PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Ohio ELA: Academic Content Standards 2001 Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Author's Craft Understand how authors use tone, style and writing devices such as metaphor or symbolism.	Grade Ten	Conceptual Understanding 3. Infer the literal and figurative meaning of words and phrases and discuss the function of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, idioms and puns.	1.3
	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Ten	1. Identify and understand organizational patterns (e.g., cause-effect, problem-solution) and techniques, including repetition of ideas, syntax and word choice, that authors use to accomplish their purpose and reach their intended audience.	3.1
	Grade Ten	5. Analyze an author's implicit and explicit argument, perspective or viewpoint in text.	3.5
	Grade Ten	8. Analyze the author's use of point of view, mood and tone.	4.8
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Eleven	2. Analyze and critique organizational patterns and techniques including repetition of ideas, appeals to authority, reason and emotion, syntax and word choice that authors use to accomplish their purpose and reach their intended audience.	3.2
Determining the Meaning of Words Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.	Grade Ten	Contextual Understanding 1. Define unknown words through context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect.	1.1
	Grade Ten	Conceptual Understanding 3. Infer the literal and figurative meaning of words and phrases and discuss the function of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, idioms and puns.	1.3
	Grade Ten	Structural Understanding 5. Use knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes and suffixes to understand complex words and new subject-area vocabulary (e.g., unknown words in science, mathematics and social studies).	1.5

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PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Ohio ELA: Academic Content Standards 2001 Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Determining the Meaning of Words Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Eleven	Contextual Understanding 1. Recognize and identify how authors clarify meanings of words through context and use definition, restatement, example, comparison, contrast and cause and effect to advance word study.	1.1
	Grade Eleven	Structural Understanding 4. Use knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes and suffixes to understand complex words and new subject-area vocabulary (e.g., unknown words in science, mathematics and social studies).	1.4
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare Understand correct use of adjectives and adverbs, comparative structures (such as *neither* and *nor*) and phrases used to modify or compare.	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15
	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15
Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 11. Reread and analyze clarity of writing, consistency of point of view and effectiveness of organizational structure.	5.11

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PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Ohio ELA: Academic Content Standards 2001 Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 12. Add and delete information and details to better elaborate on stated central idea and more effectively accomplish purpose.	5.12
	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 13. Rearrange words, sentences and paragraphs and add transitional words and phrases to clarify meaning and maintain consistent style, tone and voice.	5.13
	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 11. Reread and analyze clarity of writing, consistency of point of view and effectiveness of organizational structure.	5.11
	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 12. Add and delete examples and details to better elaborate on a stated central idea, to develop more precise analysis or persuasive argument or to enhance plot, setting and character in narrative texts.	5.12
	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 13. Rearrange words, sentences and paragraphs, and add transitional words and phrases to clarify meaning and achieve specific aesthetic and rhetorical purposes.	5.13
Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence Use well-formed sentence structures (e.g., parallelism, connectives and relative clauses) to indicate relationships between and among sentence elements.	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15
.	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15

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PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Ohio ELA: Academic Content Standards 2001 Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words Understand relationships between and among words, including subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and verb form and tense.	Grade Ten	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15
	Grade Eleven	Drafting, Revising and Editing 15. Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization), identify and correct fragments and run-ons and eliminate inappropriate slang or informal language.	5.15
Organization and Ideas Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 1. Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.	2.1
	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Ten	1. Identify and understand organizational patterns (e.g., cause-effect, problem-solution) and techniques, including repetition of ideas, syntax and word choice, that authors use to accomplish their purpose and reach their intended audience.	3.1
	Grade Ten	5. Analyze an author's implicit and explicit argument, perspective or viewpoint in text.	3.5
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 1. Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.	2.1
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Eleven	2. Analyze and critique organizational patterns and techniques including repetition of ideas, appeals to authority, reason and emotion, syntax and word choice that authors use to accomplish their purpose and reach their intended audience.	3.2

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PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Ohio ELA: Academic Content Standards 2001 Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Reasoning and Inferencing Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 1. Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.	2.1
.	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 1. Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.	2.1
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
Understanding Literary Elements Understand literary elements such as plot, setting and characterization.	Grade Ten	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2
	Grade Ten	1. Compare and contrast an author's use of direct and indirect characterization, and ways in which characters reveal traits about themselves, including dialect, dramatic monologues and soliloquies.	4.1
	Grade Ten	2. Analyze the features of setting and their importance in a literary text.	4.2
	Grade Ten	3. Distinguish how conflicts, parallel plots and subplots affect the pacing of action in literary text.	4.3
	Grade Eleven	Comprehension Strategies 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.	2.2

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PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™ Alignment to State Standards
Executive Summary, July 2010

Purpose

PSAT/NMSQT *Skills Insight*™ is a free online tool designed to help students and educators gain a better understanding of how PSAT/NMSQT® scores relate to specific academic skills. It provides a description of the academic skills that are typical of students scoring at each score band, suggestions for improvement, and practice test questions. Learn more by visiting www.collegeboard.com/psatskills.

