

PSAT/NMSQT® What's on the Test

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

- Two 25-minute critical reading sections
- Two 25-minute math sections
- One 30-minute writing skills section

The whole test requires two hours and 10 minutes.

Critical Reading

Two 25-minute critical reading sections = 48 questions

- 13 Sentence completions
- 35 Critical reading questions

Math

Two 25-minute math sections = 38 questions

- 28 multiple-choice math questions
- 10 Student-produced responses or grid-ins

Students are advised to bring a calculator with which they are comfortable. Students should have basic knowledge of 4 math categories:

- Numbers and Operation
- Algebra and Functions (but not 3rd year level math that may appear on the new SAT)
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

Writing Skills

One 30-minute writing section = 39 questions

- 14 Identifying sentence errors
- 20 Improving sentences
- 5 Improving paragraph questions

These multiple-choice questions on writing skills measure a student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard-written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning.

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

- Two 25-minute critical reading sections
- Two 25-minute math sections
- One 30-minute writing skills section

The whole test requires two hours and 10 minutes.

Critical Reading

Two 25-minute critical reading sections = 48 questions

- 13 Sentence completions
- 35 Critical reading questions

Math

Two 25-minute math sections = 38 questions

- 28 multiple-choice math questions
- 10 Student-produced responses or grid-ins

Students are advised to bring a calculator with which they are comfortable. Students should have basic knowledge of 4 math categories:

- Numbers and Operation
- Algebra and Functions (but not 3rd year level math that may appear on the new SAT)
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

writing skills

One 30-minute writing section = 39 questions

- 14 Identifying sentence errors
- 20 Improving sentences
- 5 Improving paragraph questions

These multiple-choice questions on writing skills measure a student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard-written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning.