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Understanding PSAT/NMSQT Results

The PSAT/NMSQT is cosponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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Your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

Each section— Critical Reading, Math and Writing Skills—is color-coded

Your Scores

Ranges

Your Scores

Ranges 20

Critical Reading
50

46   54

46 . . . . **50 .** 54

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Percentiles

Percentiles — You scored higher than **55%** of juniors.

50%   100%
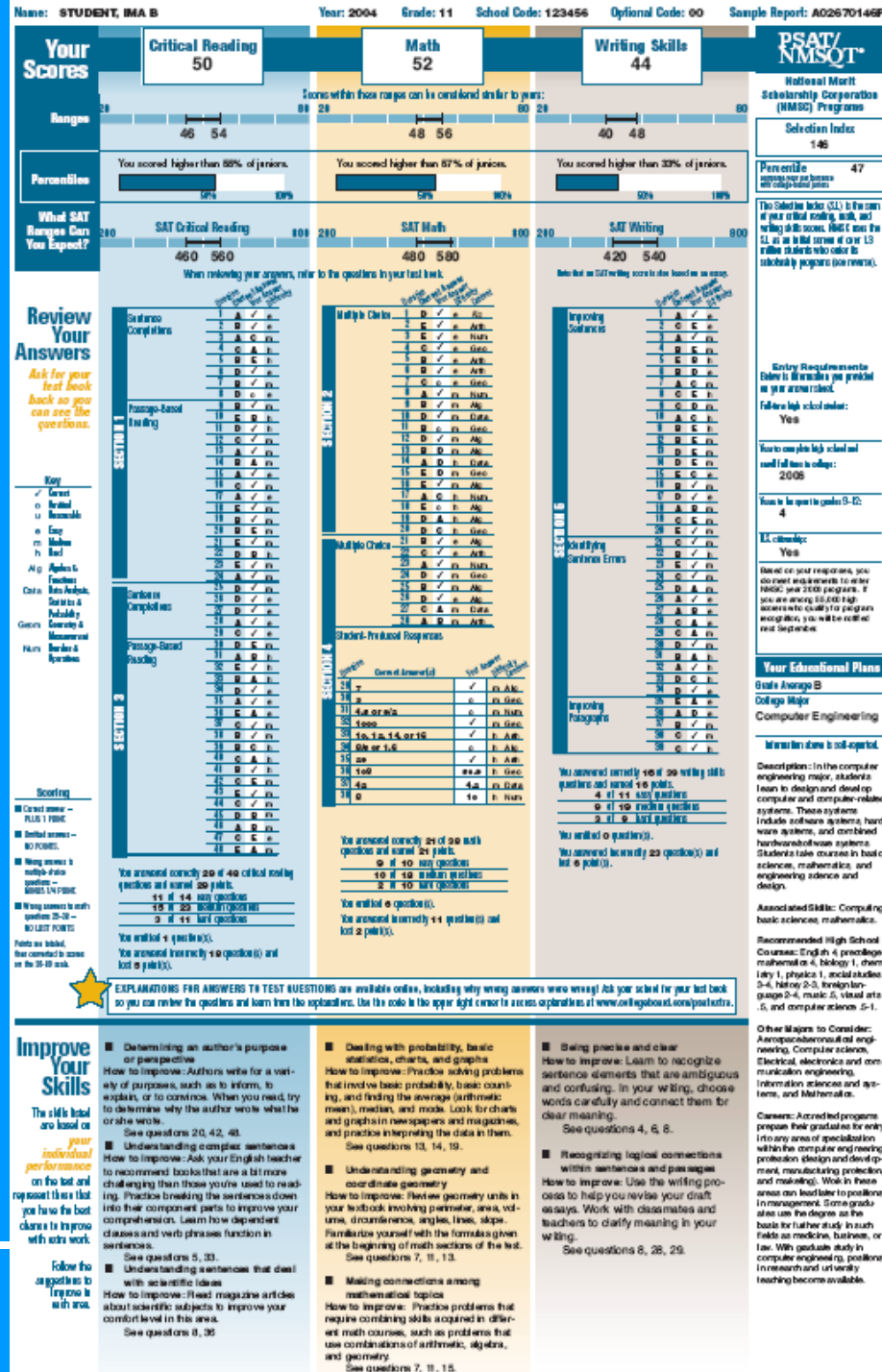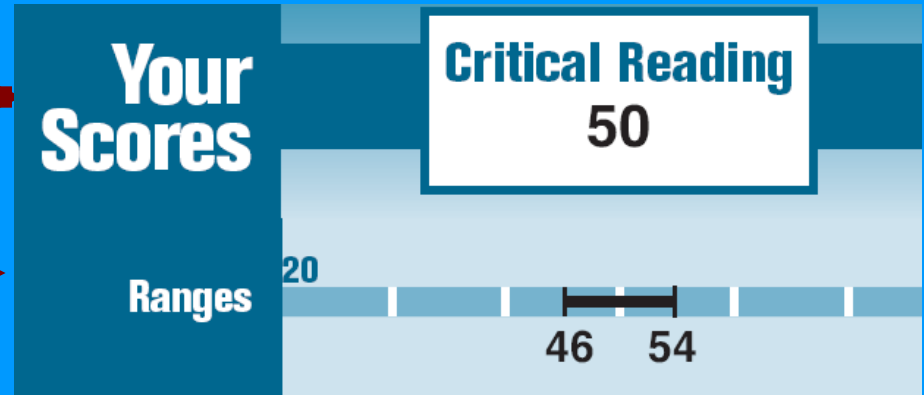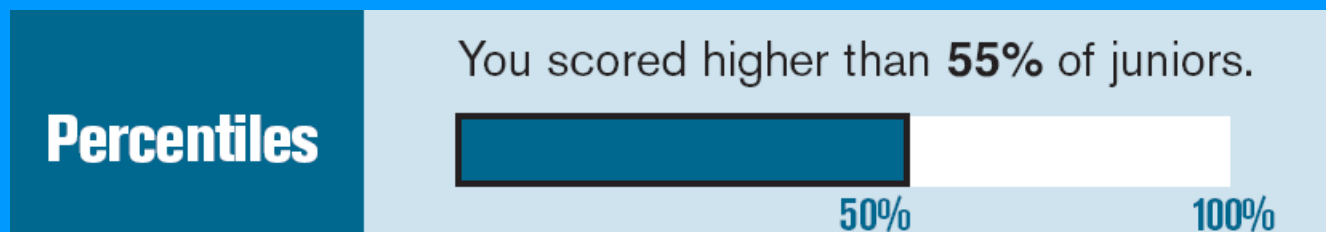
- If you are a junior, you are compared to other juniors.

