

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Washington DC ELA: Learning Standards 2005		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Author's Craft Understand how authors use tone, style and writing devices such as metaphor or symbolism.	Grade 10	10.IT-A.10. Argument and Persuasive Text: Describe how rhetorical techniques (e.g., repetition, sentence variety, understatement, overstatement, irony, sarcasm) contribute to the effects of persuasive text, given the audience, purpose, and occasion.	10.IT-A.10
	Grade 10	10.IT-E.2. Expository Text: Explain the author's stated or implied purpose(s) for writing expository text.	10.IT-E.2
	Grade 10	10.LT-F.4. Fiction: Analyze such elements in fiction as foreshadowing, flashbacks, suspense, and irony.	10.LT-F.4
	Grade 10	10.LT-LNF.6. Literary Nonfiction: Analyze the ways in which a narrator's point of view and language affect interpretation (e.g., Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man).	10.LT-LNF.6
	Grade 10	10.LT-S.11. Style and Language: Evaluate how an author's choice of words advances the theme or purpose of a work.	10.LT-S.11
	Grade 11	11.IT-A.11. Argument and Persuasive Text: Evaluate the arguments an author uses in a speech or op-ed to refute opposing or counterarguments and address reader or listener concerns.	11.IT-A.11
	Grade 11	11.LT-F.5. Fiction: Analyze, evaluate, and apply knowledge of how authors use techniques and elements (mood, characterization, point of view) in fiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes to engage the audience.	11.LT-F.5
	Grade 11	11.LT-S.10. Style and Language: Interpret figurative language, including imagery, personification, figures of speech, hyperbole, symbolism, allusion, and allegory, with emphasis on how the writer uses language to evoke readers' emotions.	11.LT-S.10
Determining the Meaning of Words Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.	Grade 10	10.LD-V.8. Vocabulary and Concept Development: Identify and use idioms, cognates, and the literal and figurative meanings of words in speaking and writing.	10.LD-V.8
	Grade 10	10.LD-V.9. Vocabulary and Concept Development: Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings of words, and interpret the connotative power of words.	10.LD-V.9
	Grade 11	11.LD-V.7. Vocabulary Development: Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, or other linguistic roots and affixes to draw inferences about the meaning of specialized vocabulary (e.g., antecedent, antebellum, circumference, millennium, millimeter, amphibian, heterogeneous, perimeter).	11.LD-V.7

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<p>Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare</p> <p>Understand correct use of adjectives and adverbs, comparative structures (such as <i>neither</i> and <i>nor</i>) and phrases used to modify or compare.</p>	Grade 10	10.EL.2. Identify and correctly use clauses (e.g., main and subordinate), phrases (e.g., gerunds, infinitives, and participles), mechanics (e.g., semicolons, colons, ellipses, and hyphens), usage (e.g., tense consistency), and sentence structure (e.g., parallel structure, properly placed modifiers).	10.EL.2
	Grade 11	11.EL.1. Demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and usage.	11.EL.1
<p>Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs</p> <p>Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.</p>	Grade 10	10.W-R.6. Revision: Revise writing to improve the logic and coherence of the organization and controlling perspective, the precision of word choice, and the tone in light of the audience, purpose, and formality of the context.	10.W-R.6
	Grade 11	11.EL.1. Demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and usage.	11.EL.1
<p>Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence</p> <p>Use well-formed sentence structures (e.g., parallelism, connectives and relative clauses) to indicate relationships between and among sentence elements.</p>	Grade 10	10.EL.2. Identify and correctly use clauses (e.g., main and subordinate), phrases (e.g., gerunds, infinitives, and participles), mechanics (e.g., semicolons, colons, ellipses, and hyphens), usage (e.g., tense consistency), and sentence structure (e.g., parallel structure, properly placed modifiers).	10.EL.2
	Grade 10	10.EL.3. Use ending punctuation, correct internal punctuation (commas, ellipses, colons, semicolons, parentheses), apostrophes for contractions and possessives, and correct punctuation for quotations (quotation marks, ellipses, brackets).	10.EL.3
	Grade 11	11.EL.1. Demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and usage.	11.EL.1
	Grade 11	11.EL.2. Produce legible work that shows accurate spelling and correct use of the conventions of punctuation and capitalization.	11.EL.2
<p>Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words</p> <p>Understand relationships between and among words, including subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and verb form and tense.</p>	Grade 10	10.EL.2. Identify and correctly use clauses (e.g., main and subordinate), phrases (e.g., gerunds, infinitives, and participles), mechanics (e.g., semicolons, colons, ellipses, and hyphens), usage (e.g., tense consistency), and sentence structure (e.g., parallel structure, properly placed modifiers).	10.EL.2
	Grade 11	11.EL.1. Demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and usage.	11.EL.1

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Organization and Ideas Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.	Grade 10	10.IT-A.9. Argument and Persuasive Text: Analyze the logic and use of evidence in an author's argument.	10.IT-A.9
	Grade 10	10.IT-E.3. Expository Text: Describe the controlling idea or specific purpose of passages and paragraphs and determine the essential elements that elaborate it.	10.IT-E.3
	Grade 10	10.IT-E.4. Expository Text: Analyze implied or subtly stated interrelationships between and among ideas and concepts within expository text, such as cause and effect, problem and solution, comparison and contrast, and proposition and support.	10.IT-E.4
	Grade 10	10.LT-S.11. Style and Language: Evaluate how an author's choice of words advances the theme or purpose of a work.	10.LT-S.11
	Grade 10	10.LT-T.3. Theme: Analyze the way in which the theme or meaning of a selection represents a view or comment on life, providing textual evidence for the identified theme.	10.LT-T.3
	Grade 11	11.IT-A.9. Argument and Persuasive Text: Identify an author's implicit and stated assumptions about an issue based on evidence in the selection.	11.IT-A.9
	Grade 11	11.IT-E.1. Expository Text: Locate and interpret minor or subtly stated details in passages and discern which ideas or arguments they support.	11.IT-E.1
Reasoning and Inferencing Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.	Grade 10	10.IT-E.1. Expository Text: Summarize the purpose and main ideas in passages; distinguish between a summary and a critique.	10.IT-E.1
	Grade 10	10.IT-E.4. Expository Text: Analyze implied or subtly stated interrelationships between and among ideas and concepts within expository text, such as cause and effect, problem and solution, comparison and contrast, and proposition and support.	10.IT-E.4
	Grade 10	10.IT-E.5. Expository Text: Make relevant inferences by synthesizing concepts and ideas from a single reading selection.	10.IT-E.5
	Grade 11	11.IT-A.9. Argument and Persuasive Text: Identify an author's implicit and stated assumptions about an issue based on evidence in the selection.	11.IT-A.9

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<p>Reasoning and Inferencing</p> <p>Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.</p>	Grade 11	11.IT-E.2. Expository Text: Make relevant inferences, comparisons, and generalizations that reveal a feeling for the subtleties in relationships between and among the ideas in passages	11.IT-E.2
<p>Understanding Literary Elements</p> <p>Understand literary elements such as plot, setting and characterization.</p>	Grade 10	10.LT-F.4. Fiction: Analyze such elements in fiction as foreshadowing, flashbacks, suspense, and irony.	10.LT-F.4
	Grade 10	10.LT-LNF.6. Literary Nonfiction: Analyze the ways in which a narrator's point of view and language affect interpretation (e.g., Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man).	10.LT-LNF.6
	Grade 11	11.LT-F.5. Fiction: Analyze, evaluate, and apply knowledge of how authors use techniques and elements (mood, characterization, point of view) in fiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes to engage the audience.	11.LT-F.5

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) report¹. 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.