



RAKAA GUIDE TO PSAT

Grades 9 & 10 & 11

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What is the PSAT and why is it important?

The PSAT (which stands for Preliminary SAT) is a practice for the SAT and one of the starting points on your college admissions journey. Additionally, your PSAT scores are a good predictor for how you may score on the SAT, which will be very important for college admissions and scholarships.

It is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship. This means that some of the highest scoring students may win scholarship money, so while you shouldn't stress out about the PSAT, you certainly shouldn't ignore it either.

When do you take the PSAT?

The PSAT is offered nationally every year in October.

What does the PSAT test?

As of October 2015, the PSAT has two sections: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. You'll encounter passage-based questions—sometimes accompanied by tables, graphs, and charts—and math problems drawing upon algebra, geometry, and a little trig.

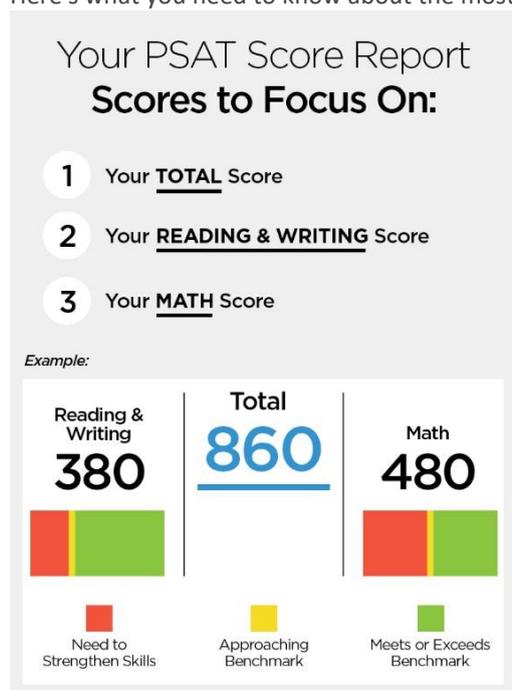
There have been changes to the exam. The content on the New PSAT is very similar to that which was on the PSAT in years past. The major difference is in how the concepts are tested and the steps students will have to take to solve problems correctly. Students will have to reason their way through this exam by tackling problems in a linear and sequential fashion. A student's ability to process information quickly is key. It is similar to types of questions you have encountered in MAP and PBTS/PISA.

How is the PSAT scored?

Each section is scored on a scale of 160–760, making a “perfect” score 1520. But wait! There are also test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores.

Guideto Your PSATScores

Here's what you need to know about the most important parts of your score report.



Scores that Pack a Punch

The 3 big scores you should look at:

- Total Score
- Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Score
- Math Score

The PSAT is scored on the same rubric, but a slightly different scale, as the real SAT. While the SAT is scored in a range of 400–1600, the PSAT is scored in a range of 320–1520.

National Percentile

The percentile compares you to everyone else who took the PSAT on the test date. A 90th percentile score means you scored equal or higher than 90% of the students who took the PSAT during that particular administration.

Using Your PSAT Score Report

The PSAT is all about practice. Use your PSAT score report to identify your strengths and weaknesses, so you know what to work on as you prep for the real thing. Are there algebra concepts you need to review? Did you miss picking up points because you ran out of time?

What Could You Score on the SAT?

The PSAT and SAT are scored on slightly different scales, but your TOTAL PSAT score is a direct indicator of your total SAT score. For example, a total PSAT score of 1000 means that, if you took the SAT on the same day, most likely you would have gotten a total SAT score of 1000.

Understanding PSAT Scoring

[Here's a quick breakdown of what's important about your Big 3 Scores.](#)

Score	What is it?	Why it's important
TOTAL SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sum of your two section scores• Score range: 320–1520	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your total score can help you predict how you may score on the SAT.• Use the percentile to see how you rank against other test-takers.• High scores and percentiles earn National Merit recognition.
READING & WRITING SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 of 2 section scores• Score range: 160–760	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See which section you're acing and where you might need more prep.• Use the percentile to see how you rank against other test-takers.
MATH SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 of 2 section scores• Score range: 160–760	