

# 2008 PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report Tutorial for 9th- and 10th-Grade Students

## You've already taken the first step toward college!

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT® in ninth or tenth grade, you took your first step on the path to college. The test shows you firsthand the kinds of reading, mathematics, and writing skills you'll need to succeed in college. It also prepares you for college admissions tests like the SAT®.

## If the test seemed hard, remember—it's aimed at students in the eleventh grade.

If you took the PSAT/NMSQT before eleventh grade, don't feel discouraged if your scores seem low. Look at your percentiles to see how well you did compared to all tenth-graders who took the test. Relax, and don't focus on your scores. Your PSAT/NMSQT results will improve the longer you're in school, the more courses you take, and the harder you work.

## How developed are your academic skills? Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report to find out.

Use your score report to identify those skills you need to develop. First take a close look at the "Review Your Answers" section. Locate the questions you got wrong. Then look at your test book.

- Did the questions cover material you still need to learn?
- Did you get the easy questions right and leave the harder ones blank?
- Did you guess when you didn't know the answer?
- Did you get stuck on a couple of hard questions and run out of time?

Now look at the "Improve Your Skills" section. Based on your answers to the test questions, this section shows you skills that you need to improve. Read and follow

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## How Did I Do?

Are you in ninth or tenth grade? Yes? Then relax. The PSAT/NMSQT shows skills you've learned and skills you may still need to work on before you go to college. It does not expect you to perform as well as students in eleventh grade, and you still have time to learn and improve.

the suggestions for tips on how to strengthen the skills you'll need for college.

The best way to review your test results is to go online at [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) and use your interactive score report. When you choose a question to review, the score report will display the question plus a thorough answer explanation so you can improve your skills.

### Learn how to guess wisely.

Because you lose  $\frac{1}{4}$  point for each wrong answer, how you guess on multiple-choice questions can affect your score. When you don't know the answer, do you make wild guesses or educated guesses? Guessing wildly means that you pick any answer. Educated guessing means that you eliminate answer choices you know are wrong and guess from those remaining. With educated guessing, you improve your chances of picking the right answer with each choice you can eliminate. Try it.

### Prepare for the next time you take the PSAT/NMSQT.

Once you've zeroed in on your own strengths and weaknesses, the

best way to get ready for the test is to work hard in your regular classes and read as much as possible.

Before taking the test again, read the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*. Review all the directions and sample questions, study the test-taking tips and strategies, and **take the Practice Test**.

### Use My College QuickStart™ to get ready for college.

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit. This useful tool incorporates the responses you provided when you took the test and presents personalized information back to you in four main parts:

- My Online Score Report—an enhanced score report that allows you to review each test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations.
- My SAT Study Plan—a customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.
- My College Matches—a starter list of colleges based on your home state and selected major.
- My Major and Career Matches—a list of majors and

careers related to the major you selected when you took the test. Additionally, with access to MyRoad™, you can take a personality test to learn about your personality type and identify your strengths. You can also access descriptions of majors and careers and, for each major, learn about steps to take in high school and what to expect in college.

Visit [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) to get your My College QuickStart. Use the access code provided on your score report.

### What happens now?

With the help of teachers and counselors, use the information provided on your score report and in My College QuickStart to improve your academic skills and plan for college and beyond. Here are some suggestions:

- Meet with your counselor to review your PSAT/NMSQT performance and course selections relevant to your future plans.
- Consider taking honors and/or AP® courses.
- Review your online score report and SAT study plan in My College QuickStart.
- Retake the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Get involved in extracurricular and community activities.
- Research majors, colleges, and careers using MyRoad.
- Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) often to obtain more information to help you plan for college.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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### Important Reminder:

To qualify for scholarship consideration, you must take the test again in grade 11.