Understanding 2013 PSAT/NMSQT® Scores

Who takes the PSAT/NMSQT?

More than 3.5 million students take the test each year. Approximately 1.5 million of those students are high school juniors (11th graders), and the remainder are students in the tenth grade (sophomores) or younger. Nearly all students who take the test indicate they plan to attend college.

The over 23,000 high schools that test-takers attend vary greatly in size, curricula, standards, grading systems, populations served and sources of support. For students who take the PSAT/NMSQT®, the score report provides a standardized view of their scholastic skills, regardless of the school attended, and helps them compare their performance to other college-bound students nationwide.

What does the PSAT/NMSQT measure?

The PSAT/NMSQT measures skills in three basic academic areas important for success in college.

- **Critical reading** questions assess students' abilities to draw inferences, synthesize information, distinguish between main and supporting ideas, and understand vocabulary as it is used in context.
- **Mathematics problem-solving** questions deal with numbers and operations; algebra and functions; geometry and measurement; and data analysis, statistics, and probability.
- **Writing skills** questions measure the ability to identify appropriate expressions in standard written English, detect faults in usage and structure, choose effective revisions to sentences and paragraphs, and recognize appropriate writing strategies.

How is the PSAT/NMSQT scored?

First, a raw score is computed. Students receive one point for each correct answer (regardless of difficulty). For incorrect answers to multiple-choice questions, a quarter (1/4) of a point is deducted. Nothing is deducted for unanswered questions or for incorrect answers to student-produced response (grid-in) questions.

Next, the raw score is adjusted for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Finally, the raw score is converted to a score on the PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80. The statistical procedures used to arrive at these final scores, called equating and scaling, allow one to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test, including in different years.

Student score reports show a numerical score for each area measured, as well as a range that extends from a few points below the student's score to a few points above. This range shows the extent to which a student's score might differ with repeated testing, assuming that the student's skill level remains constant.

Do PSAT/NMSQT scores fairly reflect students' skills?

Concern for fairness is an integral part of the development of the PSAT/NMSQT. Comprehensive reviews and analyses ensure that questions and tests are fair for different groups of students. Although differences in test performance may be the result of many factors, long-term educational preparation is the primary cause. The test itself reflects such differences.

How does the PSAT/NMSQT report on skills?

The PSAT/NMSQT reports on the same set of college readiness skills as SAT® and ReadiStep™ (the College Board's assessment for middle grade students). Aligned to both state standards and the College Board Standards for College Success, these skills reflect the essential knowledge and skills students need for success in college. To learn more, visit **www.collegeboard.org/psatreports**.

What is PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™?

Using hundreds of skill descriptions and practice questions, the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight tool demonstrates the link between student PSAT/NMSQT scores and college readiness skills — the same skills measured on the SAT — and provides actionable suggestions for improvement. Visit Skills Insight at **www.collegeboard.org/psatskills**.

What are the PSAT/NMSQT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks?

The PSAT/NMSQT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks are the scores that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. The benchmarks are included in several PSAT/NMSQT reports for educators, including the Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report and the optional Student Data File CD. The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks are not included on reports for students and should never be used to discourage students from pursuing college or for preventing enrollment in rigorous coursework.
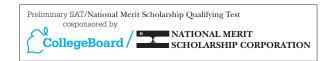
How are the benchmarks calculated?

The methodology for calculating the PSAT/NMSQT benchmarks mirrors the calculation of the SAT benchmarks. The current benchmarks are the 10th- or 11th-grade PSAT/NMSQT scores that predict, with a 65 percent probability, a first year college grade point average of 2.67 or higher.

To learn more, visit **www.collegeboard.org/psatreports**.

PSAT/NMSQT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARKS				
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite*
11th grade PSAT/NMSQT	45	47	45	142
10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	42	44	42	133

*Composite score benchmark was computed independently of individual section score benchmarks.

PSAT/NMSQT Percentiles and Mean Scores

can be used to compare a student's performance with that of juniors and sophomores.