- If you are a sophomore, or younger, you are compared to sophomores.

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Percentiles

Percentiles

You scored higher than **55%** of juniors.

50%   100%

1 . . . . **55** 100

higher than 54 juniors   **lower than 45 juniors**

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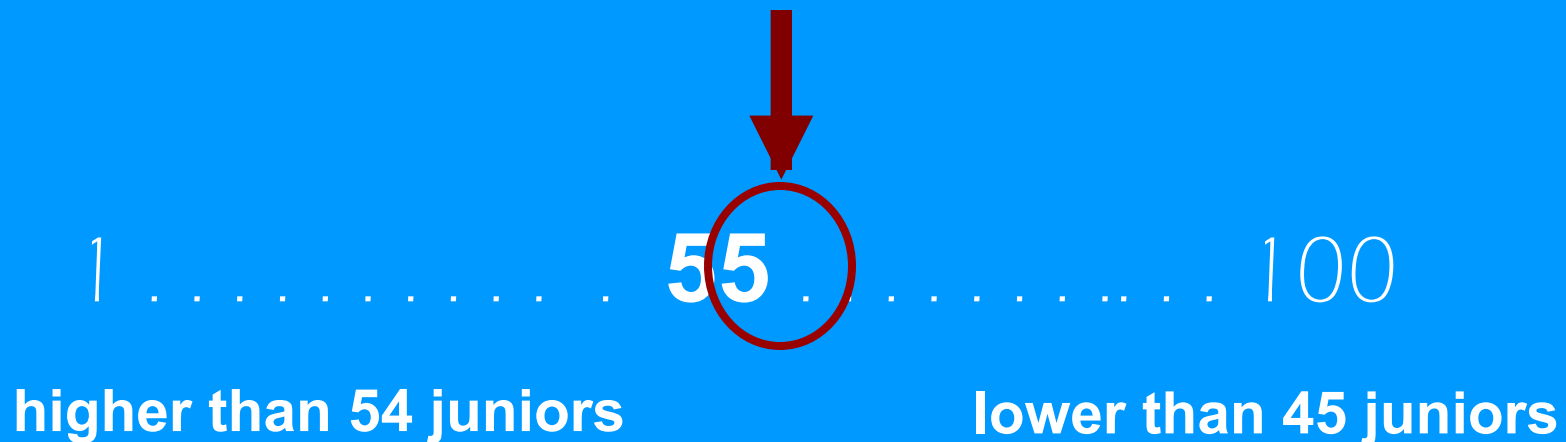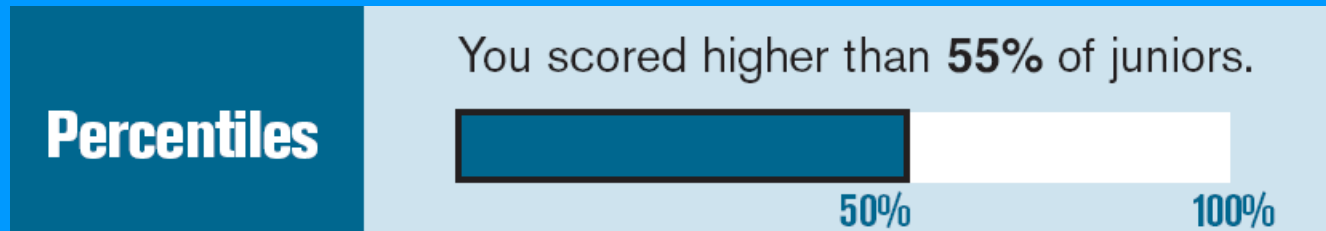
What SAT Ranges Can You Expect?
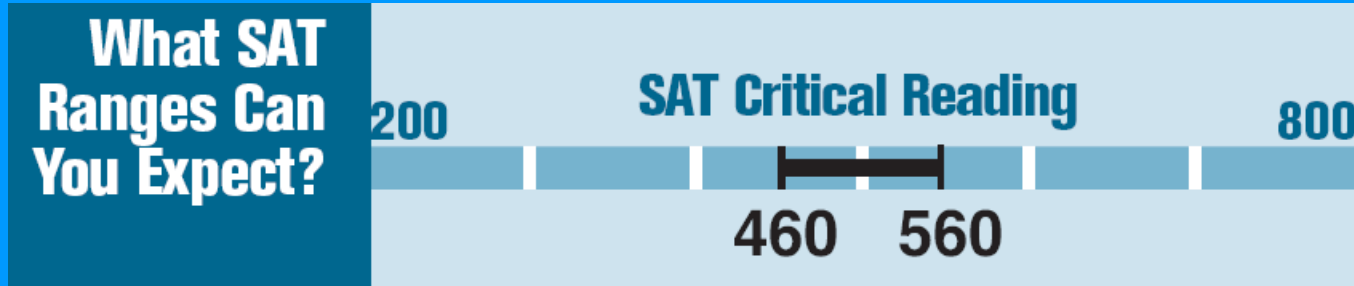
The quick way to estimate your SAT score is to add a "0" to your PSAT/NMSQT score.

- PSAT/NMSQT Critical Reading Score: 50

- Estimated SAT Critical Reading Score: 500

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Review Your Answers

Your Scores

Critical Reading 50

Ranges 20 | 46 54

- Question number
- Correct Answer
- Your Answer
- Level of Difficulty

You will get your test book with your score report, so you can review the questions you got wrong.

Free explanations for the answer to every test question at **collegeboard.com/psatextra**

Review Your Answers

Ask for your test book back so you can see the questions.

