



## Comparing Old and New SAT to ACT



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	Current SAT	New SAT (Spring 2016)	ACT
Description	The new SAT require similar skills and feature content similar to that of the ACT. Many of the changes to the new SAT's format makes it look a lot like the ACT, but the SATs retain certain distinctions. Among the biggest changes to the SAT are an intended greater emphasis on critical-thinking, contextual reading analysis and real-world problem solving, a "new" scoring system, and an overhaul of the essay. Comparatively, the ACT will remain more of an achievement test, requiring a broad knowledge of many concepts, time management and answering speed, and test taking endurance.		
Format & Length	<b>10 short sections:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Critical Reading;</li> <li>• 3 Mathematics;</li> <li>• 3 Writing (including Essay);</li> <li>• 1 experimental (not scored)</li> <li>• Questions have 5 answer choices</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 45 minutes</li> </ul>	<b>4 long +1 optional section:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing &amp; Language; Evidence-Based Reading; Math (2 sections); Essay (optional)</li> <li>• Questions have 4 answer choices</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 50 minutes (including Essay)</li> </ul>	<b>4 long + 1 optional section</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English; Mathematics; Reading;</li> <li>• Science; Writing (optional Essay)</li> <li>• Most questions have 4 answer choices (Math has 5)</li> <li>• Total testing time: 3 hours, 25 minutes (with Essay)</li> </ul>
Scoring	<b>Combined score: 600-2400:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Reading; Math; Writing (each 200-800)</li> <li>• Writing score based on Multiple Choice and Essay subscores.</li> <li>• ¼-point deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>	<b>Combined score: 400-1600:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-Based Reading and Writing &amp; Language: 200-800; Math: 200-800</li> <li>• Essay score reported separately</li> <li>• "Cross-Test Scores" report performance on Science and History/ Social Studies across entire test</li> <li>• No deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>	<b>Composite score: 1-36 (average of 4 tests):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English; Math; Reading; Science (each 1-36)</li> <li>• Writing (Essay) score not factored into Composite score</li> <li>• Combined English/Writing score provided separately: 1-36</li> <li>• No deduction for incorrect answers</li> </ul>
Writing / English	<b>Identify and correct errors in single sentences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• Punctuation not tested</li> <li>• Limited and predictable set of errors</li> </ul>	<b>Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure and effective rhetoric:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• Punctuation is tested</li> <li>• Logical structure</li> <li>• Effective rhetoric</li> <li>• Includes informational graphics</li> </ul>	<b>Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure and effective rhetoric:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard English grammar and usage</li> <li>• Punctuation is tested</li> <li>• Logical structure</li> <li>• Effective rhetoric</li> <li>• Commonly confused words</li> </ul>
Math	<b>Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Geometry:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply core math skills to solve mostly non-standard, "tricky" problems</li> <li>• Formulas provided</li> <li>• 10 Grid-In questions (no answer choices)</li> </ul>	<b>Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong emphasis on Algebra</li> <li>• Calculator not allowed on one section</li> <li>• 12 Grid-In questions (no answer choices)</li> <li>• 1 Extended Thinking question (4 points)</li> </ul>	<b>Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math tested in straightforward manner</li> <li>• Extensive range of concepts tested</li> <li>• Emphasis on word problems</li> <li>• Formulas not provided</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Reading</b></p>	<p><b>Vocabulary-based sentence completions + 7 short or long reading passages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many inference, tone, purpose questions</li> <li>• Questions follow progressive order of the passage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vocabulary de-emphasized 4 long passages and 1 paired passage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 passages include diagrams &amp; charts</li> <li>• 1 passage from historical U.S. "Founding Document"</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 long passages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>• Straightforward questions that require close reading of passage</li> <li>• Questions do not follow the progressive order of the passage</li> <li>• Less time spent to answer each question compared to SAT</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p><b>No Science section.</b></p>	<p><b>No stand-alone Science section, but Science-related questions will be included throughout the Math, Reading, and Writing &amp; Language tests.</b></p>	<p><b>40 questions distributed over 7 passages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on charts, diagrams, etc.</li> <li>• Questions rarely require prior science knowledge</li> </ul>
<p><b>Essay</b></p>	<p><b>25 minutes (always the 1<sup>st</sup> section):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad range of topics; scored 2-6 each by 2 readers</li> <li>• Persuasive essay that allows for formulaic responses</li> </ul>	<p><b>50 minutes (always the last section):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze a passage and evaluate author's reasoning and rhetoric</li> <li>• Students' opinions discouraged</li> <li>• Essay is scored on 2-8 scale each on three traits (Reading, Analysis, and Writing)</li> </ul>	<p><b>30 minutes (always the last test):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrow topic "relevant" to high school students</li> <li>• Demands a more structured response</li> <li>• Optional, but required by most schools</li> </ul>



