

PSAT Scores Back Session



Agenda for Today

- Why we take the PSAT
- Understanding your PSAT/NMSQT Results
- Intro to the SAT and ACT
- College Admissions/Testing Timeline
- How can The Princeton Review help you?

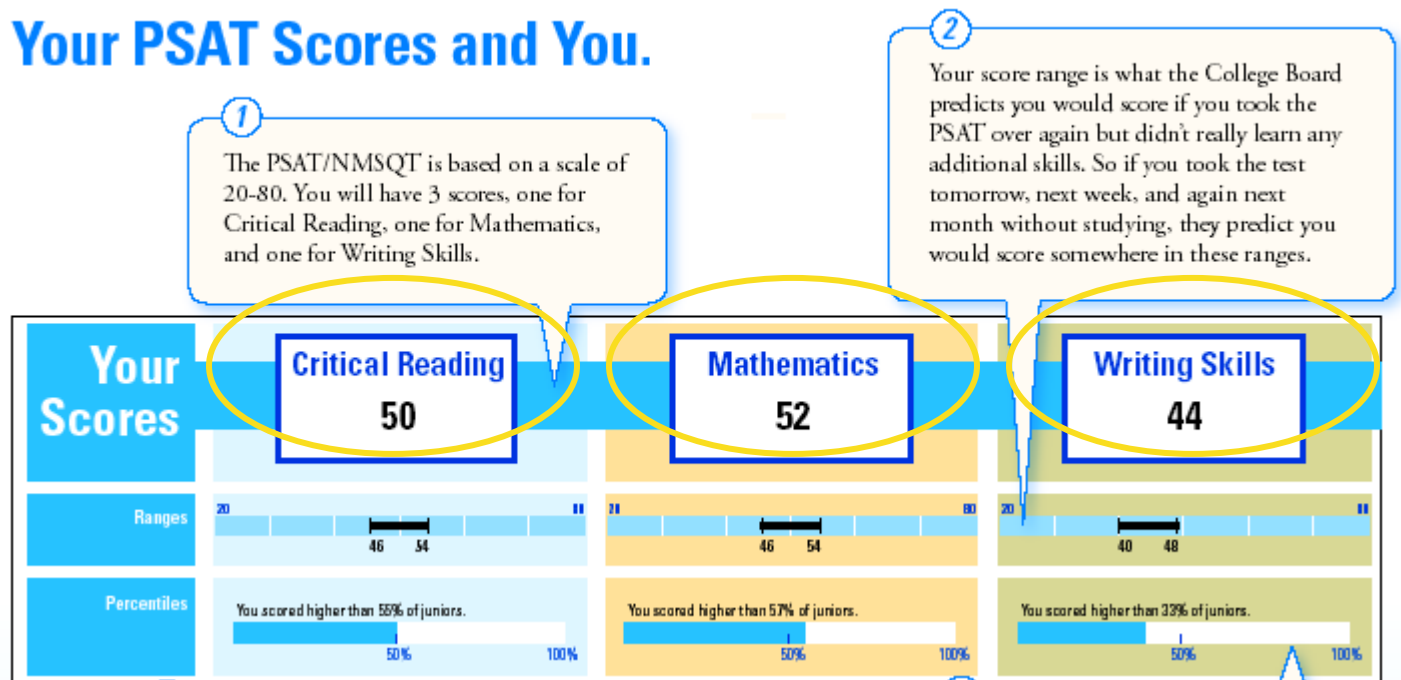
Why the PSAT?

Taking the PSAT is a great way to jumpstart your college admissions planning.

- You'll get an idea of how standardized tests work
- See how you perform in a high-pressure testing situation
- Most importantly, you'll get SCORES to give you a starting point

Your Scores

Your PSAT Scores and You.



Your overall scores are found at the top of the Score Report. You should see three numbers, all between 20 and 80.

