

# The Parent Perspective

## PSAT/NMSQT®

2007

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why should students take the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT® is the best preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test™. Students in eleventh grade who take the test and meet other program entry requirements may enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs. Most important, the PSAT/NMSQT is a comprehensive tool that gives valuable feedback to both the student and the school.

All students who take the PSAT/NMSQT will receive an official Score Report. They will receive scores in critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills and will see how their scores compare to those of other students across the country. Through a question-by-question review of answers, students will be able to see which answers they got right or wrong. They will also receive a personalized statement of specific academic skills that need attention along with suggested steps to improve those skills.

Students who take the test will receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an online college and career planning tool that contains: an online PSAT/NMSQT score report with projected SAT® score ranges, state percentiles, and the power to sort answer explanations by difficulty and question type; a customized SAT study plan for high school students; personalized lists of colleges, majors, and careers; and access to MyRoad™. For more information, visit [collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://collegeboard.com/quickstart).

Other special opportunities for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in eleventh grade include the National Hispanic Recognition Program. (See your student's counselor for more information.)

### 2. Who should take the PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 11 of high school. It is also beneficial for younger students to take the test to get a head start on improving academic skills needed for success in college and beyond. Last year, more than half of all test-takers were in grade 10 or younger.

### 3. What should be done to prepare for this test?

Classroom learning is the basis for test questions, so the best way students can prepare is to involve themselves in rigorous courses and get familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*, which is full of useful information, including a full-length Practice Test. The *Guide* and the Practice Test will help students understand all the directions and be familiar with the types of questions that will be asked.

### 4. If students don't do well on this test, will it hurt their chances of getting into college?

Absolutely not. If anything, the PSAT/NMSQT will improve their chances, since it provides personalized information on the types of skills that the student needs to improve to prepare for the SAT and college. PSAT/NMSQT scores are not sent to colleges.

### 5. How many times may a student take this test?

Only once a year, but there is no limit to how many years a student may participate. It is important that eleventh-grade students take the test to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions, as well as to prepare for the SAT. For younger students, the main benefit is to gain valuable skills feedback and get a head start on improving their academic skills and planning for college.

### 6. What is Student Search Service® and should students check "Yes"?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they are asked if they would like to participate in the College Board's Student Search Service®, a free service that provides names of students to certified educational organizations. If students choose to participate, they allow colleges, universities, scholarship programs, educational opportunity organizations, and the College Board to send information via the mail and/or e-mail about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual PSAT/NMSQT test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

### 7. When may we expect to see the results from the PSAT/NMSQT?

Schools will receive Score Reports in December and will notify students regarding when, where, and how to get their individual reports. Schools also receive an extra copy for the student's file.

### 8. What else should students be doing to have college as an option after graduation?

Refer to the calendar on the back of this flyer.

At [collegeboard.com/parents](http://collegeboard.com/parents), you'll find more information about the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart, planning and paying for college, as well as information on other College Board programs, such as the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program®.

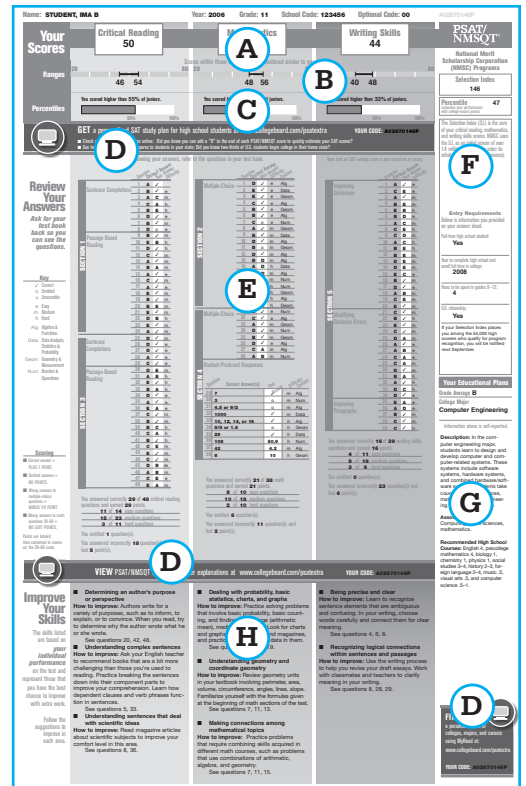
Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
cosponsored by



# PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

The Score Report includes not only scores and itemized feedback on test questions, but also an “Improve Your Skills” section. For each section of the test—critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills—students will receive personalized skills feedback based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT as well as suggestions for improvement. The Score Report also shows whether students meet entry requirements for National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions.

- A** PSAT/NMSQT Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Skills Scores
- B** PSAT/NMSQT Score Ranges
- C** Percentiles—How Students Performed Compared to Their Peer Group
- D** Information on Accessing My College QuickStart (Three Locations on Score Report)
- E** Overview of PSAT/NMSQT Answers
- F** National Merit Scholarship Corporation Information
- G** Educational Plans
- H** Personalized “Improve Your Skills” Section



# Important Dates and Reminders

## September 2007

- Students should review the *Official Student Guide* and take the Practice Test inside.
- On **collegeboard.com**, students can create My Organizer, a free tool that will guide them through the PSAT/NMSQT process and other College Board programs.

## December 2007

- Score Reports are sent to schools in December. Remind your student to review the “Improve Your Skills” section and to register online at **collegeboard.com/quickstart** for his or her free personalized My College QuickStart.
- Visit **collegeboard.com/parents** to access more information that will aid you in helping your student use his or her Score Report.

## March 2008

- Students should select four, preferably five, solid academic courses for next year. They should check with their counselor about potential participation in AP® courses.

## October 2007

- **PSAT/NMSQT test administration:** Make sure your student eats breakfast and brings No. 2 pencils, a calculator, a watch (with alarms off), and his or her e-mail address to the test administration.
- On test day, encourage your student to check “Yes” for Student Search Service on the PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet, so he or she will receive information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.

## January 2008

- Encourage your student to use the free online resources at **collegeboard.com/quickstart**, including complete answer explanations for every test question, a personalized SAT study plan, and MyRoad, an online career, major, and college exploration tool.

## April 2008

- Check with counselors about college summer programs designed to introduce high school students to college courses.

## November 2007

- Talk with your student about programs of study that interest him or her. Students in grade 11 should research colleges and universities.
- Visit **collegeboard.com/parents** to help your student search for scholarships and learn more about funding a college education.

## February 2008

- Students in grade 11 should consider registering for the SAT this spring.

## May/June 2008

- Have your student request a summer reading list from his or her English teacher.