

PSAT/NMSQT

- All HSPS 9-11th grade students will take the PSAT October 18th free of charge.
- 9th – 10th graders take the PSAT for practice
- 11th graders take the PSAT to qualify for National Merit Scholarships
- If you miss the test – there is no retest!

Bring to School Oct. 18

- No. 2 pencils
- Calculator

Why take the PSAT/NMSQT?

- 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.

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.

Guess or not to Guess

- Maybe
- Your raw score on the PSAT is the number of questions you got right, minus a fraction of the number you got wrong (except on grid-ins). Every time you answer a PSAT question correctly, you get one raw point. Every time you leave a PSAT question blank, you get zero raw points. Every time you answer a PSAT question incorrectly, ETS subtracts one-fourth of a raw point if the question has five answer choices, or nothing if it is a grid-in.
- Grid-ins – always guess b/c there is no penalty for a wrong answer.

9 Ways to Calm Down

- Preparing Well
- Get a good nights sleep
- Start Early – on the day of the exam set your alarm a little earlier
- Make a list of all you need to do before leaving the house on the exam date
- Stretch before taking the test
- Breath deeply
- Make a pact w/ friends to stay silent about PSAT questions the day of the test
- Stop obsessing – just sit down and take the test
- Focus on the future

Things to Double Check

- Organize – put admission ticket, car keys, pencils, calculator, watch in plain sight
- Make sure you are bubbling in your answer to the corresponding number on the answer document.
- Answer all grid-ins
- Remember the Order of Operations (PEMDAS)
- Write Legibly

SAT for 11th graders

- You will need to register to take the SAT through www.collegeboard.com.
- It is recommended that you take the SAT in March/April and again May/June. It's better to take it at least 2 times your junior year, but not before the spring.
- Those applying to selective colleges/universities will need to take a couple of SAT IIs – so keep that in mind when registering for the SAT.