Add each score above to get your overall PSAT score:

$50 + 52 + 44 = 146$ * this is also know as the selection index

Your Scores

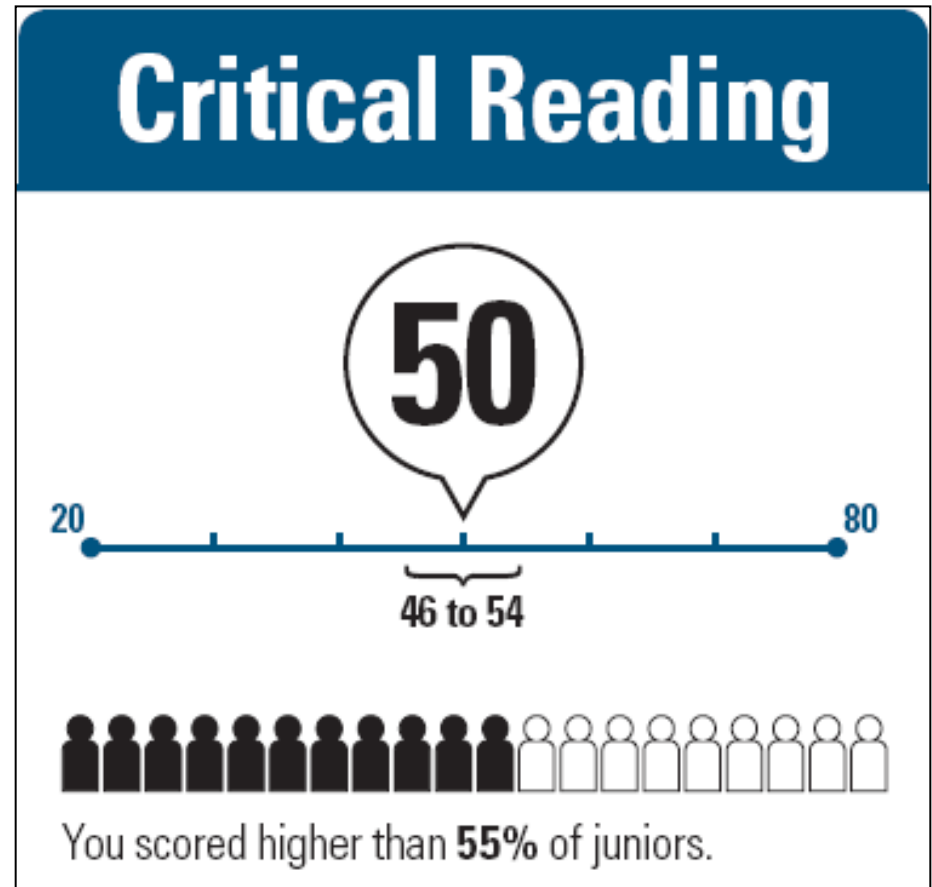
Score

You can see your projected SAT score online in My College QuickStart (www.collegeboard.com/quickstart). (adding a 0 to the end can also give you an idea!)

Percentile

If you are a junior, your scores are compared to those of other juniors.

If you are a sophomore or younger student, your scores are compared to those of sophomores.



National Merit Scholarship Corporation **Information**



National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses a Selection Index based on PSAT/NMSQT® scores as an initial screen of over 1.5 million students who enter its scholarship programs. (See reverse for more information.)

Your Selection Index

Sum of scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills.

156

Percentile

Compares your performance with college-bound juniors.

47

Entry Requirements

(Information you provided on your answer sheet.)

High school student:

Yes

U.S. citizenship:

Yes

Year to complete high school and enroll full-time in college:

2011

Years to be spent in grades 9–12:

4

Eligibility Information

If your Selection Index places you among the 55,000 high scorers who qualify for program recognition, you will be notified next September.

The Selection Index is the sum of your critical reading, mathematics and writing skills scores.

If it has an asterisk, you do not meet all of the eligibility requirements for the competition.

The Percentile compares your performance to that of other college-bound juniors.

The Entry Requirements section displays information you provided on your answer sheet.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation **Information**

True or False:

Only juniors are eligible for recognition by NMSC.

TRUE!

Sophomores are not considered for national merit recognition until their junior year.

NMSC will contact your school if you've been chosen for recognition.

For more information, check out www.nationalmerit.org.

Your Skills

Your Skills

These skill categories can help you understand your score and focus your study efforts before you take the SAT.

To learn more about your skills and review suggestions for improvement based on your test performance, visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and sign in using your code below.

