

# 2011 PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report Tutorial for Middle School Students

You've already taken the first step toward college!

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT® in middle school, you have a head start on college. The test shows you firsthand the kinds of reading, mathematics and writing skills you'll need to succeed in college and high school. Use your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report to find out what you need to learn. Then choose the courses that will put you on the road to college.

If the test seemed hard — it should. It's aimed at students in the 11th grade.

Were there lots of words you didn't know? Could you solve some of the math problems but not many others? Relax! And don't focus on your scores. The PSAT/NMSQT is not testing what you know now, but rather what you will need to know later.

The longer you're in school and the harder you work, the more your scores will improve.

### How good are your skills?

The information on your score report will help you identify the skills you already have and those you need to develop. First take a close look at the "Review Your Answers" section. Find the questions you got wrong. Then look at your test book.

- Did the questions cover material you haven't learned yet?
- Did you get the easy questions right and leave the harder ones blank? (Remember, the "easy" questions are easy for 11th-graders.)
- Did you guess when you didn't know the answer?

## How Did I Do?

Are you in middle school (grades 6–8)? Yes? Then relax. The PSAT/NMSQT shows skills you'll need before entering college. It does not expect someone your age to perform as well as high schoolers who take the test.

Now look at the "Improve Your Skills" section. Based on your answers to the test questions, this section shows you skills that you need to improve. Read and follow the suggestions for tips on how to strengthen the skills you'll need for high school and college.

The best way to review your test results is to go online at [www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart) and use your interactive score report. When you choose a question to review, the score report will display the question, plus a thorough answer explanation so you can improve your skills.

### Learn how to guess.

When you don't know the answer to a multiple-choice question, do you make wild guesses or educated guesses? Guessing wildly means that you pick any answer when you don't know which is correct. Educated guessing means that you eliminate answer choices you know are wrong and guess from the remaining ones. With educated guessing, the more choices you can eliminate, the better your chances of picking the right answer. Try it.

### Prepare for the next time you take the PSAT/NMSQT.

Once you've zeroed in on your own strengths and weaknesses, the best way to get ready for the test is to work hard in your regular classes and read as much as possible. