Take the first step on the road to college.

This fall, don't miss the PSAT/NMSQT®. An important first step on the road to college, the PSAT/NMSQT prepares you for the SAT® and is the perfect way to take the next step to college.

Three things the PSAT/NMSQT helps you do to get ready for college:

Access scholarships

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT® and meeting other requirements, you may have the opportunity to compete for recognition and scholarships through the National Merit® Scholarship Program. It also connects you with other scholarship partners. Be sure to say "yes" to Student Search Service® on the day of the test to make it easy for them to find you.

Prep for the SAT® for free

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT is great practice for the SAT and for college. Get familiar with the test format and access free, personalized SAT practice from Khan Academy®.

Connect to AP® courses

Your score report will show AP® courses that are a great match for you. AP can give you an edge in the admission process, and an opportunity to earn college credit while in high school, allowing you to save money, study abroad, or take on a second major.

To learn when the PSAT/NMSQT will be given at your school, talk to your counselor. To learn more about the test, visit **psat.org**.

Practice
for a lot more than a test

GET READY FOR THE NEW SAT® WITH OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE

- Official SAT® Practice – from the creators of the SAT and Khan Academy®

- World-class test practice that's free to all students

- All online so students can practice anytime, anywhere

- Personalized to show students where they excel and where they need more work

Practice
HAVING OPTIONS.

STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO:

FULL-LENGTH PRACTICE TESTS
Four official full-length practice tests, plus study and test-taking tips

DAILY PRACTICE APP
More practice available on your phone featuring questions of the day

VIDEO LESSONS
Easy-to-follow videos explain problems step by step

INTERACTIVE PROBLEMS AND INSTANT FEEDBACK
Get hints, explanations, and constant progress updates to know where you stand

Sign up for free at
SATPRACTICE.ORG

STOP PREPPING AND START PRACTICING.

Every student in the world now has access to high-quality test practice for free, leveling the playing field like never before. Get the inside scoop on the SAT, and build your own personalized practice program today.

A college readiness partnership

CollegeBoard + KHANACADEMY

Prepare for the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT®

» What Is the PSAT/NMSQT?

» When is the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT?

» Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT

» How to Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT

» Sample PSAT/NMSQT Questions

» Resources

What Is the PSAT/NMSQT®?

Some Key Facts

» Scores for the SAT® Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing to **Educators measure students progress**

› Propels students toward **college** and **career readiness**

› Is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation

› Serves as an entry point to nearly $180 Million in **scholarship dollars**

» **4** **+** students took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2015 to get
MILLION feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT

What to know about the PSAT/NMSQT?

🕐 2 hours 45 minutes

🙂 No penalty for guessing or blank responses
also known as "rights-only scoring"

🍃 Personalized SAT® practice through Khan Academy®
with students own PSAT/NMQST scores

📊 Scale ranges for the scores are 320 – 1520
for the total score

Benefits of the PSAT/NMSQT:

- Personalized SAT practice on Khan Academy based on students PSAT/NMSQT answers

- Aligned to the SAT

- Increased access to additional scholarship providers

- Online college and career planning tools

- Admission and financial aid information from colleges

- Majors and career exploration with College Board and Roadtrip Nation

PSAT/NMSQT 2016
Test Dates:

› Primary - Wednesday, **October 19**

› Saturday, **October 15**

› Alternate - Wednesday, **November 2**

Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT®

Reading Test

Writing and Language Test

Math Test

» Each test assesses the academic skills that students have developed over the years, primarily through their course work.

» These skills are considered essential for success in high school and college and career.

📖 Reading Test

» **5 Passages**

» **47 Passage-Based Questions**; 60 minutes

QUICK FACTS

› All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.

› Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.

› No mathematical computation is required.

› Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

⊞ Reading Test

What to expect?

In the Reading Test, students will encounter questions like those asked in a lively, thoughtful, evidence-based discussion.

Writing and Language Test

» **4 Passages**

» **44 Passage-Based Questions**; 35 minutes

QUICK FACTS

› All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.

› Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.

› Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

› No mathematical computation is required.

✍ Writing and Language Test

What to expect?

The Writing and Language Test puts students in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask students to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.

⊞ Math Test

» **2 Test Sections**

» **48 Questions** (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins, 2 sections, 70 minutes)

QUICK FACTS

› Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).

