

Preparing for the SAT[®] with the PSAT/NMSQT

How Does the PSAT/NMSQT Get Students Ready for the SAT[®]?

The PSAT/NMSQT covers the same topics under the same test conditions as the SAT. Therefore, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT are already familiar with the test content and format and will likely be more comfortable when they take the SAT. Additionally, PSAT/NMSQT Program resources help schools get their students ready.

My SAT Study Plan[™] in My College QuickStart

High school students get a free, personalized SAT study plan that includes:

- **Information about the SAT:** An overview of SAT content and a comparison of the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT help students learn what to expect.
- **Skill improvement advice:** Students receive a guided review of their PSAT/NMSQT results and get advice on how to improve specific academic skills.
- **Sample questions:** Sample questions provide students with additional practice, helping them focus specifically on the skills they want to improve.
- **Testing tips:** The Test-Taking Approaches section provides advice on managing time, reading carefully and tackling various types of questions.
- **Official SAT Practice Test:** After learning from their PSAT/NMSQT results, students can take an SAT practice test to see which skills to focus on.
- **SAT essay preparation:** Students can learn how the SAT essay is scored and see samples of student-written essays.
- **Express SAT sign-up:** Students can register quickly for the SAT using pre-populated information that they supplied for the PSAT/NMSQT.

Students can access their personalized study plans at collegeboard.org/quickstart.

Skills Insight[™]

The PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight tool is designed to help students and teachers gain a better understanding of how scores relate to specific academic skills. It offers descriptions of performance and insight into skills measured at each PSAT/NMSQT score band.

It also provides actionable suggestions for improving skills and sample questions that help students gain additional practice.

Practice with Official SAT Resources

Students can:

- Answer a different SAT practice question every day for free with **The Official SAT Question of the Day[™]**.
- Take an **Official SAT Practice Test** for free, see how they score and get detailed answer explanations to help them understand where they need to improve.
- Subscribe to **The Official SAT Online Course[™]**, with 18 interactive lessons, 10 official practice tests, sample essays, auto essay scoring, personalized score reports and more.
- Order **The Official SAT Study Guide[™]: Second Edition** featuring 10 official practice tests, hundreds of practice questions and test-taking approaches.

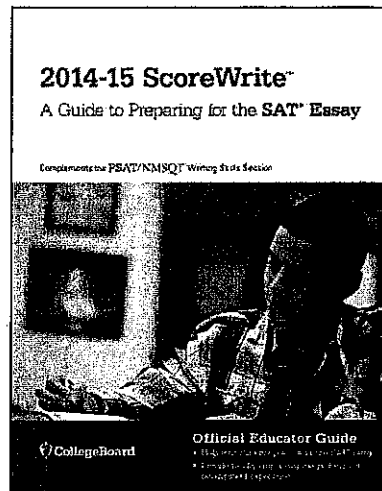
To access these free and affordable resources, build a tailored study plan and much more, students should visit sat.collegeboard.org/practice.

Prepare Students for the SAT Essay

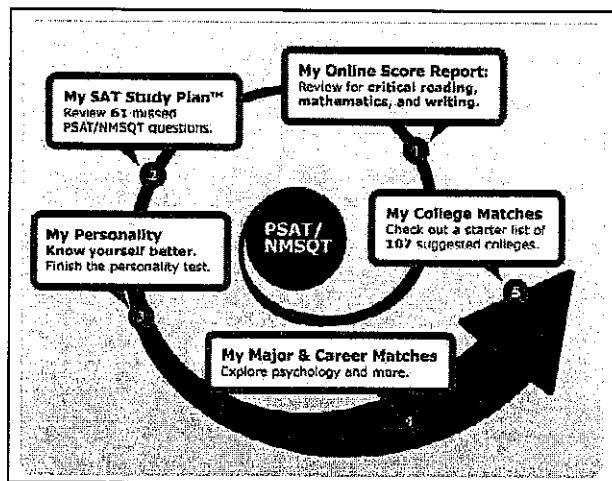
ScoreWrite: A Guide to Preparing for the SAT Essay is now available online for free at collegeboard.org/scorewrite. The ScoreWrite guide complements the PSAT/NMSQT by providing everything your school needs to administer a practice SAT essay-writing session, including an SAT practice essay prompt, sample papers at each score level, and instructions for training staff and running a schoolwide scoring session.

Setting up a timed practice writing session using ScoreWrite will give students a chance to practice writing an essay in a standardized setting and become familiar with the type of writing task that appears on the SAT. Also, ScoreWrite trains teachers to score essays holistically using the SAT Essay Scoring Guide.

Remember to share ScoreWrite with your English department.



My College QuickStart™: A College Planning Tool for Students



My College QuickStart is an online college- and career-planning tool available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. It is powered by their responses to the test and provides personalized information that helps students take their next steps toward college:

- **My Online Score Report** — an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, their answers and the correct answers with answer explanations
- **My SAT Study Plan™** — a customized study plan based on students' PSAT/NMSQT test performance, with hundreds of practice questions to help students improve their skills
- **My Personality** — a detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests
- **My Major & Career Matches** — extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now
- **My College Matches** — a starter list of colleges based on students' home state and indicated choice of major
- **NEW! My AP Potential** — a report that shows students' level of potential for different AP courses as well as which AP courses were offered at their school the previous year (based on AP Exams offered). This information can prompt students to explore AP and find courses that they have potential in but hadn't yet considered. It can also give insight into what sorts of courses fit with their interests and future college plans.

