

PSAT

The PSAT is a standardized test that most students take in October of their sophomore and junior years. The score from a student's junior year is used to determine eligibility for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship. It is intended to predict success on the

SAT and therefore is graded on similar scales.

Test Breakdown

In total, the test is *2 hours and 45 minutes* and has a *score range of 320-1520*. It includes an Evidence-Based Reading Section, a Writing/Language Section, and a Math Section with a calculator and no calculator portion.

- Evidence-Based Reading Section
 - 60 minutes for 47 multiple choice questions
 - This section always contains 5 passages
 - (1 U.S./World Literature, 2 Social Studies/History, and 2 Science)
 - No outside knowledge is required
- Writing and Language Section
 - 35 minutes for 44 multiple choice questions
 - In this section, you will identify and correct areas where the passage does not comply with standard English conventions, such as grammar, usage, and punctuation
 - This section also requires you to identify errors in the passage and determine the necessary revision among the answer choices
- Math Section
 - No calculator portion
 - 25 minutes for 17 questions
 - Calculator portion
 - 45 minutes for 31 questions
 - This section tests on many topics: algebra, problem solving and data analysis, manipulation of complex equations, geometry, trigonometry, and common theorems and formulas

- Between both sections, 31 questions total are multiple choice and 17 are write-in responses

National Merit

- The PSAT determines a student's National Merit Scholarship eligibility
 - Eligibility is based on scores achieved during junior year of high school
 - Approximately 15,000 students every year—those that score in the top 99th percentile in their state—are named National Merit Finalists, qualifying them for a variety of scholarships
 - In Florida, these students qualify for the Benacquisto Scholarship Program, which covers the full cost of attendance to one of eight public universities in the state

Other Advantages

- The PSAT will help familiarize yourself with the structure of the SAT and highlight your strengths and weaknesses
 - It can be used as a guide when studying for the SAT's
- Many scholarships are available - even if you are not a national merit finalist