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### KEY links

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/test-center-locator.html>

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-international-programs.html>

## SAT: some important details

In March 2016, College Board, the international organization that proctors the SAT, changed the format of the exam to make it more indicative of aptitude.

According to the new format, the SAT will have the following sections -

Section	Total Time (In minutes)	Total Questions	Time per Question (In seconds)
Reading	65	52	75
Writing	35	44	48
Math (No Calculator)	25	20	75
Math (Calculator)	55	38	86

The **SAT redesign** also involves some major changes to the scoring. Let's go through them one at a time.

**Essay Scores** - Since it's now optional, the new SAT essay will work a lot more like the ACT essay—you'll receive a separate essay score that doesn't factor into your score on the 400-1600 range. The essay score itself is also changing: rather than one score between 2 and 12, you'll get three scores, for reading, analysis, and writing, between 2 and 8.

**Sub-scores** - The College Board will be providing a number of sub-scores and cross-test scores as supplements to your composite score:

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- Analysis in History/Social Studies
- Analysis in Science
- Command of Evidence
- Heart of Algebra
- Passport to Advanced Math.
- Expression of Ideas
- Standard English Conventions
- Words in Context,
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis



## Reading

In the SAT Reading section, you'll read passages and interpret informational graphics. Some questions ask you to locate a piece of information or an idea stated directly whereas some might also need to understand what the author words imply. In other words, you are expected to read between the lines.

The Reading Test includes

- One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature.
- One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the great global conversation.
- A passage from Economics, Psychology, Sociology, or some other Social science.
- Two science based passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics

## Writing

The SAT Writing and Language Test asks you to be an editor and improve passages that include deliberate errors.

When you take the Writing and Language Test, you'll do three things:

- Read.
- Find mistakes and weaknesses.
- Fix them.
- The passages you improve will range from arguments to nonfiction narratives and will be about careers, history, social studies, humanities, and science.
- Some passages are accompanied by informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts — but no math is required.
- Prior topic knowledge is never tested.

***The Writing and Reading Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.***

## **Math**

The Math Test in SAT will focus in depth on the three areas of math that play the biggest role in a wide range of college majors and careers:

Heart of Algebra	Focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems.
Problem Solving and Data Analysis	It is about being quantitatively literate.
Passport To Advanced Math	These questions require the manipulation of complex equations.
Additional Topics in Math	It includes geometry and trigonometry most relevant to college and career readiness.

### **Test Section**

- No calculator Section
  - 25 Minutes
  - 15 MCQ and 5 Grid In Questions
- Calculator Section
  - 55 Minutes
  - 30 MCQ and 8 Grid In Questions



### Essay

The prompt argues a point and expresses subtle views on complex subjects. The passage examines ideas, debates, or trends in the arts and sciences, civic, cultural, or political life. The author uses logical reasoning and evidence to support his claims.

