

PSAT/NMSQT



Coming to CTHS: October 11, 2017

What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a standardized exam which helps students preview and practice for the SAT. The PSAT tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, in a way that makes sense for your grade level.

The exam is designed for students to take in the fall; most junior test-takers will be eligible to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions and will be connected with the College Board's additional scholarship partners.

Freshman and sophomore students are also encouraged to take the exam to begin their journey to college readiness.

What are the benefits of taking the PSAT/NMSQT?

- Early indicator of college readiness
- Detailed performance feedback will be provided to help knowledge and skill development
- Early access to career and college planning tools
- Sharing scores will enhance test practice through Khan Academy
- Connection to scholarships and recognition programs
- Connection to colleges and universities
- Assesses potential for success in AP Courses

Testing Specifications for the PSAT/NMSQT

Testing Time	2 hours and 45 minutes
Components	Reading, Writing and Language, and Math
Important Features	-Emphasis on reasoning, alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness -Emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact -Only questions that are answered correctly are scored—no point deductions for incorrect answers
Score Reporting	Total Score: Scale ranges from 320 to 1520 Section Scores: Scale ranges from 160 to 760 8 to 38 for test and cross-test scores

Information obtained from College Board:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org>

FEATURES OF THE PSAT

The PSAT/NMSQT is tightly aligned with the Redesigned SAT, which launched in March of 2016.

The PSAT will support all students with a clear focus on the skills and knowledge that matter most for college and career readiness and reflect the work students are doing in their classrooms across the country.

KEY CONTENT

1. **Words in Context**-Use of relevant vocabulary
2. **Command of Evidence**- Demonstrate ability to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources
3. **Essay Analyzing a Source**- Explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience
4. **Math That Matters Most**- Problem solving, data analysis, algebra, and advanced math
5. **Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts**
6. **Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies**-Apply reading, writing, language, and math to solve problems in varied contexts
7. **U.S. Founding Documents and the Great Global Conversation**
8. **NO PENALTY FOR GUESSING**