

THE PSAT 8/9

®

THE PSAT 8/9[®]

- **Given to 8th and 9th grade students.**
- **Reflects the work students are doing in school.**
- **Measures the skills and knowledge needed to be ready for college and career.**
- **Connects students with opportunities, including free personalized practice tools on Khan Academy[®].**

WHY

TAKE

IT?

- **Establishes a baseline** for college readiness.
- **Closely aligned** with the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT (**good practice!**).
- **Get personalized online instruction** to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT through **Khan Academy**.
- **Helps identify** 9th grade students who are likely to do well in AP World History and AP European History.
- **It's fair.** The questions are rigorously researched and tested to make sure students from all backgrounds who have equal levels of preparation have an equal chance to do well.

FIVE THINGS
STUDENTS NEED
TO KNOW **ABOUT**
PSAT 8/9®.



ABOUT THE PSAT 8/9[®]

1. Rights-only scoring.

- Students **earn points for each correct answer.**
- There's **no penalty for guessing.**
- Students are encouraged to **read each question and select the answer they think is best.**

ABOUT THE PSAT 8/9[®]

2. No obscure vocabulary.

- Like the new SAT, the PSAT 8/9 **focuses on words students are most likely to use again** throughout college and career.
- Students **won't see words like "prevaricate" or "sagacious."**
- They **will need to understand how words like "synthesis" or "alleviate" are used** in context.

ABOUT THE PSAT 8/9[®]

3. More focused math.

- **Focuses on the math skills most widely used** in college and career.
- Most questions are **multiple choice**.
- **Calculators are allowed on only one section**. Some questions are easier to solve without a calculator.

ABOUT THE PSAT 8/9[®]

4. Analysis, not opinion.

The PSAT 8/9 will ask students to read a passage and:

- **Use critical reasoning skills** to show how the author builds an argument.
- **Use evidence from the text** to support their analysis.
- **Analyze a series of sentences** or paragraphs and decide if it makes sense.

ABOUT THE PSAT 8/9[®]

5. Free, world-class test practice for all.

- **Free** Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy[®] created in partnership with the College Board.
- **Personalized practice pathways** provided to each student.
- **Full-length practice tests** and thousands of sample questions.
- **Accessible through any computer** with Internet access.
- Materials also **available to print**.

PSAT™ 8/9

Test Design

3 tests

- **Reading**
- **Writing and Language**
- **Math**

**Total time = 2 hours and
45 minutes**

PSAT™ 8/9

Test Design

- ➔ **Reading Test: 55 minutes**
- ➔ 5-minute break
- ➔ **Writing and Language Test: 30 minutes**
- ➔ **Math Test – No Calculator: 20 minutes**
- ➔ 5-minute break
- ➔ **Math Test – Calculator portion: 40 minutes**
- ➔ 5-minute break
- ➔ **Variable section with Reading, Writing and Language, or Math questions: 20 minutes long**

PSAT™ 8/9

What is tested?

Reading Test

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 middle school, the stuff you'll need to succeed in high school and 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

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What is tested?

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.

It's About the Everyday

The Reading Test measures a range of reading skills.

Command of Evidence

Words in Context

Analysis in History and Social Studies

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What is tested?

Writing and Language Test

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

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What is tested?

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 middle school and the stuff you'll need to succeed in high school and college — that the test measures.

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What is tested?

Math Test

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

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What is tested?

Math

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.

PSAT™ 8/9

How to get ready

You don't have to discover secret tricks or cram the night before.

The same habits and choices that lead to success in school will help you get ready for the PSAT 8/9 and other tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments. The best way to prepare is to:

- Take challenging courses
- Do your homework
- Prepare for tests and quizzes
- Ask and answer lots of questions
- In short, take charge of your education and learn as much as you can.

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Test Design

Items not allowed during testing

- Any devices, including smartwatches, that can be used to record, transmit, receive or play back audio, photographic, text, or video content
- Protractors, compasses, rulers
- Highlighters, colored pens, colored pencils
- Dictionaries or other books — there are no exceptions, even if English is not your first language
- Food and drinks — including bottled water

FROM PSAT 8/9[®] TO COLLEGE

The PSAT 8/9 will help prepare you for college and career.

Students thinking about college should:

- **Talk** to their parents and school counselor about their interests.
- **Use Naviance** to research colleges and make a list of schools they're interested in.
- **Review** high school graduation requirements and college admission requirements.
- **Keep taking** challenging courses
- **Practice regularly via Khan Academy** to prepare for college-level work.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

**About the new SAT[®],
PSAT/NMSQT[®],
and PSAT[™] 8/9:**

→ sat.org/new

**About SAT practice on Khan
Academy:**

→ satpractice.org

For general SAT info:

→ sat.collegeboard.org

→ @OfficialSAT

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR**

The **PSAT 8/9[®]** will be administered on **Wednesday, October 14th, 2015.**

Please arrive at school on time. There will be no make up tests.

GOOD

LUCK!

Remember to
focus, work
hard, and do
your best!