JUNIORS

Score	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
80	99+	99	99+
79	99+	99	99+
78	99	99	99+
77	99	99	99
76	99	99	99
75	99	99	99
74	99	99	99
73	98	98	99
72	98	98	98
71	97	97	98
70	96	97	97
69	96	96	97
68	95	95	95
67	94	93	95
66	93	93	94
65	93	91	94
64	92	89	92
63	90	89	90
62	88	86	89
61	87	84	87
60	85	84	87
59	83	81	84
58	81	78	81
57	78	75	80
56	77	72	78
55	74	72	77
54	70	68	74
53	67	64	71
52	66	61	67
51	63	57	65
50	60	53	61
49	57	52	61
48	54	48	57
47	49	45	53
46	46	41	52
45	42	37	47
44	39	33	42
43	36	30	38
42	30	27	37
41	27	24	33
40	23	21	28
39	21	18	27
38	18	18	23
37	15	15	19
36	13	12	16
35	10	10	13
34	9	9	11
33	7	9	9
32	5	7	9
31	4	5	7
30	2	5	6
29	2	3	5
28	2	3	3
27	1	2	3
26	1	2	3
25	1	2	2
24	1	2	2
23	1	1	2
22	1	1	1
21	1	1	1
20	1	1	1
Mean score	47.7	48.6	46.5
Standard deviation	10.9	11.4	11.4
Number of juniors	1,551,095	1,551,095	1,551,095

SOPHOMORES

Score	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
80	99+	99+	99+
79	99+	99+	99+
78	99+	99+	99+
77	99+	99+	99+
76	99+	99+	99+
75	99+	99+	99+
74	99+	99+	99+
73	99+	99	99+
72	99+	99	99+
71	99	99	99
70	99	99	99
69	99	98	99
68	98	98	98
67	98	97	98
66	97	97	98
65	97	96	98
64	97	96	97
63	96	95	96
62	95	94	95
61	94	93	94
60	93	93	94
59	92	91	93
58	91	89	91
57	89	87	90
56	88	85	88
55	86	85	88
54	83	82	86
53	81	79	83
52	80	77	81
51	78	73	79
50	76	70	76
49	73	70	76
48	71	66	73
47	66	63	69
46	63	59	69
45	60	55	63
44	57	51	59
43	54	48	55
42	47	44	54
41	43	40	49
40	39	36	44
39	36	32	42
38	32	32	37
37	28	27	32
36	24	24	27
35	19	20	23
34	17	17	21
33	14	17	17
32	10	13	17
31	7	10	13
30	5	10	13
29	4	7	9
28	4	7	7
27	2	5	6
26	2	5	6
25	1	4	4
24	1	4	4
23	1	2	4
22	1	2	2
21	1	1	2
20	1	1	1
Mean score	43.1	43.6	41.8
Standard deviation	10.1	10.9	10.6
Number of sophomores	1,585,611	1,585,611	1,585,611

Points to note

- Percentiles indicate the percentage of students whose scores fall below each specified score.
- On the score report, percentiles for juniors compare their performance with that of other juniors who took the test last year. For sophomores or younger students, percentiles compare their performance with that of sophomores who took the test last year.
- Percentiles are based on the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills scores earned by college-bound juniors or sophomores who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year.
- The *mean* score is the statistic that describes the *average* performance of a group.
- The *standard deviation* is a measure of the variability of a set of scores around their mean. If the test scores cluster tightly around the mean score, as they do when the group tested is relatively homogeneous, the standard deviation is smaller than it would be for a more diverse group.

Reliability

shows how consistently a student would earn similar scores in repeated testings.

	Reliability Coefficient	Average SEM
Critical Reading	0.88	3.7
Mathematics	0.89	3.7
Writing Skills	0.85	4.2

Points to note

Data are based on a sample of sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2012 (all test forms).

- A *reliability coefficient* helps to show expected fluctuation in scores if a student takes a test more than once. The higher the reliability coefficient, the smaller the fluctuation of scores across repeated testings. A reliability coefficient of 1.00 would indicate perfect reliability, or no expected fluctuation.
- PSAT/NMSQT scores should be interpreted as ranges rather than points. The *standard error of measurement* (SEM) in the table above indicates that a student who took different forms of the test under identical conditions would be likely to earn scores within 4 points of one another.