Key
✓ Correct
o Omitted
u Unscorable
e Easy
m Medium
h Hard

Question	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty
	Sentence Completions		
1	A	✓	e
2	B	✓	e
3	A	C	m
4	C	A	h
5	B	E	h
6	D	✓	e
7	B	✓	m
8	D	o	e
	Passage-Based Reading		
9	B	✓	m
10	E	B	h
11	D	✓	h
12	C	✓	m
13	A	✓	m
14	B	A	m
15	A	✓	e
16	C	✓	m
17	A	✓	e
18	E	✓	m
19	B	✓	m
20	B	E	m
21	E	✓	m
22	D	B	h

SECTION 1

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Review Your Answers: Math

Also shows the math content area of each question:

- Alg = Algebra & Functions

- Data = Data Analysis, Statistics & Probability

- Geom = Geometry & Measurement

- Num = Number & Operations

SECTION 2						
Multiple Choice	1	D	✓	e	Alg
	2	E	✓	e	Arth
	3	E	✓	e	Num
	4	C	✓	e	Geo
	5	B	✓	e	Arth
	6	B	✓	e	Arth
	7	C	o	e	Geo
	8	A	✓	m	Num
	9	B	✓	m	Alg
	10	D	✓	m	Data
	11	B	o	m	Geo
	12	D	✓	m	Alg
	13	B	D	m	Alg
	14	A	D	h	Data
	15	E	D	m	Geo
	16	E	✓	m	Alg
	17	A	C	h	Num
	18	E	o	h	Alg
	19	D	A	h	Alg
	20	D	C	h	Geo
Multiple Choice	21	B	✓	e	Alg
	22	C	✓	e	Arth
	23	A	✓	m	Num
	24	D	✓	m	Geo
	25	B	✓	m	Alg
	26	D	✓	e	Alg
	27	C	A	m	Data
	28	A	B	m	Arth

