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.
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