Selection Index Percentiles and Mean Score
can be used to compare a student's performance with that of juniors.

JUNIORS					
Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile
240-225	99+	165	76	105	11
224	99	164	75	104	10
223	99	163	74	103	9
222	99	162	73	102	9
221	99	161	72	101	8
220	99	160	71	100	7
219	99	159	70	99	7
218	99	158	69	98	6
217	99	157	68	97	6
216	99	156	67	96	6
215	99	155	66	95	5
214	98	154	65	94	5
213	98	153	64	93	4
212	98	152	63	92	4
211	98	151	62	91	4
210	98	150	60	90	3
209	98	149	59	89	3
208	98	148	58	88	3
207	97	147	57	87	2
206	97	146	56	86	2
205	97	145	55	85	2
204	97	144	53	84	2
203	97	143	52	83	2
202	96	142	51	82	1
201	96	141	50	& below	
200	96	140	49		
199	95	139	47		
198	95	138	46		
197	95	137	45		
196	94	136	44		
195	94	135	42		
194	94	134	41		
193	93	133	40		
192	93	132	39		
191	93	131	37		
190	92	130	36		
189	92	129	35		
188	91	128	34		
187	91	127	32		
186	90	126	31		
185	90	125	30		
184	89	124	29		
183	89	123	27		
182	88	122	26		
181	88	121	25		
180	87	120	24		
179	86	119	23		
178	86	118	22		
177	85	117	21		
176	84	116	20		
175	84	115	19		
174	83	114	18		
173	82	113	17		
172	82	112	16		
171	81	111	15		
170	80	110	14		
169	79	109	13		
168	78	108	13		
167	78	107	12		
166	77	106	11		
		Mean score			142.7
		Standard deviation			31.0
		Number of juniors			1,551,095

Points to note

- Reported on a scale ranging from 60 to 240, the Selection Index is the sum of the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills scores. For example, a critical reading score of 56, a mathematics score of 62, and a writing skills score of 59 would result in a Selection Index of 177 (56 + 62 + 59).

- Percentiles are based on the Selection Index earned by college-bound juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year.

How NMSC uses the Selection Index

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses the Selection Index score to designate groups of students to receive recognition in the programs it conducts. Entry to NMSC's competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2015 is determined by students' responses to program entry questions on the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet. Both the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* and the Roster of Student Scores and Plans show the student's Selection Index, the student's responses to four entry items, and whether the student meets participation requirements. Currently, about 1.5 million test-takers meet requirements to enter NMSC's competitions each year. Almost all entrants are in their third year (grade 11, junior year) of high school.

Of the 1.5 million NMSC program entrants, about 55,000 will earn 2013 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2014. Students who qualify to continue in the competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2015 must then meet academic and other requirements specified by NMSC to be considered for awards.

Detailed descriptions of NMSC programs are published in the *Guide to the National Merit® Scholarship Program* and the *Information Booklet for the National Achievement® Scholarship Program,* mailed to high school principals each fall. For students and parents, information about the competitions is given in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* and at **www.nationalmerit.org**.

Inquiries about any aspect of the National Merit Program or National Achievement Program — including entry requirements, the selection process and awards to be offered — should be sent to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Scholarship Administration
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897
Phone: 847-866-5100

2013 PSAT/NMSQT Answer Keys

show the correct answers for Form W and Form S of the 2013 test.

