

# Prepare for the 2016-17 PSAT™ 8/9



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# What Is the PSAT™ 8/9?

# Some Key Facts

- » The PSAT™ 8/9 is designed for **8th** and **9th grade students**
- » The PSAT 8/9 is a test that will help educators and students figure out **what students need to work on most** so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school
- » Scores for the SAT® Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing educators and students to **measure progress**
- » 2 hours and 25 minutes\*
- » **No penalty for guessing** or blank responses also known as “rights-only scoring”

\*an additional variable section of 20 minutes may be included

# Benefits of the PSAT™ 8/9:



The PSAT™ 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of college and career readiness



The PSAT™ 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, and PSAT™ 10 — in a way that makes sense for each grade level



Personalized practice on Khan Academy gives students the opportunity to upload their test results to receive targeted learning plans that students can use to learn more about and practice the skills they need to improve



The score reports will give students comprehensive, personalized feedback on test performance, allowing students to see which questions were answered incorrectly and which academic skills should work to improve on



Majors and career exploration with College Board and Roadtrip Nation

# 2016-17 PSAT 8/9 Test Dates

The PSAT 8/9 is given in the fall and the spring

## **Fall Testing Window**

Sept. 26, 2016 to Jan. 27, 2017

## **Spring Testing Window**

Feb. 21 to April 14, 2017

A person is shown from the back, reading a book. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The person's hands are visible, holding the book open. The text "Skills Tested on the PSAT™ 8/9" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Skills Tested on the PSAT™ 8/9

 Reading Test

 Writing and Language Test

 Math Test

- » Each test assesses the academic skills that students developed over the years, primarily through course work.
- » These skills are considered essential for success in high school and college and career.



# Reading Test

- » **42 passage based questions; 55 minutes**
- » **Total of 4 single passages and 1 pair of passages**

## **QUICK FACTS**

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › No mathematical computation is required.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

# Reading Test

## What to expect?

- » The Reading Test always includes; One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature.
- » One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the great global conversation they inspired. The U.S. Constitution or a speech by Nelson Mandela, for example.
- » A selection about economics, psychology, sociology, or some other social science.
- » Two science passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

# Writing and Language Test

» **40 Passage-Based Questions; 30 minutes**

» **Total of 4 passages**

## QUICK FACTS

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › No mathematical computation is required.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- › The Writing and Language Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section

# Writing and Language Test

## What to expect?

The Writing and Language Test puts students in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask students to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.

# Math Test

- » **2 Test Sections**
- » **38 Questions** (31 multiple choice, 7 grid-ins, 2 sections, 60 minutes)

## **QUICK FACTS**

- › Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
- › The Math Test is divided into two portions:  
Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
- › Some parts of the test will present a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

# Math Test

## What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically

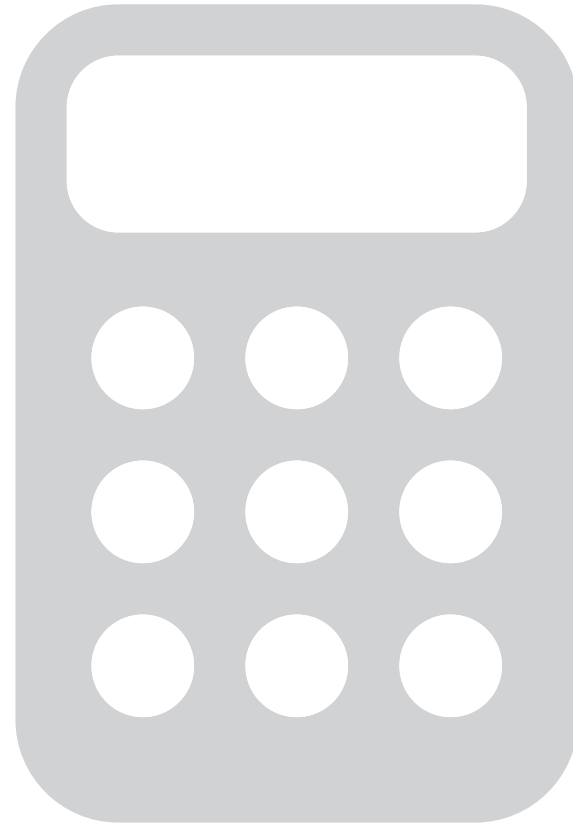


## MATH SECTION

Math Test – Calculator

# Students: Know Your Calculator

- » A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
- » Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.



