

Selection Index Percentiles and Mean Score

can be used to compare students' performance with that of juniors.

JUNIORS					
Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile
240-223	99+	164	72	105	8
222	99	163	71	104	8
221	99	162	70	103	7
220	99	161	69	102	7
219	99	160	68	101	6
218	99	159	67	100	6
217	99	158	65	99	5
216	99	157	64	98	5
215	99	156	63	97	4
214	99	155	62	96	4
213	99	154	61	95	3
212	98	153	59	94	3
211	98	152	58	93	3
210	98	151	57	92	2
209	98	150	56	91	2
208	98	149	54	90	2
207	98	148	53	89	2
206	97	147	52	88	1
205	97	146	50	& below	
204	97	145	49		
203	97	144	48		
202	96	143	47		
201	96	142	45		
200	96	141	44		
199	96	140	43		
198	95	139	41		
197	95	138	40		
196	95	137	39		
195	94	136	38		
194	94	135	36		
193	93	134	35		
192	93	133	34		
191	93	132	33		
190	92	131	31		
189	92	130	30		
188	91	129	29		
187	91	128	28		
186	90	127	27		
185	90	126	26		
184	89	125	25		
183	88	124	24		
182	88	123	23		
181	87	122	22		
180	86	121	20		
179	86	120	20		
178	85	119	19		
177	84	118	18		
176	83	117	17		
175	83	116	16		
174	82	115	15		
173	81	114	14		
172	80	113	14		
171	79	112	13		
170	78	111	12		
169	77	110	11		
168	76	109	11		
167	75	108	10		
166	74	107	9		
165	73	106	9		
				Mean score	146.0
				Standard deviation	29.6
				Number of juniors in sample	1,032,912

Points to Note

- Reported on a scale ranging from 60 to 240, the Selection Index is the sum of the critical reading, math, and writing skills scores. For example, a critical reading score of 56, a math score of 62, and a writing skills score of 59 would result in a Selection Index of 177 (56 + 62 + 59).
- Percentiles are based on the Selection Index earned by a sample of college-bound juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2004.

How NMSC Uses the Selection Index

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses the Selection Index score as an initial screen of the 1.3 million test-takers who meet program entry requirements and to designate groups of students to be honored in the competitions it conducts. Participation in NMSC's competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2006 is determined by responses to the four program entry items on the 2004 PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet. Both the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* and the Roster of Student Scores and Plans show the student's Selection Index, the student's responses to the entry items, and whether the student meets participation requirements.

Of the more than one million NMSC program entrants, about 55,000 will earn 2004 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2005. Students who qualify to continue in the competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2006 then must meet academic and other requirements specified by NMSC to be considered for awards.

Detailed descriptions of NMSC programs are published in the *Guide to the National Merit® Scholarship Program* and the *National AchievementSM Scholarship Program Information Booklet*, mailed to high school principals each fall. For students and parents, information about the competitions is given in the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin* and at www.nationalmerit.org.

Inquiries about any aspect of the National Merit Program or National Achievement Program—including entry requirements, the selection process, and awards to be offered—should be sent to National Merit Scholarship Corporation, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, IL 60201-4897; telephone 847 866-5100.