FORM W

CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING SKILLS
Section 1	**Section 2**	**Section 5**
1. B	1. A	1. B
2. D	2. B	2. C
3. E	3. A	3. A
4. D	4. C	4. E
5. B	5. D	5. E
6. D	6. E	6. A
7. D	7. A	7. D
8. E	8. D	8. D
9. E	9. E	9. C
10. D	10. C	10. B
11. B	11. A	11. C
12. E	12. A	12. D
13. C	13. E	13. A
14. D	14. B	14. D
15. A	15. A	15. E
16. A	16. D	16. C
17. E	17. B	17. E
18. D	18. C	18. D
19. E	19. B	19. E
20. C	20. E	20. B
21. A		21. D
22. A		22. C
23. E		23. D
24. B		24. A
		25. A
Section 3	**Section 4**	26. B
25. C	21. E	27. E
26. B	22. D	28. D
27. B	23. B	29. B
28. C	24. C	30. D
29. D	25. D	31. C
30. E	26. C	32. D
31. A	27. B	33. E
32. A	28. B	34. B
33. D	29. 6	35. A
34. B	30. 875	36. E
35. D	31. 7	37. C
36. C	32. 1/9 or .111	38. B
37. C	33. 3/8 or .375	39. D
38. E	34. 36	
39. B	35. 25	
40. A	36. 1999	
41. D	37. 3 < x < 5	
42. C	38. 3	
43. C		
44. D		
45. C		
46. B		
47. A		
48. E		

FORM S

CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING SKILLS
Section 1	**Section 2**	**Section 5**
1. E	1. B	1. C
2. C	2. D	2. A
3. C	3. D	3. C
4. E	4. A	4. B
5. A	5. E	5. D
6. B	6. C	6. E
7. A	7. A	7. A
8. D	8. B	8. D
9. A	9. C	9. C
10. B	10. E	10. C
11. E	11. B	11. A
12. C	12. D	12. C
13. A	13. D	13. D
14. C	14. A	14. C
15. C	15. D	15. B
16. D	16. C	16. E
17. E	17. B	17. B
18. D	18. E	18. D
19. B	19. D	19. D
20. D	20. E	20. B
21. A		21. B
22. D		22. E
23. B		23. B
24. E		24. D
		25. D
Section 3	**Section 4**	26. E
25. A	21. A	27. C
26. B	22. B	28. C
27. E	23. D	29. D
28. B	24. B	30. A
29. D	25. E	31. D
30. B	26. B	32. D
31. C	27. C	33. D
32. C	28. A	34. B
33. D	29. 47	35. B
34. D	30. 9	36. D
35. C	31. 7	37. A
36. D	32. 48	38. D
37. B	33. 52.5	39. D
38. E	34. 110	
39. A	35. 1/4 or .25	
40. E	36. 5/2 or 2.5	
41. A	37. 1320, 2640, or 6600	
42. D	38. 75	
43. A		
44. B		
45. A		
46. C		
47. D		
48. C		

2013 PSAT/NMSQT Score Conversion Tables

show how points obtained on the test are converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.

PSAT/NMSQT FORM W — Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
48	80			15	43	45	42
47	79			14	42	44	41
46	75			13	41	43	40
45	74			12	40	42	39
44	73			11	39	41	38
43	71			10	38	40	38
42	69			9	38	39	37
41	67			8	37	38	35
40	66			7	35	37	35
39	66		80	6	34	36	34
38	64	80	78	5	33	35	33
37	63	78	74	4	32	33	32
36	62	76	71	3	31	32	30
35	61	73	70	2	29	30	29
34	60	71	67	1	27	29	28
33	59	70	65	0	26	27	27
32	58	68	62	-1	24	25	25
31	57	67	61	-2	21	22	22
30	56	65	60	-3	20	20	20
29	55	64	58	-4	20	20	20
28	54	62	56	-5	20	20	20
27	53	61	54	-6	20	20	20
26	52	59	53	-7	20	20	20
25	51	58	53	-8	20		20
24	50	56	51	-9	20		20
23	50	55	50	-10	20		20
22	49	53	49	-11	20		
21	48	52	48	-12	20		
20	47	51	47				
19	46	49	46				
18	45	48	45				
17	44	47	43				
16	43	46	43				