Your task will be to analyze this piece of writing. The purpose of the new SAT Essay is to assess your ability to analyze an author's argument. To write a strong essay, you will need to focus on how the author uses evidence, reasoning, and other rhetorical techniques to build an argument and make it convincing. Your analysis should focus on the most relevant features of the passage. Your essay need not explain whether you agree or disagree with the author's claims. You are required to showcase how well you understand the passage and use it as the basis for a well-written, thought-out discussion.

Your essay will be scored by two people. They will each award between 1 and 4 points in the following three categories:

- Reading.
- Analysis
- Writing

### ACT : Some important details

The ACT is composed of four multiple-choice sections—English, Math, Reading, and Science—and one optional essay section—Writing.

Total testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes for the ACT without Writing and 3 hours and 35 minutes for the ACT with Writing.

Section	Total Time	Total Questions	Time per Question
English	45 minutes	75	36 seconds
Math	60 minutes	60	60 seconds
Reading	35 minutes	40	53 seconds
Science	35 minutes	40	53 seconds

The **ACT redesign** also involves some major changes to the scoring. Let's go through them one at a time.

**STEM Score** – This helps students assess their strength and weaknesses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This includes Math and Science



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score.

**ELA Score** - This will allow students to compare their score with others. It will consist of their English, Reading plus Writing score.

**Career Readiness Indicator** - This will help students assess their career readiness provide measures for foundational work skills and be an indicator for future scores on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC).

**Text Complexity Indicator** - This will show students how well they understand complex texts that they will see in college and possibly their future careers. It will be based on their writing performance.

### English

The ACT English Test is not a grammar test or a test of how well you write. Instead, the ACT tests your editing skills—your ability to fix errors in grammar and punctuation and to improve the organization and style of five different passages.

On the ACT English Test you'll face five passages on topics ranging from historical essays to personal narratives. Portions of each passage are underlined, and you must decide if these are correct as written or if one of the other answers would fix or improve the selection. Other questions will ask you to add, cut, or reorder text, and ask you to evaluate the passage as a whole.

### Math

On the ACT Math questions will be based on topics covered in typical high school classes.

The ACT does not provide any formulas at the beginning of the Math Test. This means you need to memorize relevant formulas, so you can recall them quickly as needed.

	Topic	Questions
Algebra	Pre-algebra	14
	Elementary algebra	10
	intermediate algebra	9
Geometry	Plane geometry	14
	Coordinate geometry	9



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Trigonometry	Basic sine, cosine, and tangent functions, trig Identities and graphing.	4
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### Reading

There are four reading passages of about 750 - 800 word each, always in this order:

- Prose fiction
- Social science
- Humanities
- Natural science

After each passage, you'll answer *10 questions* testing your understanding of content, purpose, tone, point of view, and organization. You will also be tested on the ability to make logical inferences on what was directly stated as well as what meanings were implied in the text.

### Science

The ACT Science section is not a test of scientific facts. It's a test of how well you look up data and trends. You are expected to make predictions and synthesize information from tables, graphs, illustrations, and passages. Most of the questions can be answered from the information presented in the passages or figures, but be prepared for 3 to 4 questions that require outside knowledge.

For passage topics, ACT pulls content from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and the Earth/space sciences such as astronomy, geology, and meteorology.

#### Types of ACT Science Passages

Data Representation	5 questions each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always come with figures</li> <li>• Contain 1 or more charts, tables, graphs, or illustrations.</li> </ul>
Research Summary	6 questions each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually come with figures.</li> <li>• Describe several experiments.</li> <li>• Include more text than the charts and graphs passages do.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes comes with figures.</li> </ul>



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Conflicting  
Viewpoints

1 passage,  
7 questions.

- Feel more like the passages on ACT Reading Test.
- Ask you to compare, contrast, and synthesize different viewpoints.

