

PSAT / NMSQT

→ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014 ←

WHAT IS THE PSAT?

The PSAT is the **Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test**. The PSAT:

- Measures the reading, math and writing skills needed for college (and for success in most jobs and careers in today's world). After the test, a score report will tell students how their skills measure up. Students can use it to find their "skill gaps" and then make plans to fill those gaps before college begins.
- Gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students who will apply to college.
- Is the first step, for juniors, in entering the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for scholarships and recognition.
- Is a chance for sophomores and juniors to practice test taking and get a feel for college admissions testing.
- If you take the test as a sophomore, recognize that the PSAT is a junior level test, so don't get discouraged if your score is low. Your score will usually increase as your years of study increase.

SIX GOOD REASONS TO TAKE THE PSAT

1. **TO OPEN THE DOOR TO COLLEGE.** The PSAT may be a student's first official step on the road to college. It can prompt some to consider college as an option and others (who already know

they're going) to jump-start their search.

2. **TO PRACTICE FOR THE SAT.** On average, those who take the PSAT earn higher scores on the SAT than those who don't. One reason: The tests have the same formats, directions, sample questions, and question types.
3. **TO EARN SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACADEMIC RECOGNITION.** By taking the test, juniors may be eligible to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship competitions, as well as programs that give special recognition to high-achieving Hispanic and African-American students.
4. **TO BEGIN THE COLLEGE SEARCH.** The Student Search Service gives PSAT test takers the option to voluntarily place their names in a pool of college-bound students interested in receiving admission and financial aid information from certified colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies.
5. **TO SEE HOW ONE'S ACADEMIC SKILLS COMPARE WITH THOSE OF OTHER COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS.** PSAT test results will give most students their first chance to see how their skills compare with those of others planning to go to college.
6. **TO HELP DIRECT A LEARNING PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL.** Test results in the PSAT Score Report give students feedback on their important college-related verbal, math, and writing skills. Students can use this information to fine-tune learning plans, including appropriate course selections that will get them ready for college-level work.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE PSAT / NMSQT

To sign up for the PSAT you simply pay the Highland treasurer \$20.00 (subject to change) in advance of the test. **DUE DATE FOR MAKING PAYMENT IS USUALLY A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE TEST DATE.**

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE PSAT

- Go the website www.collegeboard.com. Click on the PSAT test. It may include some helpful pointers to help students be successful in taking the test.
- There are quite a few published books available in the Highland library, public libraries, and book stores that offer advice in taking the PSAT. They often include sample tests.
- Get plenty of rest the night before and plenty of food. Also eat breakfast. Take with you a few snacks and water to keep your energy level up during testing.
- The test usually lasts about 4 hours.
- Take with you at least two pencils, calculator, and identification.
- Don't forget your glasses if you wear them.