PSAT/NMSQT FORM S — Saturday, October 19, 2013

Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
48	80			15	42	45	43
47	80			14	41	44	42
46	76			13	40	43	40
45	75			12	39	42	39
44	73			11	38	41	38
43	72			10	38	39	37
42	70			9	37	38	36
41	68			8	36	37	35
40	67			7	34	36	33
39	66		80	6	33	35	33
38	64	80	77	5	32	34	32
37	63	75	72	4	31	33	30
36	62	72	71	3	30	31	28
35	61	70	70	2	28	30	27
34	60	68	68	1	26	27	26
33	59	67	65	0	25	26	24
32	58	66	64	-1	22	24	22
31	57	65	63	-2	20	21	20
30	56	64	62	-3	20	20	20
29	55	62	60	-4	20	20	20
28	54	61	58	-5	20	20	20
27	53	60	57	-6	20	20	20
26	52	59	56	-7	20	20	20
25	51	57	55	-8	20		20
24	50	56	53	-9	20		20
23	49	55	52	-10	20		20
22	48	53	50	-11	20		
21	47	52	49	-12	20		
20	47	51	48				
19	46	50	47				
18	45	48	46				
17	44	47	44				
16	43	46	43				

Important to note

- Points represent the total number of correct answers minus a quarter (1/4) of a point for each incorrect answer to a multiple-choice question.
- Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers to student-produced response questions or for omitted answers of any type.
- Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.
- Converting points to scores adjusts for slight differences in difficulty between various forms. A statistical process called equating adjusts for these small differences. This ensures that a score of, say, 65 on one form of the test reflects a similar level of performance as does a 65 on another form of the test.
- There is no advantage or disadvantage in taking either the Wednesday or the Saturday test form.

2013 PSAT/NMSQT Answer Key/Score Conversion Table

shows the correct answers for Form A of the 2013 test and how points obtained on the test are converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.

FORM A — ANSWER KEY

CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING SKILLS
Section 1	**Section 2**	**Section 5**
1. C	1. D	1. B
2. A	2. B	2. A
3. A	3. E	3. D
4. A	4. D	4. E
5. E	5. C	5. B
6. B	6. A	6. D
7. C	7. D	7. E
8. C	8. B	8. B
9. B	9. E	9. D
10. D	10. C	10. E
11. E	11. A	11. C
12. C	12. E	12. A
13. A	13. C	13. E
14. E	14. A	14. E
15. A	15. D	15. E
16. C	16. B	16. C
17. B	17. E	17. E
18. E	18. C	18. D
19. D	19. E	19. B
20. D	20. D	20. C
21. E		21. C
22. D		22. C
23. B		23. D
24. E		24. D
		25. B
Section 3	**Section 4**	26. E
25. D	21. D	27. B
26. B	22. A	28. A
27. D	23. C	29. E
28. E	24. B	30. C
29. A	25. B	31. D
30. B	26. A	32. D
31. C	27. E	33. E
32. C	28. D	34. C
33. D	29. 51, 54,	35. D
34. C	or 57	36. A
35. A	30. 1.5 or 3/2	37. E
36. D	31. 63	38. C
37. B	32. 7	39. C
38. B	33. 1020	
39. B	34. 12	
40. C	35. 1500	
41. B	36. 10/3 or 3.33	
42. C	37. 8 < x < 10	
43. D	38. 136	
44. E		
45. C		
46. D		
47. D		
48. E		

FORM A — SCORE CONVERSION TABLE

Points	Scores			Points	Scores		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills		Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
48	80			15	41	45	42
47	80			14	40	44	41
46	78			13	39	43	40
45	75			12	38	42	39
44	73			11	37	40	38
43	71			10	36	39	37
42	70			9	35	38	36
41	68			8	34	37	35
40	67			7	33	36	34
39	66		80	6	32	34	33
38	64	80	77	5	31	33	32
37	63	76	74	4	30	31	30
36	62	74	71	3	28	29	28
35	61	71	69	2	27	27	27
34	60	70	67	1	25	25	24
33	59	68	66	0	24	23	22
32	58	66	64	-1	22	20	20
31	57	65	62	-2	21	20	20
30	56	63	61	-3	20	20	20
29	55	62	59	-4	20	20	20
28	54	60	58	-5	20	20	20
27	53	59	56	-6	20	20	20
26	52	58	55	-7	20	20	20
25	51	56	53	-8	20		20
24	50	55	52	-9	20		20
23	49	54	51	-10	20		20
22	48	53	49	-11	20		
21	47	51	48	-12	20		
20	46	50	47				
19	45	49	46				
18	44	48	45				
17	43	47	44				
16	42	46	43				

Points to note

- The PSAT/NMSQT reports scores on a scale from 20 to 80. Scores on the SAT are reported on a 200- to 800-point scale in 10-point increments.