### Essay

The prompt is a general topic, typically something related to current events or broad based ethical issues. The essay prompt will include an issue and three perspectives on the issue. You will be asked to discuss the three perspectives and present your own perspective. You are expected to

- Analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- State and develop your own perspective on the issue
- Explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your Writing Test score will be scored on a 2-6 scale by two readers and does not affect your overall composite score. However, you will now receive four sub-scores on:

- Ideas and Analysis
- Development and Support
- Organization
- Language Use

### Admission Timing Options

The colleges on your list may offer any or all of the following admission timing options, each of which has specific deadlines:

- **Early Action:** This is a "non-binding" early admission process, which means you do not have to attend the school if you are accepted. Application deadlines are in the fall.
- **Early Decision:** This is a "binding" early admission process, which means you are obligated to enroll if accepted. Application deadlines are in the fall.
- **Regular Decision:** Used by the majority of applicants, this process usually



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- **Rolling Admission:** This process permits applications to be submitted over a longer period of time, sometimes with no set deadline.
- **Open Admission:** The school accepts all applicants who have a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or a complete high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law.

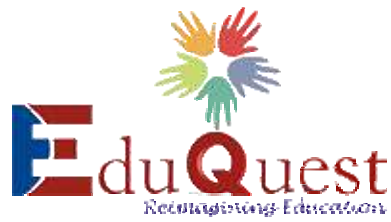
Courses	MODE
PSAT SAT ACT AP COURSES SUBJECTS TEST (SAT II) IELTS/TOEFL IIT JEE DASA/CIWG	ONLINE LIVE CLASSES OFFLINE CLASSES BLENDED CLASSES

### Main features of our course

- We provide coaching by preparing a road-map for every student.
- Step wise step “improvement ladder” marked on an individual student sheet.
- Module based preparation.
- Section-wise assessment, special attention on improvement areas.
- Course ends when the student reaches its potential.
- Artificial Intelligence-based online test
- Test Generation facility
- Proven “Adaptive model” of coaching, which works on a “Diagnostic test framework” which ensures continuous assessment thus continuous improvement.
- Books and all study material will be provided by us



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Contact info:

Call: 9958041888

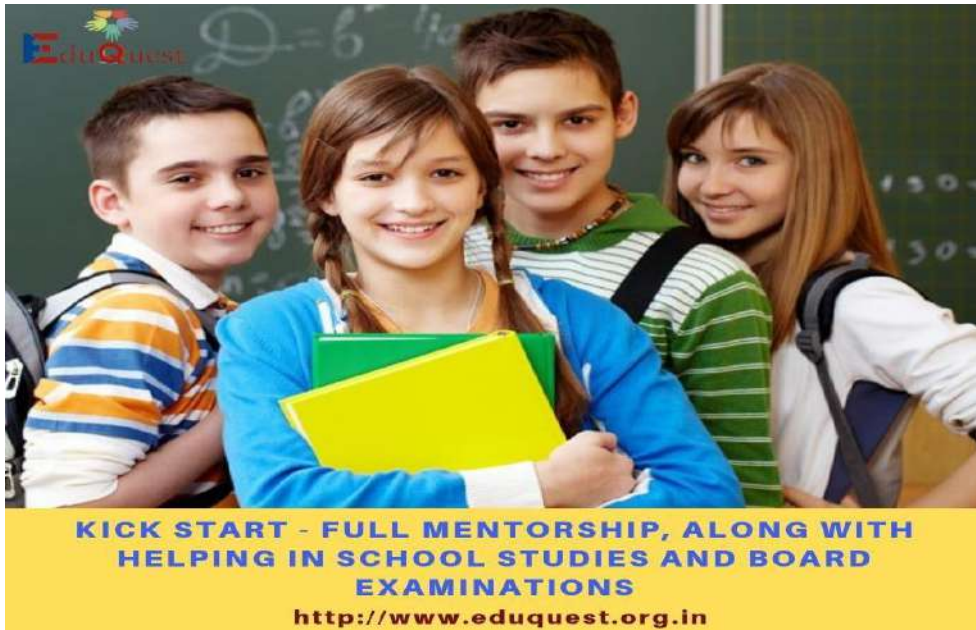
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[www.eduquest.org.in](http://www.eduquest.org.in)





# The complete guide Book for PSAT 8/9 & PSAT 10

## Test Dates

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/taking-the-test>

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/inside-the-test>

<https://parents.collegeboard.org/college-board-programs/psat>

## What Does the PSAT 8/9 Measure?

The PSAT™ 8/9 measures reading, writing and language, and math skills learned both in and out of school. You won't be asked to recall facts from literature, history, or science, or to complete math formulas, because this test measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills. The PSAT™ 8/9 is designed for 8th- and 9th-grade students.