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Review Your Answers: Math Student-Produced Response

Math 52

Student-Produced Responses

SECTION 4

Question	Correct Answer(s)	Your Answer	Difficulty	Content
29	7	✓	m	Alg
30	3	o	m	Geo
31	4.5 or 9/2	o	m	Num
32	1000	✓	m	Geo
33	10, 12, 14, or 16	✓	h	Arth
34	8/5 or 1.6	o	h	Alg
35	29	✓	h	Arth
36	108	50.9	h	Geo
37	42	4.2	m	Data
38	8	10	h	Num

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Answer Summary & Scoring

Your Scores

Critical Reading
50

Ranges
20
46   54

- Correct answer = plus 1 point

- Omitted answers = no points

- Wrong answers to multiple-choice questions = minus ¼ point. (To discourage students from blind or random guessing.)

- Wrong answers to math questions 29-38 (Student Produced Responses) = No points lost.

You answered correctly **29** of **48** critical reading questions and earned **29** points.
| **11** of **14** easy questions |
| **15** of **23** medium questions |
| **3** of **11** hard questions |

You omitted **1** question(s).

You answered incorrectly **18** question(s) and lost **5** point(s).

Improve Your Skills

- The skills listed are based on your individual performance.

- Follow the suggestions to improve in each area.

Improve Your Skills

The skills listed are based on *your individual performance* on the test and represent those that you have the best chance to improve with extra work.

Follow the suggestions to improve in each area.

- **Determining an author's purpose or perspective**
  How to improve: Authors write for a variety of purposes, such as to inform, to explain, or to convince. When you read, try to determine why the author wrote what he or she wrote.
  See questions 20, 42, 48.

- **Understanding complex sentences**
  How to improve: Ask your English teacher to recommend books that are a bit more challenging than those you're used to reading. Practice breaking the sentences down into their component parts to improve your comprehension. Learn how dependent clauses and verb phrases function in sentences.
  See questions 5, 33.

- **Understanding sentences that deal with scientific ideas**
  How to improve: Read magazine articles about scientific subjects to improve your comfort level in this area.
  See questions 8, 36

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Programs

• Selection Index

• Percentile

• Entry Requirements

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Programs

Selection Index
146

Percentile   47
compares your performance with college-bound juniors

The Selection Index (S.I.) is the sum of your critical reading, math, and writing skills scores. NMSC uses the S.I. as an initial screen of over 1.3 million students who enter its scholarship programs (see reverse).

Entry Requirements
Below is information you provided on your answer sheet.

Full-time high school student:
Yes

Year to complete high school and enroll full time in college:
2006

Years to be spent in grades 9–12:
4

U.S. citizenship:
Yes

Based on your responses, you **do** meet requirements to enter NMSC year 2006 programs. If you are among 55,000 high scorers who qualify for program recognition, you will be notified next September.

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Your Educational Plans

Based on the **college major** you provided on the answer sheet, this section will give you:

- Description of what college students learn and do with that major.

- Associated skills

- Recommended high school courses

- Other majors to consider

- Associated careers

Your Educational Plans

Grade Average B

College Major

Computer Engineering

Information above is self-reported.

Description: In the computer engineering major, students learn to design and develop computer and computer-related systems. These systems include software systems, hardware systems, and combined hardware/software systems. Students take courses in basic sciences, mathematics, and engineering science and design.

Associated Skills: Computing, basic sciences, mathematics.

Recommended High School Courses: English 4, precollege mathematics 4, biology 1, chemistry 1, physics 1, social studies 3-4, history 2-3, foreign language 2-4, music .5, visual arts .5, and computer science .5-1.

Other Majors to Consider: Aerospace/aeronautical engineering, Computer science, Electrical, electronics and communication engineering, Information sciences and systems, and Mathematics.

Careers: Accredited programs prepare their graduates for entry into any area of specialization within the computer engineering profession (design and development, manufacturing, protection, and marketing). Work in these areas can lead later to positions

After You Receive Your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

- Review your answers using the test booklet

After You Receive Your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report:

- Go to **collegeboard.com/psatextra** for free explanations for the answers to every test question, including why wrong answers were wrong. (You'll need the code on the upper right corner of your score report.)

