resources aligned to the SAT Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT), please visit:

satpractice.org



Take the practice test in the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide*, available through your counselor or at:

collegeboard.org/psatpractice

Good luck!

PSAT/NMSQT

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