› The Math Test is divided into two portions:
Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.

› Some parts of the test will present students with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

⊞ Math Test

What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.
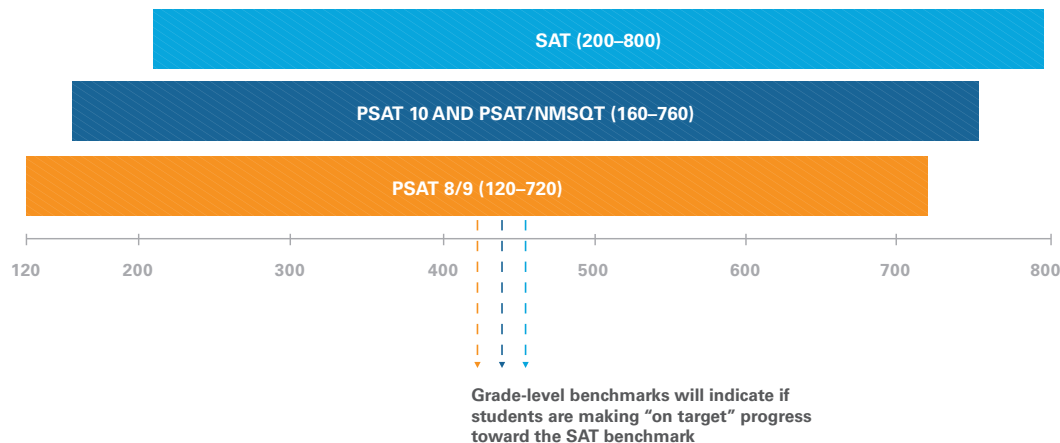
How Does the PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the SAT®?

Content and Domain Alignment:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills.
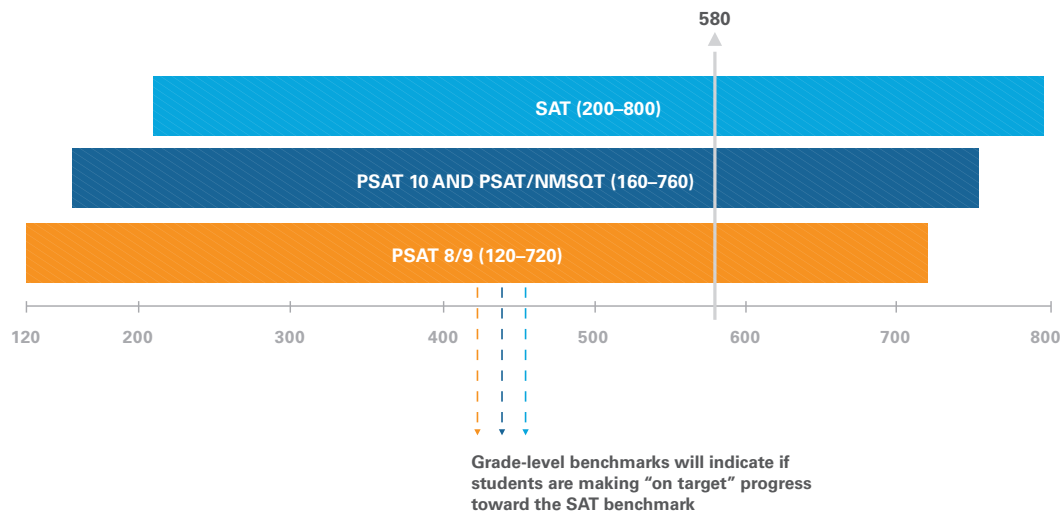
Scoring:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.

SAT (200–800)

PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT (160–760)

PSAT 8/9 (120–720)

| 120 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 |

Grade-level benchmarks will indicate if students are making "on target" progress toward the SAT benchmark

How Does the PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the SAT®?

That means the score students get on the PSAT/NMSQT is the same score they would have gotten on the SAT if it was taken on the same day.

580

SAT (200–800)

PSAT 10 AND PSAT/NMSQT (160–760)

PSAT 8/9 (120–720)

120   200   300   400   500   600   700   800

Grade-level benchmarks will indicate if students are making "on target" progress toward the SAT benchmark

How Does the PSAT/NMSQT® Compare to the SAT®?