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Sample Report: A02670146P

PSAT/NMSQT®

GET
EXPLANATIONS
FOR THE ANSWERS
TO EVERY TEST QUESTION!
USE THIS ACCESS CODE
AND GO TO:

www.collegeboard.com/psatextra

After You Receive Your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report:

- Follow the suggestions for how to improve in the Improve Your Skills section

Improve Your Skills

The skills listed are based on *your individual performance* on the test and represent those that you have the best chance to improve with extra work.

Follow the suggestions to improve in each area.

- **Determining an author's purpose or perspective**
  How to improve: Authors write for a variety of purposes, such as to inform, to explain, or to convince. When you read, try to determine why the author wrote what he or she wrote.
  See questions 20, 42, 48.
- **Understanding complex sentences**
  How to improve: Ask your English teacher to recommend books that are a bit more challenging than those you're used to reading. Practice breaking the sentences down into their component parts to improve your comprehension. Learn how dependent clauses and verb phrases function in sentences.
  See questions 5, 33.
- **Understanding sentences that deal with scientific ideas**
  How to improve: Read magazine articles about scientific subjects to improve your comfort level in this area.
  See questions 8, 36

- **Dealing with probability, basic statistics, charts, and graphs**
  How to improve: Practice solving problems that involve basic probability, basic counting, and finding the average (arithmetic mean), median, and mode. Look for charts and graphs in newspapers and magazines, and practice interpreting the data in them.
  See questions 13, 14, 19.
- **Understanding geometry and coordinate geometry**
  How to improve: Review geometry units in your textbook involving perimeter, area, volume, circumference, angles, lines, slope. Familiarize yourself with the formulas given at the beginning of math sections of the test.
  See questions 7, 11, 13.
- **Making connections among mathematical topics**
  How to improve: Practice problems that require combining skills acquired in different math courses, such as problems that use combinations of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.
  See questions 7, 11, 15.

- **Being precise and clear**
  How to improve: Learn to recognize sentence elements that are ambiguous and confusing. In your writing, choose words carefully and connect them for clear meaning.
  See questions 4, 6, 8.
- **Recognizing logical connections within sentences and passages**
  How to improve: Use the writing process to help you revise your draft essays. Work with classmates and teachers to clarify meaning in your writing.
  See questions 8, 28, 29.

After You Receive Your Score Report:

- Review the SAT Practice Essay and SAT Math Practice Questions on the back of your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

- Go to **collegeboard.com/ psatextra** for:

- Answers and explanations for these higher level-math questions

  - Essay directions, official scoring guide, and samples of student-written essays

Get Ready for the New SAT

Unlike the PSAT/NMSQT, the new SAT will have higher-level math questions and an essay assignment. To get ready for the SAT, write a practice essay and answer the math questions below; then go to **www.collegeboard.com/psatextra** for:

- answers and explanations for these higher-level math questions
- essay directions, official scoring guide, and samples of student-written essays
- answers and explanations for all questions on the 2004 PSAT/NMSQT

SAT Practice Essay

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following passage and the assignment below.

No one is so ignorant as the one who refuses to learn. To be truly successful, individuals must seek knowledge at every opportunity and must never be satisfied that they know all there is to know.

Assignment: How important is learning to success? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.
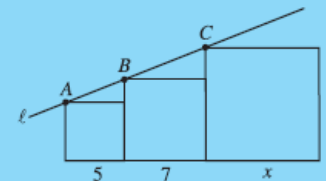
SAT Math Practice Questions
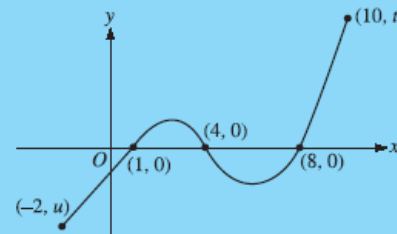
① Based on the graph of the function f above, what are the values of x for which $f(x)$ is positive?

(A) $-2 \le x < 1$ or $8 < x \le 10$
(B) $-2 \le x < 1$ or $4 < x < 8$
(C) $1 < x < 4$ or $8 < x \le 10$
(D) $-2 \le x \le 10$
(E) $1 < x < 8$

② $2x - 5y = 8$
   $4x + ky = 17$

For which of the following values of k will the system of equations above have <u>no</u> solution?

(A) -10
(B) -5
(C) 0
(D) 5
(E) 10

③ The figure above shows three squares with sides of length 5, 7, and x, respectively. If A, B, and C lie on line ℓ, what is the value of x?