The information provided by PSAT/NMSQT *Skills Insight* is organized by skill category. There are five skill categories for the critical reading section, nine for the mathematics section (4 content skill categories; 5 process skill categories), and 5 for the writing skills section. This report shows the alignment between state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and the content and skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT.

Using Alignment Results with PSAT/NMSQT Reports

Schools and districts that administer the PSAT/NMSQT have access to the *Summary of Answers and Skills* (SOAS) report[1]. SOAS reports summarize performance on test sections, skill categories, and individual test questions, and compare local results to the state or nation. Using SOAS and the alignment information provided in this report, schools and districts can develop remediation strategies to help students improve their college readiness skills, future SAT scores, and performance on state assessments.

Mathematics: Alignment Approach and Findings

- There are nine Skills Categories in Mathematics, representing both content and process skills: *Number and Operations*; *Algebra and Functions*; *Geometry and Measurement*; *Data, Statistics and Probability; Problem Solving*; *Representation*; *Reasoning*; *Connections* and *Communication*.
- Only standards for grades 9-12 were considered for these alignments. Within grades 9-12, the areas with the greatest concentration of alignments are the Number and Operations, Algebra and Geometry strands of the state standards. In most cases, Precalculus and Trigonometry were excluded from the alignment study.
- The organization and hierarchy of standards varies on a state-by-state basis. During the alignment process, the College Board aligned the PSAT/NMSQT skills to the most specific level of the state's standards.
- States often integrate process and content standards. In such cases, the state standard received an alignment to both a process skill category and a content skill category.
- Generally, there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories in Mathematics and state standards. Coverage of the Skills Categories across a state standards document is dependent upon the specific state standards and on the degree of specificity of language employed within the standards.
- The PSAT/NMSQT is administered to students in grades 10 and 11; consequently, the strongest areas of alignment are in the content categories of *Number and Operations*, *Algebra and Functions* and *Geometry and Measurement* and in the process categories of *Problem Solving*, *Reasoning* and *Representations*. Considering the design and purpose of the PSAT/NMSQT, extensive alignments in upper levels of high school mathematics standards, including Trigonometry, are not intended or expected.

[1] Using the access code printed on the PSAT/NMSQT *Roster of Student Scores and Plans*, SOAS reports can be downloaded from www.collegeboard.com/reports beginning in the first week of January.

- The College Board content specialists who conducted the alignments have a deep understanding of the PSAT/NMSQT test specifications. Therefore, although multiple Skills Categories might link to a particular standard, these alignments display only the strongest and most appropriate matches.

English Language Arts: Alignment Approach and Findings

- Reading and Writing each have five PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories. In Reading, the categories are *Determining the Meaning of Words*, *Author's Craft*, *Reasoning and Inferencing*, *Organization and Ideas* and *Understanding Literary Elements*. In Writing, the categories are *Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words*, *Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare*, *Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence*; *Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences* and *Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs*.

- The PSAT/NMSQT is administered to students in grades 10 and 11, and the College Board targeted the English Language Arts alignments at these specific grade levels. In states where the standards are organized by grade band (grades 9-10, 11-12) or by one high school band (grades 9-12), the College Board aligned to all high school grade levels.
- Given the purpose and design of the PSAT/NMSQT, the English Language Arts alignment is focused on the areas of reading and writing and does not include state standards in speaking, listening, or media literacy. Additionally, these alignments excluded genre-specific state standards (such as those related to American, British, or World literature), although the essential PSAT/NMSQT skills in Reading can be used to support instruction in literature.
- The organization and hierarchy of standards varies on a state-by-state basis. During the alignment process, the College Board aligned the PSAT/NMSQT skills to the most specific level of the state's standards. Coverage of the Skills Categories across a state standards document is dependent upon the specific state standards and on the degree of specificity of language employed within the standards.

- In Writing, generally there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories and state standards that focus on grammar, usage, language conventions, and the role of editing and revising in writing.
- In Reading, there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories and state standards in the essential areas of vocabulary development (determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or of words with multiple meanings by understanding context and by analyzing roots, prefixes, and suffixes) and reading comprehension (determine the main idea and supporting details; understand the organization of passages; analyze the various elements of an author's craft, including purpose, perspective, word choice, and use of rhetorical and literary devices and understand literary elements such as plot, characterization, and setting).

Summary

In summary, the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories correspond well to state standards. Educators can use these alignments to connect the PSAT/NMSQT to their local curricula and state standards to monitor student learning and to build a coherent instructional plan for their students.