The PSAT 8/9 provides a clear, early picture of you and your readiness for college. Your scores help you and your teachers pinpoint areas for improvement.

PSAT 8/9 includes a Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. The PSAT 8/9 is a test that will help educators and students figure out what students need to work on most in the skills that are considered essential for success in high school, college, and career.

## Practising Tips for Students

When you're taking a practice test, make sure to mark which ones are random guesses so you can ask for reviewing them when you're finished. To make the most out of your practice tests, you want to really **analyze why you missed the question** and what you need to do - review content, work at a faster pace, etc. - to ace that question type the next time.

Gone are the days of studying long lists of obscure vocabulary - the new PSAT (and SAT) tests that you **understand the meaning and connotation of a word within the context of a passage**. Similarly, grammar questions ask you to revise sentences within the context of passages, not as stand-alone sentences. All of the sections will include graphs and charts to test your ability to interpret, describe, and represent data visually or in words.

## Major Features

Category	PSAT 8/9
Total Testing Time	2 hours and 25 minutes



<b>Category</b>	<b>PSAT 8/9</b>
<b>Components</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Test</li> <li>• Writing and Language Test</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Math</li> </ol>
<b>Important Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success</li> <li>• Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact</li> <li>• Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)</li> </ul>
<b>Score Reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Score: Scale ranges from 240 to 1440.</li> <li>• Section Score: Scale ranges from 120 to 720, and 6 to 36 on test and cross-test scores.</li> </ul>
<b>Subscore Reporting</b>	<p>Subscores on a 1 to 15 scale for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, educators, and counselors.</p>

## Test Length and Timing

PSAT 8/9		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/ Tasks
Reading	55	42
Writing and Language	30	40
Math	60	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>120</b>

PSAT 8/9 Score Ranges		
PSAT 8/9 Score Reported	Details	Score Range
<b>Total score</b>	Sum of the two section scores.	240–1440
<b>Section scores (2)</b>	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math.	120–720

<b>PSAT 8/9 Score Ranges</b>		
<b>PSAT 8/9 Score Reported</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
<b>Test scores (3)</b>	Reading, Writing and Language, and Math.	6–36
<b>Cross-test scores (2)</b>	Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science. Based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests.	6–36
<b>Subscores (6)</b>	Reading and Writing and Language: Command of Evidence and Words in Context. Writing and Language: Expression of Ideas and Standard English Conventions. Math: Heart of Algebra, and Problem Solving and Data Analysis.	1–15

## English Portion

### **Words in Context**

Many questions on the PSAT 8/9 focus on important, widely used words and phrases found in texts in many different subjects. Some questions ask you to figure out a word's meaning based on context. The words are ones that you will probably encounter in college or in the workplace long after test day.

No longer will students use flashcards to memorize obscure words, only to forget them the minute they put their test pencils down. The redesigned exams will engage students in close reading and honor the best work of the classroom.

### **Command of Evidence**

The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section asks you to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources. These sources include informational graphics, such as tables, charts, and graphs, as well as multiparagraph passages in the areas of literature and literary nonfiction, the humanities, science, history and social studies, and on topics about work and career.

For every passage or pair of passages you'll see during the reading test at least one question will ask you to identify which part of the text best supports the answer to the previous question. In other instances, you'll be asked to find the best answer to a question by pulling together information conveyed in words and graphics.

