

# The PSAT/NMSQT® and PSAT™ 10: The Parent Perspective

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

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

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

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why should students take the PSAT/NMSQT® or the PSAT™ 10?

The PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 offer great preparation for the SAT®.

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade and meet other program entry requirements may enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program. They may also qualify for other programs such as the National Hispanic Recognition Program. For more information, see your student's counselor.

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 will receive both an online score report at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org) and an official paper score report. They will receive an overall test score (320–1520) as well as individual section scores, test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. Students will be able to see which answers they got right or wrong. They will also receive information on how to improve their academic skills.

Students will receive free, personalized, online SAT practice recommendations on Khan Academy, which can be used to prepare for both PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 because of the close alignment of the tests.

### Who should take the PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 11 of high school. Younger students can also take the test or the PSAT 10 to get a head start on improving skills and knowledge needed for success in college and career.

### How many times may a student take each test?

Only once a year, but there is no limit to how many years a student may participate. It is

important that 11th-grade students take the PSAT/NMSQT to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and to get SAT practice.

### What should be done to prepare for the test?

Classroom learning is the basis for test questions, so the best way students can prepare is by taking challenging courses and becoming familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *Official Student Guide*, along with the practice test for the test they are taking to help them understand all the directions and be familiar with the types of questions that will be asked. In addition, students who take the practice test can go to [collegeboard.org/psatpractice](http://collegeboard.org/psatpractice) for free, personalized practice based on their practice test results, which can be used to prepare for the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, or the PSAT 10.

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

Absolutely not. If anything, the test 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 and PSAT 10 scores are not sent to colleges.

### What is Student Search Service®, and should students choose to participate?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, 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, and educational opportunity organizations to send information about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer. Beginning with the 2015 administration, students who opt in to Student Search Service will increase their access to nearly \$180 million in combined annual scholarship awards. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

## When may we expect to see the results from the PSAT/NMSQT? From PSAT 10?

Score reports will be made available online in mid-December for PSAT/NMSQT and in mid-April for PSAT 10. Schools will receive paper PSAT/NMSQT score reports in January.

## Score Reports

Your student's score report will include a total score, section scores, test scores, cross-test scores and subscores, all of which will give your student better insight to his or her performance. The score report will also include the NMSC Selection Index, which is calculated by doubling the sum of the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

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### Important PSAT/NMSQT Dates and Reminders

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<b>September 2015</b>	Students should review the <i>Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT</i> and take the practice test inside.  At <a href="http://collegeboard.org/psatpractice">collegeboard.org/psatpractice</a> , students can access free, personalized, online practice via Khan Academy that can be used to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10.
<b>October 2015</b>	PSAT/NMSQT administration: Make sure your student eats breakfast and brings No. 2 pencils, an approved calculator, a watch (with no audible alarm) and his or her email address to the test administration.  On test day, encourage your student to choose "Yes" for Student Search Service on the PSAT/NMSQT to increase his or her access to nearly \$180 million in combined annual scholarship awards and to receive information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.
<b>November 2015</b>	Talk with your student about programs of study that interest him or her. Students in grade 11 should research colleges and universities.  Visit <a href="http://collegeboard.org">collegeboard.org</a> to help your student search for scholarships and learn more about funding a college education.
<b>December 2015</b>	Score reports are made available online at <a href="http://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> .  Visit <a href="http://collegeboard.org/sat-suite">collegeboard.org/sat-suite</a> to access more information that will aid you in helping your student use his or her score report.
<b>January 2016</b>	Encourage your student to use free online resources in their online score-reporting portal at <a href="http://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> .
<b>February 2016</b>	Students in grade 11 should consider registering for the SAT in the spring.
<b>March 2016</b>	Student should select four, preferably five, solid academic courses for next year. They should check with their counselor about potential participation in AP courses. Review your student's AP potential feedback at <a href="http://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> .
<b>April 2016</b>	Check with counselors about college summer programs designed to introduce high school students to college success.
<b>May/June 2016</b>	Have your student request a summer reading list from his or her English teacher.

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Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
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