

PSAT – October 10, 2108

Student Guide

The first step in your college search does not involve choosing a location or a program of study. But it does require some work on your part. The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test) offers you two unique opportunities. First, your PSAT score helps you show today's best colleges and universities that you have what it takes to succeed. Second, the test helps you sharpen your test-taking skills for the SAT exam next year since the test includes the same types of multiple choice questions you will find on the SAT Reasoning Test.

Today's best colleges and universities are on the lookout for students with the nation's highest PSAT scores because it is from this pool that National Merit Scholarships are awarded. Before you face the challenge of the PSAT, take a few minutes to discover some simple strategies you can use in your PSAT prep that can boost both your confidence and your PSAT scores!

- Mark your calendar for the PSAT—you don't want to miss it! Students in grades 9th – 11th will take the PSAT at Cambridge High School on **Wednesday, October 10, 2018**.
- Students can download a free copy of the **“Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT,”** which includes a practice exam to help students prepare for the big day. Here is a link to the guide online: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf>.
- It is also imperative that students **sign-up for a College Board account**. The scores for the PSAT and all AP exams will be reported to their College Board account. You can create an account at: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- **Know the format used for the PSAT test** - one great way to prepare for any exam is to know the type of material covered and the format in which the questions are presented. Preparing thoroughly for the PSAT/NMSQT now will help you get your college search on the right track.
 - **The Evidence-Based Reading section of the PSAT** - The Evidence-Based Reading assesses different, but related skills and knowledge. The Reading Test asks you to read passages and show how well you understand them.
 - Total questions: 47
 - Total time: 60 minutes
 - **The Writing and Language section of the PSAT** - In the Writing and Language Test, you will be asked to make revision and editing decisions to improve the text within a passage.
 - Total questions: 44 passage-based revision and editing questions with multiple-choice responses
 - Total Time: 35 minutes
 - **The Math section of the PSAT** - The Math sections of the PSAT include multiple-choice questions and grid-in (calculation) questions. Topics include numbers and operations; algebra and functions; geometry and measurement; and statistics, probability, and data

analysis. Calculators are not provided for the PSAT. Please see the student guide for a list of acceptable calculators.

- Total questions: 48
- 40 multiple-choice questions
- Eight student-produced response questions
- Time allotted for Math Test – No Calculator: 25 minutes
- Time allotted for Math Test – Calculator: 45 minutes