



2007 PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report Tutorial

for 9th- and 10th-Grade Students

You've already taken the first step toward college!

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT® in ninth or tenth grade, you took your first step on the path to college. The test shows you firsthand the kinds of reading, mathematics, and writing skills you'll need to succeed in college. It also prepares you for college admissions tests like the SAT®.

If the test seemed hard, remember—it's aimed at students in the eleventh grade.

If you took the PSAT/NMSQT before eleventh grade, don't feel discouraged if your scores seem low. Look at your percentiles to see how well you did compared to all tenth-graders who took the test. So relax, and don't focus on your scores. Your PSAT/NMSQT results will improve the longer you're in school, the more courses you take, and the harder you work.

How developed are your academic skills? Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report to find out.

Use your score report to identify those skills you need to develop. First take a close look at the "Review Your Answers" section. Locate the questions you got wrong. Then look at your test book.

- Did the questions cover material you still need to learn?
- Did you get the easy questions right and leave the harder ones blank?
- Did you guess when you didn't know the answer?
- Did you get stuck on a couple of hard questions and run out of time?

Now look at the "Improve Your Skills" section. Based on your answers to the test questions, this

How Did I Do?

Are you in ninth or tenth grade? Yes? Then relax. The PSAT/NMSQT shows skills you've learned and skills you may still need to work on before you go to college. It does not expect you to perform as well as students in eleventh grade and you still have time to learn and improve.

section shows you skills that you need to improve. Read and follow the suggestions for tips on how to strengthen the skills you'll need for college.

The best way to review your test results is to go online at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and use your interactive score report. When you choose a question to review, it will display the question plus a thorough answer explanation so you can improve your skills.

Learn how to guess wisely.

Because you can lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each wrong answer, how you guess on multiple-choice questions can affect your score. When you don't know the answer, do you make wild guesses or educated guesses? Guessing wildly means that you pick any answer. Educated guessing means that you eliminate answer choices you know are wrong and guess from those remaining. With educated guessing, you improve your chances of picking the right answer with each choice you can eliminate. Try it.

Prepare for the next time you take the PSAT/NMSQT.

Once you've zeroed in on your own strengths and weaknesses, the best way to get ready for the test is to work hard in your regular classes and read as much as possible. Before taking the test again, read the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*. Review all the directions and sample questions, study the test-taking tips and strategies, and **take the Practice Test**.

Use My College QuickStart™ to Get Ready for College.

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you receive free access to this personalized online college planning kit that will help you learn from your test results, including:

- An online PSAT/NMSQT Score Report, including projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles, the power to sort questions by difficulty and type, and complete answer explanations
- A customized SAT study plan with a complete practice test
- Personalized lists of majors and careers
- A personalized list of colleges, based on your location and

preferred major, that can be expanded or refined according to your interests

- Access to MyRoad™—an interactive majors, college, and career exploration program

Visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart to get your My College QuickStart™. Use the access code provided on your score report.

What happens now?

With the help of teachers and counselors, use the information provided on your score report and in My College QuickStart to improve your academic skills and plan for college and beyond. Here are some suggestions:

- Meet with your counselor to review your PSAT/NMSQT performance and course selections relevant to your future plans.
- Consider taking honors and/or AP® courses.
- Review your online score report and SAT study plan in My College QuickStart.
- Retake the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Get involved in extracurricular and community activities.
- Research majors, colleges, and careers using MyRoad.
- Visit www.collegeboard.com/student often to obtain more free information to help you plan for college.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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Important Reminder:

To qualify for scholarship consideration, you must take the test again in grade 11.