Online Access Code

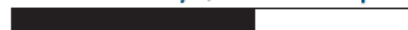
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Determining the Meaning of Words



9 of 15 questions correct (0 omitted)

Author's Craft: Style, Tone & Technique



3 of 5 questions correct (0 omitted)

Reasoning & Inference



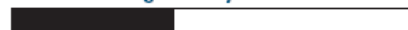
8 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)

Organization & Ideas



2 of 8 questions correct (2 omitted)

Understanding Literary Elements



4 of 10 questions correct (0 omitted)

Number & Operations



12 of 15 questions correct (1 omitted)

Algebra & Functions



5 of 5 questions correct (0 omitted)

Geometry & Measurement



8 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)

Data, Statistics & Probability



6 of 8 questions correct (1 omitted)



Get suggestions for improving your skills before you take the SAT.

www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Grammatical Relationships between Words



3 of 12 questions correct (1 omitted)

Words & Phrases Used to Modify or Compare



1 of 5 questions correct (2 omitted)

Phrases & Clauses



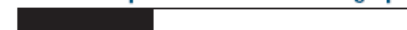
6 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)

Correctly Formed Sentences



1 of 6 questions correct (4 omitted)

Relationships of Sentences & Paragraphs



2 of 6 questions correct (3 omitted)

See how you did on each skill. The same skills are tested on the SAT.

You can try hundreds of practice questions, organized by skill, online in My College QuickStart (www.collegeboard.com/quickstart).

Your Answers

You will get your test book back with your PSAT/NMSQT results, so that you can review the questions.

You can also review each test question in My College QuickStart.

Question	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	✓	e
2	B	✓	e
3	A	C	m
4	C	A	h
5	B	E	h
6	D	✓	e
7	B	✓	m
8	D	o	e
9	B	✓	m
10	E	B	h
11	D	✓	h
12	C	✓	m
13	A	✓	m
14	B	A	m
15	A	✓	e
16	C	✓	m
17	A	✓	e
18	E	✓	m
19	B	✓	m
20	B	E	m
21	E	✓	m
22	D	B	h
23	E	✓	m
24	A	✓	m

Your **Answers**

Question – The question number in the exam/section.

Correct Answer – The correct answer for this question.

Your Answer – The answer choice you filled in on the test.

Difficulty – rated Easy, Medium or Hard and pertains to the level of difficulty of each question.

Question	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	✓	e
2	B	✓	e
3	A	C	m
4	C	A	h
5	B	E	h
6	D	✓	e
7	B	✓	m
8	D	o	e
9	B	✓	m
10	E	B	h
11	D	✓	h
12	C	✓	m
13	A	✓	m
14	B	A	m
15	A	✓	e
16	C	✓	m
17	A	✓	e
18	E	✓	m
19	B	✓	m
20	B	E	m
21	E	✓	m
22	D	B	h
23	E	✓	m
24	A	✓	m

Your **Answers**: Student Responses

Some of the math problems required you to grid in answers instead of selecting an option. For these questions, you will see the correct answer(s) written out.

	Correct Answer	Your Answer
29	7	✓ m
30	3	✓ m
31	4.5 or $\frac{9}{2}$	✓ m
32	1000	✓ m
33	10, 12, 14, or 16	✓ h
34	$\frac{8}{5}$ or 1.6	✓ h
35	29	✓ h
36	108	50.9 h
37	42	4.2 m
38	8	10 h

Your Answers:

Even though the questions have different levels of difficulty, they are all worth the same amount of points.

So, if easy questions have the same point value as hard ones – which type of question would you want to spend the most time on?

Your Answers:

Math: From Easy to Hard

Writing Section Order of Difficulty Structure

1. Improving Sentences (20 questions) - from Easy to Hard
2. Error IDs (14 questions) – from Easy to Hard
3. Improving Paragraphs (5 questions) – all Easy or Medium

For Critical Reading, you have to rely on your own Personal Order of Difficulty.

Reading Tips:

- Spend your time on the answers that you CAN answer.
- Consider omitting questions to save time.
- Improve your vocabulary!

Next Steps

What's next?

Use the access code on your report to log in to My College QuickStart, a personalized college and career planning kit. There you can:

- Search for colleges
- Get a personalized SAT study plan
- Take a personality test to find majors and careers that fit your aspirations

www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Next Steps

Go online to see your projected SAT scores, learn how to improve them, and find critical college and career planning information.

