**PSAT Quick Reference**

1. Colleges and universities require either the SAT or the ACT as part of the admissions process. The PSAT and the PLAN (10th grade) prepare students for those exams.
2. What is the PSAT?

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. While the PSAT is normed for 11th grade, many students take it earlier. During junior year, the PSAT is also used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program as well as other national scholarship programs. The PSAT includes a writing skills section (no written essay), which is part of the SAT Reasoning Test.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **# of Questions** | **Time allowed** |
| **Critical Reading Skills**Sentence Completion Critical Reading | 48 | Two 25-min reading sections |
| **Math**Numbers & OperationsAlgebraGeometry Data Analysis | 38 | Two 25-min math sections |
| **Writing Skills**Identifying Sentence ErrorsImproving SentencesImproving Paragraphs | 39 | 30 mins |

**Test Dates:** The PSAT is offered twice a year, a Wednesday and Saturday of the third week in October

**Question Format:** The critical reading sections use sentence completions and passage-based readings. The math section uses multiple-choice and student-produced responses. The writing section uses multiple-choice questions.

**Additional Info:** Like the SAT, the PSAT uses a negative scoring system so a student loses a fraction of a point for each incorrect answer. Because students have been trained to answer every question on a test, the PSAT and SAT present a special challenge to many. Students must learn to recognize questions they should skip. Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for additional info.

What should I bring on test day? Two #2 pencils, calculator (optional)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PSAT Exploration**

I. **Scavenger Hunt**

Go to <http://harboravid.weebly.com>

Go to “Test Taking”

Use the PSAT Quick Reference to complete questions 1-13.

1. What grade level is the PSAT designed/normed for?
2. What are the test dates for the PSAT?
3. What subject areas does the PSAT measure?
4. How are the questions formatted?
5. How much time do you have to complete the math portion?
6. How do you register for the PSAT?
7. How much time do you have to complete the critical reading portion?
8. How much does it cost to take the PSAT?
9. How much time do you have to complete the writing portion?
10. Are you allowed to use a calculator?
11. Where can you find additional information on the PSAT?
12. What national exam is the pSAT aligned with?
13. What do you need to bring on test day?

Raise your hand when you’re done!

**II. Collegeboard**

Go to google. Type in “collegeboard psat”

### Go to [PSAT/NMSQT Dates](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/k12-educators/psat-nmsqt-dates)

Click around a bit. Record 5 things you learned

**III. Takeaways**