The writing and language test also focuses on command of evidence. It asks you to do things like analyze a series of sentences or paragraphs and decide if it makes sense. Other questions ask you to interpret graphics and to edit a part of the accompanying passage so that it clearly and accurately communicates the information in the graphics.

## Math Portion

The Math Test focuses in-depth on two essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Heart of Algebra. It also includes some Passport to Advanced Math questions.

Problem Solving and Data Analysis is about being quantitatively literate. It includes using ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science, and career contexts.

The Heart of Algebra focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems, which helps students develop key powers of abstraction.

Passport to Advanced Math focuses on more complex equations and the manipulation they require.

Current research shows that these areas are used disproportionately in a wide range of majors and careers.

## Maths Portion in detail

The Math Test covers a range of math practices, with an emphasis on problem solving, modeling, using tools strategically, and using algebraic structure.

### It's about the Real World

Instead of testing you on every math topic there is, the PSAT 8/9 asks you to use the math that you'll rely on most in all sorts of situations. Questions on the Math Test are designed to mirror the problem solving and modeling you'll do in:

- College math, science, and social science courses
- The jobs that you hold
- Your personal life

For instance, to answer some questions you'll need to use one or two steps—because in the real world a single calculation is rarely enough to get the job done.

### Quick Facts

- Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some—called grid-ins—ask you to come up with the answer rather than select the answer.

- The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test–Calculator and Math Test–No Calculator.
- Some parts of the test include several questions about a single scenario.

## **Focus**

The Math Test will focus in depth on two of the areas of math that play the biggest role in a wide range of college majors and careers:

- Heart of Algebra, which focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems.
- Problem solving and Data Analysis, which is about being quantitatively literate.

There will also be some Passport to Advanced Maths questions; these require the manipulation of complex equations.

## **What the Math Test Measures**

### **Fluency**

The Math Test is a chance to show that you:

- Carry out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and strategically.
- Solve problems quickly by identifying and using the most efficient solution approaches. This might involve solving a problem by inspection, finding a shortcut, or reorganizing the information you've been given.

### **Conceptual Understanding**

You'll demonstrate your grasp of math concepts, operations, and relations. For instance, you might be asked to make connections between properties of linear equations, their graphs, and the contexts they represent.

### **Applications**

These real-world problems ask you to analyze a situation, determine the essential elements required to solve the problem, represent the problem mathematically, and carry out a solution.

### **Calculator Use**

Calculators are important tools, and to succeed after high school, you'll need to know how—and when—to use them. In the Math Test–Calculator portion of the test, you'll be able to focus on complex modeling and reasoning because your calculator can save you time.

However, the calculator is, like any tool, only as smart as the person using it. The Math Test includes some questions where it's better not to use a calculator, even though you're allowed

to. In these cases, students who make use of structure or their ability to reason will probably finish before students who use a calculator.

The Math Test–No Calculator portion of the test makes it easier to assess your fluency in math and your understanding of some math concepts. It also tests well-learned technique and number sense.

### **Grid-In Questions**

Although most of the questions on the Math Test are multiple choice, 18 percent are student-produced response questions, also known as grid-ins. Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, you'll need to solve problems and enter your answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.

### **Gridding-In Answers**

- Mark no more than one circle in any column.
- Only answers indicated by filling in the circle will be scored (you won't receive credit for anything written in the boxes located above the circles).
- It doesn't matter in which column you begin entering their answers; as long as the responses are recorded within the grid area, you'll receive credit.
- The grid can hold only four decimal places and can only accommodate positive numbers and zero.
- Unless a problem indicates otherwise, answers can be entered on the grid as a decimal or a fraction.

$$\frac{3}{24}$$

- Fractions like  $\frac{3}{24}$  do not need to be reduced to their lowest terms.
- All mixed numbers need to be converted to improper fractions before being recorded in the grid.
- If the answer is a repeating decimal, students must grid the most accurate value the grid will accommodate.

Below is a sample of the instructions students will see on the test.



Answer:  $\frac{7}{12}$

Write answer in boxes.