- The left-hand column of this table groups juniors by score ranges on the PSAT/NMSQT. Columns to the right show the percentage of students who gained or lost points when they took the SAT the following spring. The far right column shows the average SAT score for the group of juniors in each score range.

- On average, juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring have SAT scores that are 17 points higher in critical reading, 16 points higher in math, and 22 points higher in writing (equivalent to 1.7, 1.6, and 2.2 points, respectively, on the PSAT/NMSQT scale).

- Of the PSAT/NMSQT test-takers who took the SAT in the spring, 60% had SAT critical reading scores that were higher, 7% had scores that stayed the same, and 33% had lower scores; 58% had SAT math scores that were higher, 8% had scores that stayed the same, and 34% had lower scores; 62% had SAT writing scores that were higher, 6% had scores that stayed the same, and 32% had scores that were lower than their corresponding PSAT/NMSQT scores.

- Relatively low PSAT/NMSQT scores are followed by larger average gains than are relatively high PSAT/NMSQT scores.

- Several factors can influence the amount that scores will change, such as a student's academic course work and outside reading.

Percentage of Junior-Year Students with a Score Gain or Loss Between the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT

CRITICAL READING

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68–72	1	1	4	11	22	24	22	10	5	1		694
63–67	1	1	3	9	19	27	20	13	5	1	1	652
58–62	1	1	3	8	17	24	23	15	6	2	1	609
53–57	1	1	2	7	15	23	24	16	8	2	1	563
48–52		1	3	7	15	22	24	17	8	3	1	515
43–47		1	2	7	14	22	23	17	9	3	1	469
38–42		1	2	5	11	20	23	20	11	5	2	429
33–37	1	1	2	4	9	16	22	21	13	7	3	386
28–32		1	3	3	7	12	17	22	18	10	7	352

MATHEMATICS

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68–72	1	1	4	11	22	24	19	11	6	1		700
63–67	1	1	4	8	17	27	22	12	5	2	1	656
58–62	1	1	3	9	16	23	23	16	6	2	1	611
53–57	1	1	3	8	15	21	22	16	9	3	1	566
48–52		1	3	7	15	23	22	16	9	4	1	522
43–47		1	2	6	13	21	24	18	9	4	2	475
38–42		1	2	5	13	21	25	18	10	4	2	426
33–37		1	2	6	11	16	23	20	13	5	3	380
28–32		1	4	5	9	16	18	20	15	8	4	341

WRITING

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68–72	2	4	9	15	19	20	15	9	5	2		680
63–67	1	2	7	13	19	20	18	11	5	3	1	643
58–62	1	1	4	9	16	21	20	14	8	3	2	607
53–57	1	1	3	8	15	20	21	16	9	5	2	569
48–52		1	3	7	13	19	21	17	11	5	3	525
43–47		1	2	6	12	19	21	18	12	6	3	482
38–42		1	2	5	11	18	21	19	13	7	4	435
33–37		1	2	4	9	16	21	20	14	8	6	393
28–32			2	3	7	12	19	20	17	10	9	360

Data are based on 585,947 students who took the PSAT/NMSQT as juniors in October 2007 and the SAT as juniors in spring 2008. The first SAT score from either the March, May, or June 2008 administration was used.

Can PSAT/NMSQT scores be used to estimate SAT scores?

PSAT/NMSQT critical reading, mathematics and writing skills questions are designed to be the same type as those on the SAT. This is deliberate, as the PSAT/NMSQT questions are intended to be reliable preparation for the same types of questions on the SAT. The PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80 is comparable to the SAT scale of 200 to 800.