	PSAT/NMSQT		SAT
Time	2 hours 45 minutes		3 hours 50 minutes
Essay	✕		Optional
Section Score Range	160 – 760		200 – 800

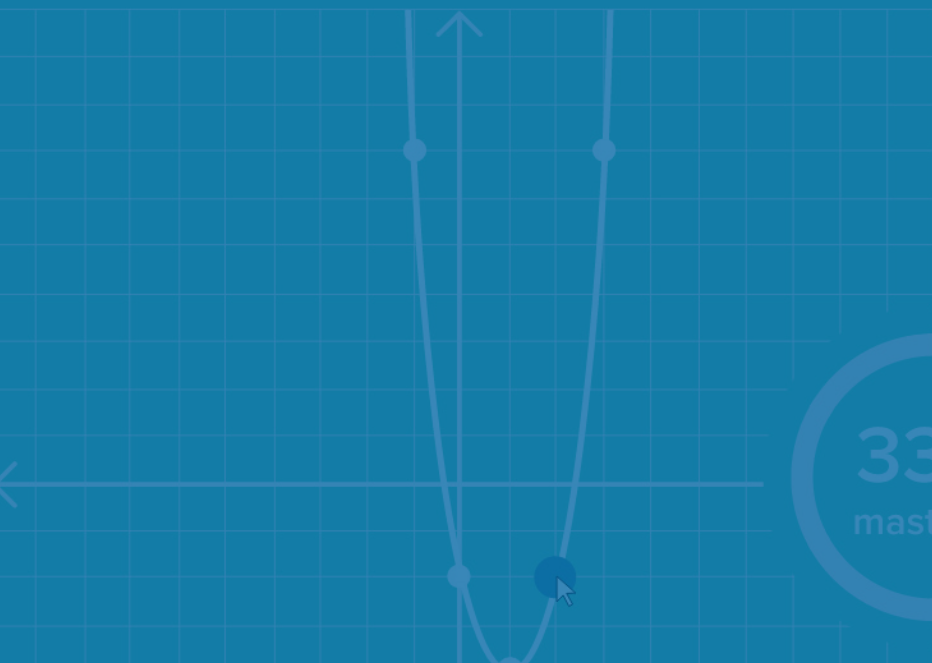Take control of your learning by working on the skills you choose at your own pace with free online courses.

22% mastered

Algebra

UP NEXT: Parabolas

Practice

How to Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT®

33% mastered

Sharpen your skills with over 100,000 interactive exercises.

Know How the PSAT/NMSQT® Is Scored

Rights-Only Scoring:

» 1 point for each correct answer

» 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

Math Grid-ins

» You can enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals
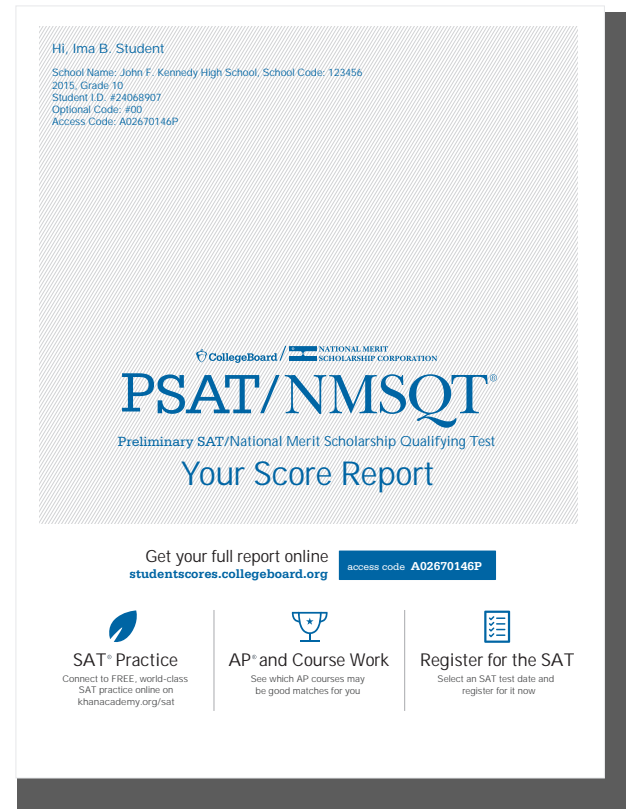
» If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box

Scale

» 160 – 760 for each test section

» 320 – 1520 for the total score

Personalized Skills Information

The PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report

» Contains information **to help students improve academic skills**.