Grid in result.

Fraction line

Answer: 2.5

Decimal point

Answer: '201  
 Riher position is correct.

Mmpiable ways io gtid<sup>2</sup><sub>3</sub> are:



## Reading Test in detail

### It's about the Everyday

The Reading Test focuses on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education: the stuff you've been learning in school, the stuff you'll need to succeed in college. It's about how you take in, think about, and use information. And guess what? You've been doing that for years.

It's not about how well you memorize facts and definitions, so you won't need to use flashcards or insider tricks or spend all night cramming.

### Quick Facts

- All Reading Test questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages.
- Informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts, accompany some passages—but no math is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- The Reading Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

### What the Reading Test Is Like

When you take the Reading Test, you'll read passages and interpret informational graphics. Then you'll use what you've read to answer questions.

### What You'll Read

To succeed in college and career, you'll need to apply reading skills in all sorts of subjects. Not coincidentally, you'll also need those skills to do well on the Reading Test.

The Reading Test always includes

- One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature.
- One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the Great Global Conversation they inspired. The U.S. Constitution or a speech by Nelson Mandela, for example.
- A selection about economics, psychology, sociology, or some other social science.
- Two science passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

## **What the Reading Test Measures**

A lot more goes into reading than you might realize—and the Reading Test measures a range of reading skills.

### **Command of Evidence**

Some questions ask you to:

- Find evidence in a passage (or pair of passages) that best supports the answer to a previous question or serves as the basis for a reasonable conclusion.
- Identify how authors use evidence to support their claims.
- Find a relationship between an informational graphic and the passage it's paired with.

### **Words in Context**

Many questions focus on important, widely used words and phrases that you'll find in texts in many different subjects. The words are ones that you'll use in college and the workplace long after test day.

The PSAT 8/9 focuses on your ability to:

- Use context clues in a passage to figure out which meaning of a word or phrase is being used.
- Decide how an author's word choice shapes meaning, style, and tone.

### **Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science**

The Reading Test includes passages in the fields of history, social studies, and science. You'll be asked questions that require you to draw on the reading skills needed most to succeed in those subjects. For instance, you might read about an experiment then see questions that ask you to:

- Examine hypotheses.
- Interpret data.
- Consider implications.

Answers are based only on the information in the passage.

## Writing and Language Test in detail

The Writing and Language Test asks you to be an editor and improve passages that were written especially for the test—and that include deliberate errors.

### It's About the Everyday

When you take the Writing and Language Test, you'll do three things that people do all the time when they write and edit:

1. Read.
2. Find mistakes and weaknesses.
3. Fix them.

The good news: You do these things every time you proofread your own schoolwork or workshop essays with a friend.

It's the practical skills you use to spot and correct problems—the stuff you've been learning in high school and the stuff you'll need to succeed in college—that the test measures.

### Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are accompanied by informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts—but no math is required.
- Prior topic knowledge is never tested.
- The Writing and Language Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

### What the Writing and Language Test Is Like

To answer some questions, you'll need to look closely at a single sentence. Others require reading the entire piece and interpreting a graphic. For instance, you might be asked to choose a sentence that corrects a misinterpretation of a scientific chart.

### What the Writing and Language Test Measures

Questions on the Writing and Language Test measure a range of skills.

### **Command of Evidence**

Questions that test command of evidence ask you to improve the way passages develop information and ideas. For instance, you might choose an answer that sharpens an argumentative claim or adds a relevant supporting detail.

### **Words in Context**

Some questions ask you to improve word choice. You'll need to choose the best words to use based on the text surrounding them. Your goal will be to make a passage more precise or concise, or to improve syntax, style, or tone.

### **Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science**

You'll be asked to read passages about topics in history, social studies, and science with a critical eye and make editorial decisions that improve them.

### **Expression of Ideas**

Some questions ask about a passage's organization and its impact. For instance, you will be asked which words or structural changes improve how well it makes its point and how well its sentences and paragraphs work together.

