

PSAT/NMSQT QUICK FACTS

TEST DATE: Look for announcements in the Guidance Office in the months of September or October for testing dates in the current year.

LOCATION: PHS periods 1-5

FEE: \$14.00 registration prior to test date. Payable in guidance. Cash only.

THE PSAT/NMSQT MEASURES:

- Critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills that are important for success in college
- Knowledge and skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom. Although the PSAT/NMSQT is not directly related to a specific high school curriculum, it is developed to reflect the kinds of academic experiences that teachers consider important.
- Ability to reason facts and concepts rather than the ability to recall and recite them. The PSAT/NMSQT focuses on the critical thinking skills that educators emphasize.

SCORING:

- Scores on a 20 to 80 scale for critical reading, mathematics and writing skills
- Correct answer = 1 point
- Omitted question = no points
- Wrong answers to multiple-choice questions = minus $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point
- Wrong answers to math student-produced response questions = no points lost

CONTENT:

- **Two** 25-minute **critical reading** sections contain a total of 48 questions: 13 Sentence completions and 35 Passage-based reading questions
- **Two** 25 – minute **mathematics** sections contain a total of 38 questions: 28 multiple choice, and 10 Student-produced responses, or grid-ins
- **One** 30-minute **writings skills** section contains 39 questions: 20 Improving sentences, 14 Identifying sentence errors and 5 Improving paragraphs

WEBLINK FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>