Students can see estimated SAT score ranges on their supplemental online score reports in My College QuickStart™. Two times out of three, students earn SAT scores within these ranges, but actual scores may be higher (or lower) than these estimates. (As SAT writing scores also include an essay, there will be more variability in the estimates of those scores.) Higher-than-estimated SAT scores may result from intervening activities, such as:

- developing skills through rigorous academic courses;
- extensive, quality reading and/or writing outside of school;
- following the personalized advice in My SAT Study Plan™ in My College QuickStart; and
- taking a practice test and becoming more familiar with test directions, types of questions and pacing.

Estimated SAT scores assume the SAT is taken within a year of the PSAT/NMSQT. Juniors frequently take the SAT six or seven months after taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores may not take the SAT for another 18 months, providing a greater opportunity for intervening activities to influence their SAT scores.

What PSAT/NMSQT reports do schools receive?

The following standard reports are provided to all schools:

- **PSAT/NMSQT Score Report** *Plus* for each student tested (one copy for the student and one for the school)
- **Score Labels**, summarizing the basic score information (one set of labels)
- **Roster of Student Scores and Plans**, listing student-reported information, scores and My College QuickStart access codes for each student, as well as educator access codes for online tools and reports
- **School Summary Report**, summarizing score statistics and student-reported information (provided automatically if at least 50 of a school's juniors or sophomores tested at the school). Schools that test fewer than 50 eleventh graders/ tenth graders, but at least 25 of their own students of the same sex and grade level, receive Summary Statistics.

The following tools and reports are available online at **www.collegeboard.org/reports**.

- **AP Potential™**, a tool that helps educators identify students who may be ready for the challenge and rigor of AP®
- **Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS)**, aggregating student responses to each test question and providing information on skills that need improvement
- **PSAT/NMSQT Summary Reports: National, Regional, and State Data**, providing score statistics and student-reported

information for juniors and sophomores, including final mean scores. Reports for 2013 will be available in the spring of 2014.

The following optional reports are available for a small fee. To order, visit **www.collegeboard.org/school**.

- **School Summary Report**, summarizing score data for schools that test fewer than 50 juniors/50 sophomores, or for schools that have some juniors or sophomores who tested elsewhere. Schools that test 50 or more of their juniors/sophomores automatically receive this report.
- **Student Data File**, including all student-provided data as well as scores, skills, and students' My College QuickStart access codes. The data file also includes an AP Potential Indicator for each AP subject for which a given student has a 40 percent likelihood of scoring a 3 or higher on the AP Exam. (Available in either Excel-ready or ASCII format.)

My College QuickStart
www.collegeboard.org/quickstart

My College QuickStart is an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit for all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. This useful tool incorporates responses students provided when they took the test and presents personalized information in six main parts: My Online Score Report, My SAT Study Plan, My Personality, My Major & Career Matches, My College Matches and My AP Potential. Students can sign in to My College QuickStart starting in mid-December using the access code printed on their score reports. They can continue to use the tool throughout high school.

How should schools use PSAT/NMSQT score reports?

The PSAT/NMSQT is intended to help students evaluate skill levels in three critical academic areas; prepare for the SAT; compare their readiness for college-level work with that of their peers; and enter scholarship competitions. Score reports should be used for counseling students about educational plans.

PSAT/NMSQT scores are not for use by colleges as part of their admission criteria. Do not include scores on student transcripts that will be reproduced and sent to colleges unless the student (age 18 or older) or parent/guardian has granted permission. Inform students of their right to withhold these scores from admission or athletic offices, even when requested.

Questions?

Visit **www.collegeboard.org/counselors/psat** for additional data relevant to the test. Or contact the PSAT/NMSQT program at:

Mail: P.O. Box 6720, Princeton, NJ 08541-6720

Phone: 888-477-PSAT (7728) (for educators only)
609-771-7070
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET

Fax: 610-290-8979

Email: psat@info.collegeboard.org

Plan ahead for 2014 PSAT/NMSQT dates
Wednesday, October 15, 2014 • Saturday, October 18, 2014