# Additional calculator tips for Students:

- » Don't try to use the calculator on every question – no question requires one.
- » Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- » Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
- » Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.



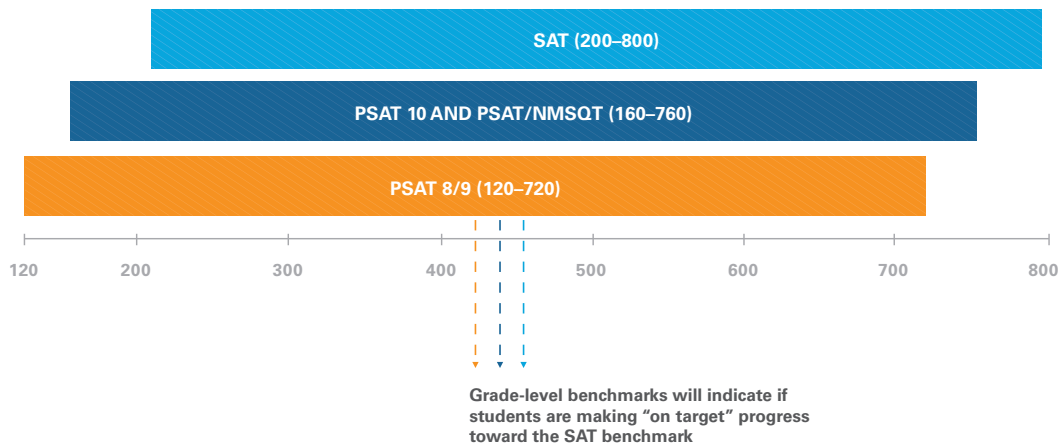
# How does the PSAT™ 8/9 connect to the PSAT/NMSQT® and the SAT®?

## Content and Domain Alignment:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills.

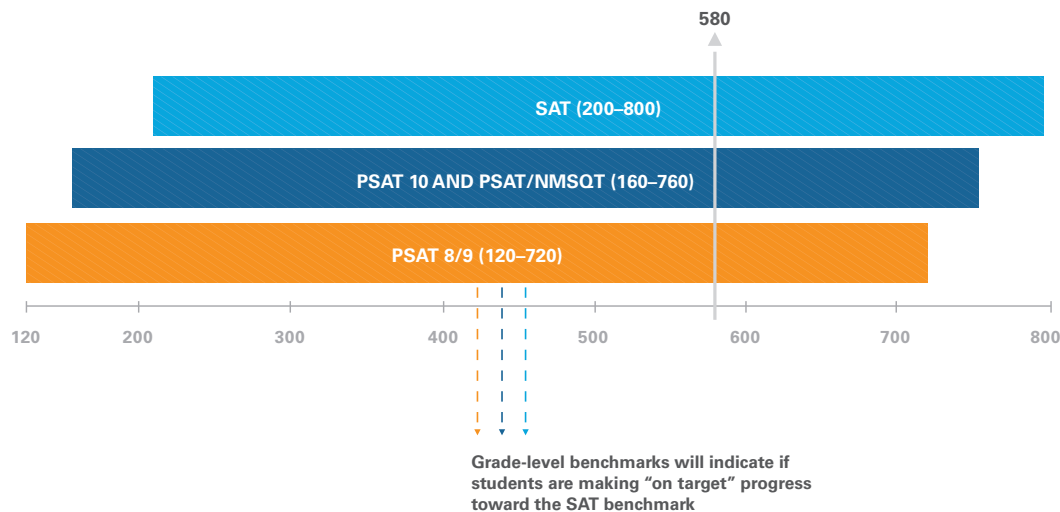
## Scoring:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.



# How does the PSAT™ 8/9 connect to the PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT® and the SAT®?

The score students get on the PSAT 8/9 is the same score they would have gotten on the PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT or SAT if it was taken on the same day.



Take control of your learning by working on the skills you choose at your own pace with free online courses.



Algebra

UP NEXT: Parabolas

Practice

# How to Prepare for the PSAT™ 8/9



Sharpen your skills with over 100,000 interactive exercises.

