

2014 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 10th 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 admission tests like the SAT®.

If the test seemed hard, remember — it's aimed at students in the 11th grade.

If you took the PSAT/NMSQT before 11th grade, don't feel discouraged if your scores seem low. Look at your percentiles to see how well you did compared to 10th-graders who have taken the test. 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 score report to identify skills you need to develop. First take a close look at the "Your Answers" section. Find 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?

The best way to review your test results is to go online at **collegeboard.org/quickstart** and use your interactive score report. When you choose a question to review, the score

How Did I Do?

Are you in ninth or 10th 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 11th grade, and you still have time to learn and improve.

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 tool that includes:

- My Online Score Report — an enhanced score report that lets you review each test question, your answers, and the correct answers with answer explanations
- My AP Potential™ — a report that shows you which AP® courses you may be ready for now, as well as which AP courses were offered at your school last year (based on AP Exams offered)*
- My SAT Study Plan™ — a customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- My Personality — a detailed personality test that helps you learn about yourself and discover majors and careers that fit your strengths and interests
- My Major & Career Matches — extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now

- My College Matches — a starter list of colleges based on your home state and indicated choice of major

Visit **collegeboard.org/quickstart** to get your My College QuickStart planning tool. Use the access code provided on your score report.

What happens now?

Use the information provided on your score report and in My College QuickStart to improve your academic skills and to 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 My College QuickStart.
- Visit **collegeboard.org** often to get more information to help you plan for college.

Important Reminder:

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