» **Lists skills** that students have the best chance of improving with additional work.

» Connects to **personalized practice** recommendations on **Khan Academy**.

Hi, Ima B. Student

School Name: John F. Kennedy High School, School Code: 123456
2015, Grade 10
Student I.D. #24068907
Optional Code: #00
Access Code: A02670146P

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

PSAT/NMSQT®

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Your Score Report

Get your full report online
studentscores.collegeboard.org access code **A02670146P**

SAT® Practice
Connect to FREE, world-class
SAT practice online on
khanacademy.org/sat

AP® and Course Work
See which AP courses may
be good matches for you

Register for the SAT
Select an SAT test date and
register for it now

CollegeBoard

PSAT/NMSQT®

Preparation Starts in School

Read

» Continuous reading improves vocabulary and develops essential skills.

Take Challenging Courses

» This will help students to develop and strengthen their critical thinking skills.

Sample PSAT/NMSQT® Questions

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] The coming decades will likely see more <u>intense</u> clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

Adapted from Richard Florida, The Great Reset.
© 2010 by Richard Florida.

As used in line 2, "intense" most nearly means

(A) emotional.

(B) concentrated.

(C) brilliant.

(D) determined.

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] The coming decades will likely see more <u>intense</u> clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

Adapted from Richard Florida, The Great Reset.
© 2010 by Richard Florida.

As used in line 2, "intense" most nearly means

(A) emotional.

(B) concentrated.

(C) brilliant.

(D) determined.

This question asks students to determine word meaning within a social science context. While students may frequently use the word "intense" to describe personalities or emotions, the context of this sentence requires students to recognize that "intense" can also mean "concentrated." The best answer here is choice B because the context makes clear that the clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity is expected to be denser, or more concentrated in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions, over the coming decades. In these ways, the question draws students back to the text rather than rewarding only isolated vocabulary knowledge.

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, [5] vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [. . .]

5

(A) NO CHANGE

(B) evacuated

(C) departed

(D) retired

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, 5 vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [. . .]

5

(A) NO CHANGE

(B) evacuated

(C) departed

(D) retired

This question asks students to determine which word makes the most sense in the context of a sentence. "**Departed**" is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways. In this sort of question, students must demonstrate not only facility with language in general but also skill in using language in particular contexts to convey meaning clearly and precisely.

Aaron is staying at a hotel that charges $99.95 per night plus tax for a room. A tax of 8% is applied to the room rate, and an additional one-time untaxed fee of $5.00 is charged by the hotel. Which of the following represents Aaron's total charge, in dollars, for staying x nights?

(A) $(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5$

(B) $1.08(99.95x) + 5$

(C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$

Aaron is staying at a hotel that charges $99.95 per night plus tax for a room. A tax of 8% is applied to the room rate, and an additional one-time untaxed fee of $5.00 is charged by the hotel. Which of the following represents Aaron's total charge, in dollars, for staying x nights?

(A) $(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5$

(B) $1.08(99.95x) + 5$

(C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$

This problem asks students to interpret a situation and formulate a linear expression that represents the situation mathematically. The construction of mathematical models that represent real-world scenarios is a critical skill.

The total charge is the room rate, the 8% tax on the room rate, and a fixed fee. If Aaron stayed x nights, then the total charge is $99.95x + (0.08 \times 99.95x) + 5$, which can be rewritten as $1.08(99.95x) + 5$.

In this equation, what is the value of k?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

(A) $\dfrac{9}{7}$

(B) $\dfrac{9}{13}$

(C) $\dfrac{33}{17}$

(D) $\dfrac{33}{13}$

In this equation, what is the value of k?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

(A) $\quad \dfrac{9}{7}$

(B) $\quad \dfrac{9}{13}$

(C) $\quad \dfrac{33}{17}$

(D) $\quad \dfrac{33}{13}$

In this problem, students will demonstrate their fluency in solving equations in one variable.

Choice B is correct. Simplifying the numerators yields

$$\frac{5k+3}{6} = \frac{9+k}{9}$$

and cross-multiplication gives $45k + 27 = 54 + 6k$.

Solving for k yields $k = \dfrac{9}{13}$

Sample Grids

Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, students will need to solve problems and enter their answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.