# Know How the PSAT 8/9™ Is Scored

## Rights-Only Scoring

- » 1 point for each correct answer
- » 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

## Math Grid-ins

- » Enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals
- » If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box

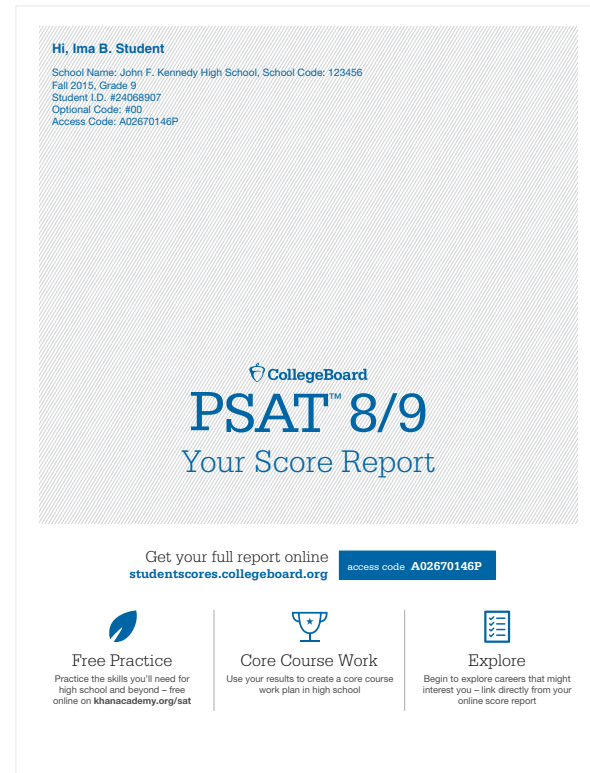
## Scale

- » 120 – 720 for each test section
- » 240 – 1440 for the total score

# Personalized Skills Information

## The PSAT™ 8/9 Score Report

- » Contains information **to help students improve their academic skills.**
- » **Lists skills** that students have the best chance of improving with additional work.
- » Connects students to **personalized practice** recommendations on **Khan Academy.**



# Preparation Starts in School

## Read

- » Continuous reading improves vocabulary and develops essential skills.

## Take Challenging Courses

- » This will help students to develop and strengthen their critical thinking skills.

# Take the 2016-17 PSAT™ 8/9

How to Sign Up: \_\_\_\_\_

Test Day/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Make sure you bring:

- » Two No. 2 pencils
- » Calculator (optional)

A blue-tinted photograph of students in a classroom. In the foreground, a young man on the left is looking at a tablet computer, while a young woman on the right is smiling and looking at a notebook with a pencil. Other students are visible in the background, seated at desks. The word "Resources" is overlaid in white text on the left side of the image.

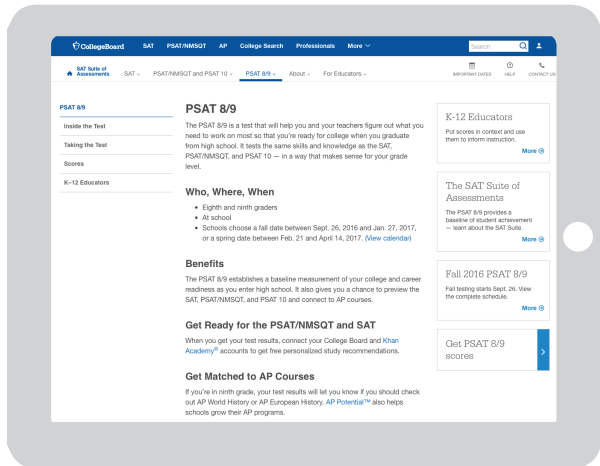
# Resources





For personalized resources aligned to the SAT<sup>®</sup> Suite of Assessments (including PSAT<sup>™</sup> 8/9, PSAT<sup>™</sup> 10 and PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>), please visit:

[khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat)



For general information about the PSAT 8/9, please visit:

[psat.org/8-9](https://psat.org/8-9)

A young woman with long dark hair and glasses is smiling while reading a book. She is wearing a denim jacket and has her arms crossed over the book. The background is a solid blue color.

**Good Luck!**