Prepare for the New PSAT/NMSQT®
What Is the New PSAT/NMSQT?
Scores for the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing you to measure your progress.

Some Key Facts

Feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT

- Propels you toward college and career readiness
- Is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- Serves as an entry point to millions in scholarship dollars
- 3.8+ million students took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2014 to get feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT
What’s Changing on the New PSAT/NMSQT®?

2 hours 45 minutes

No penalty for guessing or blank responses

Also known as “rights-only scoring”

Personalized SAT® practice through Khan Academy®

With your own PSAT/NMSQT scores

Scale ranges for the total scores are 320 – 1520

For the total score
Benefits of the New PSAT/NMSQT®:

- Personalized SAT® practice on Khan Academy based on your PSAT/NMSQT answers
- Aligned to the new SAT coming out in March 2016
- Increased access to new scholarship providers
- Online college and career planning tools
- Admission and financial aid information from colleges

Benefits of the New PSAT/NMSQT®:
Skills Tested on the New PSAT/NMSQT®
Each test assesses the academic skills that you’ve developed over the years, primarily through your course work. These skills are considered essential for success in high school and college and career.
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.

5 Passages

47 Passage-Based Questions; 60 Minutes

Reading Test
In the Reading Test, you will encounter evidence-based discussion, asked in a lively, thoughtful, thoughtful, thought-provoking manner. You will be required to interpret, analyze, and evaluate the material presented. You will also be asked to infer information that is not explicitly stated in the text. The questions will test your ability to understand the main ideas and details of a passage, and to draw conclusions based on the information provided.
QUICK FACTS

No mathematical computation is required.

Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

Such as charts, graphs, and tables.

Some passages are paired with informational graphics.

All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.

4 Passages → 44 Passage-Based Questions; 35 minutes
Writing and Language Test

What to expect?

The Writing and Language Test puts you in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask you to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.
Some parts of the test will present you with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

- The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
- Some parts of the test will present you with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **2 Test Sections**
  - **70 minutes**, 2 sections
  - **48 Questions** (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins)
Math Test

What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, you will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness.
How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the New SAT®?

**Domain Alignment:**

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills. Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.

**Scoring:**

Grade-level benchmarks will indicate if students are making “on target” progress toward the SAT benchmark.
How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the New SAT®?

That means the score you get on the PSAT/NMSQT is the same score you would have gotten on the SAT if you had taken it on the same day.

Grade-level benchmarks will indicate if students are making "on target" progress toward the SAT benchmark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>160–760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>120–720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>200–800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT (160–760)

PSAT 8/9 (120–720)
How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Compare to the New SAT®?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Score Range</th>
<th>200 – 800</th>
<th>160 – 760</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional Essay</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>3 hours 50 minutes</td>
<td>2 hours 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAT

PSAT/NMSQT®
How to Prepare for the New PSAT/NMSQT®

33% mastered

Sharpen your skills with over 100,000 interactive exercises.

22% mastered

Take control of your learning by working on the skills you choose at your own pace with free online courses.
Know How the New PSAT/NMSQT® Is Scored

Rights-Only Scoring:
» 1 point for each correct answer
» 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

Math Grid-ins
» You can enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals
» If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box

Scale
» 160 – 760 for each test section
» 320 – 1520 for the total score
Personalized Skills Information  
The PSAT/NMSQT®  
Score Report  
» Contains information to help you improve your academic skills.
» Lists skills that you have the best chance of improving with additional work.
» Connects to personalized practice recommendations on Khan Academy.
» Connects to SAT practice online on khanacademy.org.

AP and Course Work  
SAT Practice  
See which AP courses may be good matches for you at studentscores.collegeboard.org.

Register for the SAT  
Select an SAT test date and register for it now.

Hi, Imma B. Student  
#24068907  
#00  
A02670146P  

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
School Name: John F. Kennedy High School, School Code: 123456  
2015, Grade 10  
Imma B. Student  
#24068907  
#00  
A02670146P
Preparation Starts in School

Read

Continuous reading improves vocabulary

Take Challenging Courses

This will help you to develop and strengthen your critical thinking skills.

Read

Continuous reading improves vocabulary
As used in line 2, "intense" most nearly means:

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

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 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. © 2010 by Richard Florida. The Great Reset.

As used in line 2, "intense" most nearly means:

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

Passage-Based Questions
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. © 2010 by Richard Florida.

As used in line 2, "intense" most nearly means

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

Passage Excerpt: [...]

Passage-Based Questions
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 passage 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.

Rewarding only isolated vocabulary knowledge makes clear that the clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity concentrated. The best answer here is choice B because the context sentence requires students to recognize that “intense” can also mean “concentrated” to describe personalities or emotions, the context of this social science context.
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, 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 in cities.

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

Passage Excerpt:
As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, 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.

(A) retired
(B) evacuated
(C) departed
(D) vacated

Passage Excerpt: [.] . . .
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.

This question assesses students’ ability to use language precisely and meaningfully in particular contexts to convey their ideas clearly and precisely.
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?

\[ \text{(A)} \ 1.08(99.95 + 5)x \]
\[ \text{(B)} \ 1.08(99.95x) + 5 \]
\[ \text{(C)} \ 1.08(99.95x + 5) \]
\[ \text{(D)} \ 1.08(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5 \]
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) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$

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

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

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$
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 $1.08(99.95x) + 5$. This problem asks students to interpret a situation and formulate a linear expression that represents the situation mathematically.
In this equation, what is the value of $k$?

(A) \( \frac{13}{9} \)
(B) \( \frac{13}{3} \)
(C) \( \frac{17}{33} \)
(D) \( \frac{7}{9} \)

\[
\frac{5(k+2)}{13-(4-k)} = \frac{6}{9-k}
\]
In this equation, what is the value of \( k \)?

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

Solving for \( k \) yields \( \frac{13}{9} \).

Choice B is correct. Simplifying the numerators yields

\[
\frac{6}{9+k} = \frac{6}{5k+3}
\]

Choice B

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

Calculation: Not Permitted

MATH TEST
Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, you'll need to solve problems and enter your answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.
A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended. Bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.
Additional calculator tips:

- 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.
- You will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.
For personalized resources aligned to the SAT® Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT®), please visit:
khanacademy.org/sat

For general information about the new PSAT/NMSQT®, please visit:
collegeboard.org/psat
Take the practice test in the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT®, available through collegeboard.org/psatpractice.

To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php.
Take the PSAT/NMSQT®

How to Sign Up:

Test Day/Date:

Time:

Location:

Test Day/Date:

How to Sign Up:

Make sure you bring:

- Two No. 2 pencils
- Calculator (optional)

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Good Luck!