



The PSAT, a practice SAT, is being given at the high school on Wednesday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. The PSAT is open to 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The PSAT is not used for college admissions decisions, but it is a valuable practice for those planning to take the SAT. It is also the test used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to screen and identify students for National Merit recognition. Juniors who take the PSAT are automatically entered in the National Merit search; sophomores and freshmen taking the PSAT are not entered in the search and are only taking the test for practice. Students who take the PSAT will also have free access to SAT test prep through Khan Academy once they receive their score reports

**To register for the test, we will be using My School Bucks ([www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)). Once you've logged in to My School Bucks using your student's id number as the username/email, please select School Store, then HS Exams, and PSAT/NMSQT. Provide the student's details and pay the \$18 fee to secure their spot. Students must be registered in advance. There are limited seats available, so please register early. We will not hold spots without pre-payment.**

- **LAST DAY to REGISTER is Friday, October 1st. No late registrations permitted.**
- If spots are still available after the cutoff, registration will remain open until all spots are filled.
- This is a national test date. Refunds will not be given for non-attendance or missing the test for illness or other conflicts.

Students and parents can visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> for more information regarding the test and to find practice questions to help prepare for test day.

The back of this flyer lists the types of questions students will encounter on the PSAT.

Like the SAT, the new PSAT/NMSQT includes a Reading Test, a Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. Below are the types of questions students will encounter on the PSAT/NMSQT

**Words in Context :** Many questions on the new PSAT/NMSQT 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.

**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 multi-paragraph 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 that Matters Most:** The Math Test focuses in-depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Heart of Algebra, and Passport to Advanced Math.

- 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.

### **Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts**

Throughout the PSAT/NMSQT, you’ll be asked questions grounded in the real world, directly related to work performed in college and career. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section includes questions on literature and literary nonfiction, but also features charts, graphs, and passages like the ones students are likely to encounter in science, social science, and other majors and careers. Questions on the Writing and Language Test ask you to do more than correct errors; they ask you to edit, revise, and improve texts from the humanities, history, social science, science, and career contexts. The Math section features multistep applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life situations. The test sets up a scenario and asks several questions that give you the opportunity to dig in and model it mathematically.

### **U.S. Founding Documents and the Great Global Conversation**

When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, you’ll be asked to read a passage from U.S. founding documents or the global conversation they inspired. The U.S. founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have been inspired by and have helped to inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life. Authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Nelson Mandela, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity. The new PSAT/NMSQT include texts from this global conversation. The goal is to inspire a close reading of these rich, meaningful, often profound texts, not only as a way to develop valuable college and career readiness skills but also as an opportunity to reflect on and deeply engage with issues and concerns central to informed citizenship.