

T.H. Rogers School

PSAT 8/9: Readiness Baseline

What is it? Replacing ReadinessStep™, the PSAT 8/9 serves as the foundation for understanding students' progress as they enter high school. An early indicator of college readiness that is aligned with the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10, the PSAT 8/9 will provide detailed performance feedback.

Who should take it? All eighth- and ninth-graders (beginning with the high school graduating classes of 2021 and 2020).

Reflects what is taught in the classroom: The focus is on the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career readiness. The PSAT 8/9 will include grade-level appropriate content for eighth- and ninth-graders that will match the scope and difficulty of work found in the classroom.

PSAT/NMSQT

- **Who:** 8th graders
- **Where:** At school
- **When:** Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018
- **Cost:** Free

Benefits

- The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of your college and career readiness as you enter high school. It also gives you a chance to preview the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10 and connect to AP courses.
- **Scholarships:** Used by scholarship programs, including the National Merit® Scholarship Program, to look for eligible students.

Get Ready for the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT

Student Preparation:

- [Khan Academy](#)® accounts to get free personalized study recommendations.
- Free and personalized PSAT Test practice is available for 8th -11th graders on Khan Academy at www.satpractice.org.

Get an overview of how the PSAT/NMSQT differs from the test students took before 2015. The first table compares the major features. The second table compares the number of questions and testing times in each part.

Major Features Compared

Comparison of the Major Features: Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT and New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10

Category	Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT	New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10
Total Testing Time	2 hours and 10 minutes	2 hours and 45 minutes
Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Reading 2. Writing 3. Mathematics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Test • Writing and Language Test 2. Math
Important Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on general reasoning skills • Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts • Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success • Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact • Rights-only scoring (no penalty for guessing)
Score Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale ranging from 60 to 240 • Scale ranging from 20 to 80 for Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scores will be reported on a shared common score scale with the SAT: The scale ranges for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 scores are 320–1520 for the total score, 160–760 for each of two

Comparison of the Major Features: Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT and New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10

Category	Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT	New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10
		section scores, and 8–38 for test scores.
Subscore Reporting	None	Subscores for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, educators, and counselors

Test Length and Timing Compared

Comparison of Test Length and Timing: Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT and New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10

Pre-2015 PSAT/NMSQT			New PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10		
Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Critical Reading	50	48	Reading	60	47
Writing	30	39	Writing and Language	35	44
Mathematics	50	38	Math	70	48
Total	130	125	Total	165	139