### **Standard English Conventions**

This is about the building blocks of writing: sentence structure, usage, and punctuation. You'll be asked to change words, clauses, sentences, and punctuation. Some topics covered include verb tense, parallel construction, subject-verb agreement, and comma use.

## Benchmarks

The SAT Suite of Assessments' College and Career Readiness Benchmarks work together to help students and educators assess student progress toward college readiness from year to year. Benchmarks help:

- Identify students who are thriving and require greater challenges.
- Identify students who require additional academic support.
- Inform instructional and curricular enhancements throughout an institution.

### **SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks Defined**

Students are considered college- and career-ready when their SAT section scores meet both the Math and the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing benchmarks. It is important to note that college readiness is a continuum — students scoring below the SAT benchmarks can still be successful in college, especially with additional preparation and perseverance.

Students with an SAT Math section score that meets or exceeds the benchmark have a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses in algebra, statistics, pre-calculus, or calculus.

Students with an SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) section score that meets or exceeds the benchmark have a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses in history, literature, social sciences, or writing classes.

### **Grade-Level Benchmarks Defined**

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 see grade-level benchmarks on their score reports. Grade-level benchmarks indicate whether students are on track for college and career readiness. They are based on expected student growth toward SAT benchmarks at each grade. Preliminary benchmarks were used for the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT and fall PSAT 8/9 scores.

### **Benchmark Indicators**

Score reports use colors to show how students' section scores relate to the SAT or grade-level benchmark.

- **Green:** The section score meets or exceeds the benchmark.
- **Yellow:** The section score is within one year's academic growth of the benchmark.
- **Red:** The section score is below the benchmark by more than one year's academic growth.

## Benchmark Values and Section Score Ranges

### 8th Grade Section Score Ranges

120–720 Point Scale

	Red	Yellow	Green
<b>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</b>	120–360	370–380	390–720
<b>Math</b>	120–400	410–420	430–720

### 9th Grade Section Score Ranges

120–720 Point Scale

	Red	Yellow	Green
<b>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</b>	120–380	390–400	410–720
<b>Math</b>	120–420	430–440	450–720

## Test Structure Differences

Three different tests PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT 8/9 is slightly different from the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT in **length and scoring**. The PSAT 8/9, as stated in the previous section, records scores on a scale of **240 to 1440**. Scores on the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT range from **320 to 1520**.

Part of the reason for this difference in scoring is that the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT are longer than the PSAT 8/9 and have more questions. Take a look at the chart below comparing the PSAT 8/9 (highlighted in yellow), PSAT 10, and PSAT/NMSQT side by side.

	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10	PSAT/NMSQT
What is the range of possible scores?	240-1440	320-1520	320-1520
How long is it?	2 hrs 25 min.	2 hrs 45 min.	2 hrs 45 min.
# of Reading Qs	42	47	47
# of Writing Qs	40	44	44
# of Math Qs	38	48	48
Can your score qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship?	No	No	Yes

The biggest difference between the PSAT 8/9 and the other two tests is in the number of Math questions: There are ten more questions on the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT than there are on the PSAT 8/9.

### Testing Dates

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/k12-educators/psat-nmsqt-dates>

Dates can vary from year to year. The PSAT/NMSQT is offered in the fall and the PSAT 10 is offered in the spring.

Who, Where, When

## PSAT/NMSQT

- Who: 11th and 10th graders
- Where: At school
- ([View the PSAT/NMSQT calendar.](#))
- Scholarships: Used by scholarship programs, including the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program, to look for eligible students.

## PSAT 10

- Who: 10th graders
- Where: At school
  - ([View the PSAT 10 calendar](#))
- Scholarships: Used by scholarship programs to look for eligible students, but not considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/taking-the-tests>

## Fees

The tests cost schools \$16 for each student—but you might not pay that much. Some schools cover all or part of the cost for their students. For details, ask your counselor.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/taking-the-tests/test-day-checklist>