

About PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT[®]/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- critical reading skills
- math problem-solving skills
- writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are:

- to 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.
- to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- to help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- to receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.
- The extended results provide a wealth of information. They go over every answer on the test and tell you if it was an "E" easy, "M" medium or "H" hard question. They give your answer to each question and if you missed it, they give the correct answer. This is quite valuable since schools are allowed to keep the actual test booklets and give them back to the students when the results arrive so they can actually see each question.

What's on the Test

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

- Two 25-minute critical reading sections
- Two 25-minute math sections
- One 30-minute writing skills section

The whole test requires two hours and 10 minutes.

Critical Reading

Two 25-minute critical reading sections = 48 questions

- 13 Sentence completions
- 35 Critical reading questions

Math

Two 25-minute math sections = 38 questions

- 28 multiple-choice math questions
- 10 Student-produced responses or grid-ins

Students are advised to bring a calculator with which they are comfortable. Students should have basic knowledge of 4 math categories:

- Numbers and Operation
- Algebra and Functions (but not 3rd year level math that may appear on the new SAT)
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

Writing Skills

One 30-minute writing section = 39 questions

- 14 Identifying sentence errors
- 20 Improving sentences
- 5 Improving paragraph questions

These multiple-choice questions on writing skills measure a student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard-written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning.

Test Dates and Fees

Dates

In 2009, high schools may administer the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

Free to sophomores and juniors in Indiana.

Note www.collegeboard.com

The collegeboard sight is very useful if a student is college bound. You can sign up for the SAT question of the day to be sent to your computer. You can keep a college planner on line at their site...all kinds of goodies to help a student and their parents. You can sign up and pay for the SAT on line.

Guidance Office

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