$1.75 \qquad 2\frac{1}{3} \qquad 0.444\ldots \qquad 20\%$

Students: Know Your Calculator

» A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.

» Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.
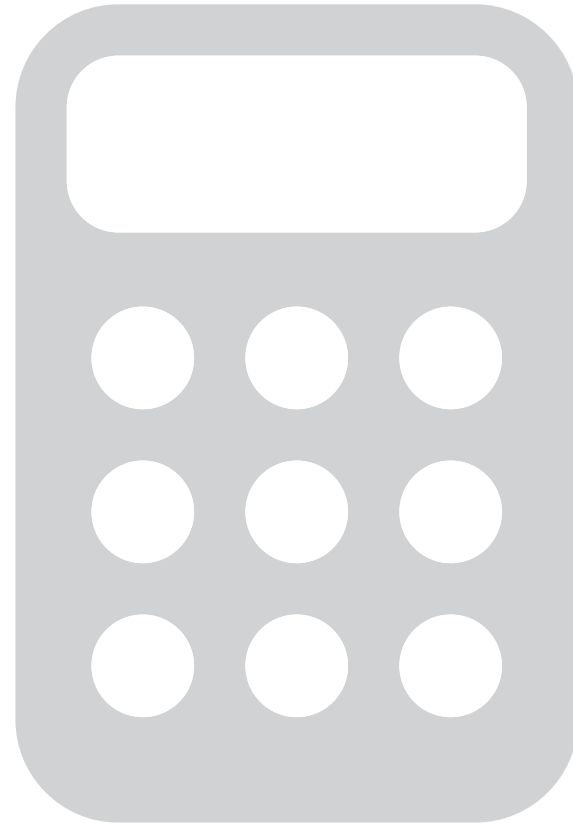
Additional calculator tips for Students:

» Don't try to use the calculator on every question – no question requires one.

» Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.

» Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.

» Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.
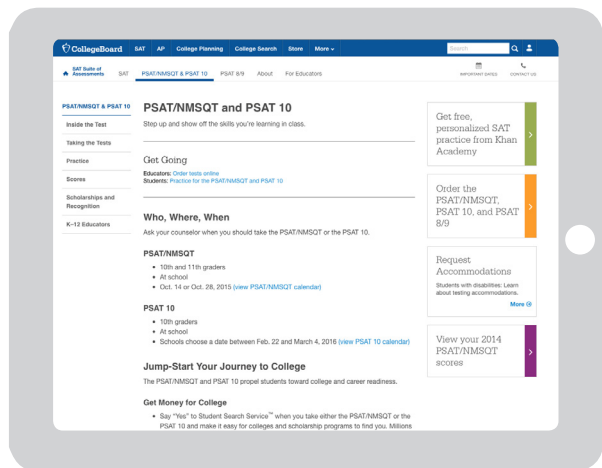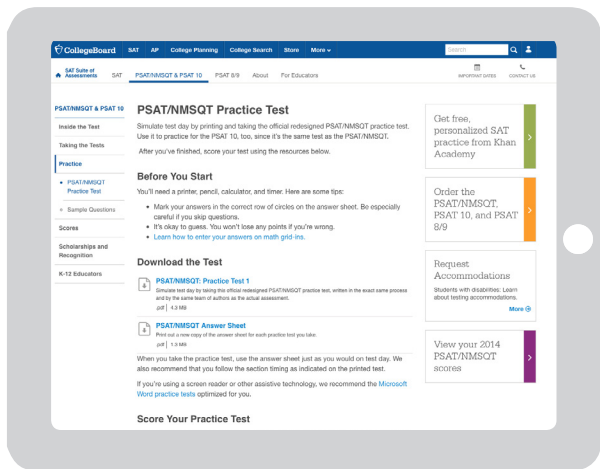
Resources

For personalized resources aligned to the SAT® Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT®), please visit:

satpractice.org

For general information about the PSAT/NMSQT, please visit:

collegeboard.org/psat

Take the practice test in the *PSAT/NMSQT® Student Guide*, available through your counselor or at:

collegeboard.org/psatpractice

To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit:

nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php

Take the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT®

How to Sign Up: _____

Test Day/Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Make sure you bring:

» Two No. 2 pencils

» Calculator (optional)

CollegeBoard

PSAT/NMSQT®

Good Luck!