On test day, you told us that you're interested in **Sport & Fitness Administration/Management**

To learn more about college majors, visit My College QuickStart™. There you can also:

- Learn about related careers
- Search for colleges
- Take a personality test

Take the next step today! Go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and sign in using your code below.

Online Access Code

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The SAT and ACT:

A Brief Introduction

What do SAT/ACT Scores **Really** Measure?

How well you performed on the SAT/ACT.

Not a measure of intelligence.

Why do students struggle with the SAT and ACT?

	SAT and ACT	High School
Number of Questions on the exams	Designed so you can't finish or you really have to rush to finish	Designed so you can finish
Answer Choices	Common errors included in the answer choices	Goal is to assess strengths and weaknesses, not to try to get a student to answer all questions incorrectly!
Essay	25 min (SAT) / 30 min (ACT)	Hours & weeks
Reading	Under serious time constraints	Read at home
Math	No partial credit, the process does not matter	Partial credit, the process matters
Questions	Intentionally hard	Straight forward

The SAT

SAT – Quick Facts

- Frequency: 7 times/year
- Duration: 3 hours, 45 minutes
- Sections: Math, Critical Reading, Writing
- Cost: \$49
- Max score: 800 per section
- Avg. score:
 - Math: 516
 - Critical Reading: 501
 - Writing: 492

SAT – Scoring

- Each correct answer earns 1 full point, regardless of level of difficulty.
- Each unanswered question earns 0 points.
- Students lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each incorrect answer to a multiple-choice question.

A word about SAT **Score Choice**

- Some schools **require** that you send all of your scores.
- Using Score Choice could do more harm than good, especially when dealing with schools that mix and match subject scores.
- It's confusing. You could end up paying for additional score reports or even forgetting to submit scores.

The ACT

ACT – Quick Facts

- Frequency: 6 times/year
- Duration: 3 hours, 3 ½ hours including essay
- Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- Cost: \$34-\$49.50 (additional fee for writing)
- Max score: 36
- Avg score: 21

ACT **Score Choice**

- ACT maintains a separate record for each ACT that you take
- When sending your scores to schools you designate which score you would like to send
- You are able to send multiple test scores to colleges/universities
- ACT cannot create new records by combining scores from different test dates (super score)

Which test should I take?

- There is NO downside to taking both tests.
We encourage it!
- Take a free practice test (SAT, ACT)
- Princeton Review Assessment (PRA)

Top 5 Signs you might prefer the SAT

- You're a quick thinker who loves the challenge of puzzles and logic games
- You can rapidly define a plethora of onerous vocabulary words
- You prefer to write about WWII and The Great Gatsby than about school uniforms
- You have a shorter attention span and prefer to complete the exam in small, more 'bite-sized' pieces.
- You rocked the PSAT. Stick with what's working.

Top 5 Signs you might prefer the ACT

- You pay close attention in math class and understand basic trigonometry
- You love the challenge of working swiftly and beating the clock
- You're good at reading graphs and tables and identifying trends
- You're a strong reader and would much rather read a passage than solve a math problem
- You have a strong GPA, but did not do all that well on the PSAT

Basic **Strategies**

Practice Makes Perfect

- Students should take numerous practice tests
- Students should not take the tests for the first time when it counts towards admissions!

By taking several practice tests students will:

- Increase confidence & decrease test anxiety
- Increase overall speed and accuracy

Basic Strategies

Use a Watch

- Timing and Pacing are the most difficult aspects of these tests.
- Wearing a watch helps keep your pacing goals and tells you if you are spending too much time on one section or passage.

Basic Strategies

Process of Elimination

- Get in the habit of placing a line through the answers you know are wrong in the test booklet.
- Use what you know about the order of difficulty to cross off wrong answers.

The Princeton Review **Testing Timeline**

When should you take the SAT/ACT?

- It is ideal to complete all of your standardized tests by the end of your junior year.
- Prepare to take it once, plan to take it twice, leave time to take it three times
 - EA/ED (early action/decision) Testing Timeline
 - Junior Year: Fall, Spring
 - Senior Year: Fall
 - Regular Admissions
 - Junior Year: Spring
 - Senior Year: Fall