Accessing My College QuickStart

Starting in mid-December, students can access My College QuickStart using the access code printed on their paper score reports. The tool can be utilized throughout high school.

Log in or take a tour of My College QuickStart at collegeboard.org/quickstart.

MyRoad™

MyRoad™ is the College Board's comprehensive online major, college and career exploration program and is included in My College QuickStart. MyRoad features:

- **ORA Personality Profiler:** An assessment tool that students can take to learn about their personality types and receive additional major and career suggestions
- **69 profiles of academic fields** — from aeronautics to zoology, representing 175 instructional programs
- **The latest information on more than 3,500 four-year and two-year colleges and universities**
- **My Plan:** Students can record their interests, track their activities on the site and build a résumé

MyRoad Option for PSAT/NMSQT Schools

Students who take the 2014 PSAT/NMSQT receive **free access to MyRoad** through My College QuickStart until they graduate from high school.

For schools that administer the PSAT/NMSQT and would like to offer MyRoad to **all** their students, pricing begins at only \$250 per year. For more information and to obtain an order form, please visit collegeboard.org/myroadeducator.

AP Courses	Potential	Matched Major	Your School Offered This Course
Calculus	4.5		✓
Statistics	4.5		✓

Note: AP feedback is not available for eighth-graders and younger students. Feedback for ninth-grade students is only provided for AP European History and AP World History.

Ima B. Student's Score Report *Plus* Case Study

❶ What Are Ima's Scores?

Ima's critical reading score is 50, mathematics is 52, and writing skills is 44. The average 11th-grader's scores are between 47 and 49. Unless students earn scores that are much lower than average, they're probably developing the kinds of critical reading, math reasoning and writing skills needed for academic success in college.

❷ What Are Her Score Ranges?

No test measures precisely what someone knows, and many factors can affect results. That is why test makers think of each score as a range that extends from a few points below to a few points above the score earned. Her critical reading and mathematics scores have similar ranges; her writing skills range is lower.

❸ What Are Her Score Percentiles?

Since Ima is in the 11th grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all 11th-graders who took the test last year. (If she were in the 10th grade or younger, she would be compared to all 10th-graders.) Ima earned a critical reading score higher than 55 out of every 100 juniors tested. In math, she scored higher than 57 percent of juniors. Compared with peers who are college bound, Ima's critical reading and math percentiles are somewhat higher than average. She did not do as well on writing skills; she scored higher than 33 percent of juniors on that portion of the test.

❹ How Will Ima Do on the SAT?

Ima is able to go online at collegeboard.org/quickstart to access her personalized SAT study plan, which includes her projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles, a complete SAT practice test and resources to help her prepare for the essay that appears on the SAT. Using these free resources and taking rigorous courses will help Ima do her best on the SAT.

❺ Will Ima Be Able to Enter the National Merit Scholarship Program?

Add Ima's critical reading (50), mathematics (52) and writing skills (44) scores; the total of 146 is her Selection Index. This index is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to designate students to be recognized in its National Merit Scholarship Program. If an asterisk had appeared next to Ima's score, it would mean she does not meet entry requirements for the program. In this

case, Ima meets entry requirements, but her score is not likely to take her further in the competition for awards. For entry requirements and information on how the competition works, see the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* or visit www.nationalmerit.org.

❻ How Can Ima Improve Her Academic Skills?

The Your Skills section provides critical reading, mathematics and writing skills feedback based on Ima's pattern of responses across test questions. Ima can see which skills she performed well on and which she needs to improve. When she goes online and logs in to My College QuickStart, she can access suggestions for improving each of these skills and sample questions that give her additional practice in each skill area.

❼ What Can We Learn from Ima's Answers?

The score report is designed to be used with the student's PSAT/NMSQT test booklet. It lists all of Ima's answers and allows her to see the correct answer and difficulty level for each question. Ima can use My Online Score Report in My College QuickStart to review the questions she answered incorrectly or omitted, and complete practice questions of the same type to learn from her results.

❽ What Are Ima's Next Steps?

Under Next Steps on Score Report *Plus*, we see that Ima is interested in Sport/Fitness Administration as a college major. Ima can use the access code provided to log in to My College QuickStart and learn more about this major, other majors, and colleges and careers that interest her.

❾ When Should Ima Take the SAT?

As a junior, the spring is the best time for Ima to take the SAT. By visiting sat.collegeboard.org, she can register for the test and take advantage of practice resources.

❿ What Is Ima's AP Potential?

Based on her PSAT/NMSQT scores, Ima has potential for success in at least one AP course. By logging into My College QuickStart, she can see her full report with her potential for each subject, and determine which courses are related to her chosen college major.* After reviewing this information, Ima should discuss AP with her counselor. If Ima is not currently enrolled in AP, she may want to consider taking at least one course next fall.

*AP feedback is not available for eighth-graders and younger students.

Feedback for 9th-grade students is only provided for AP European History and AP World History.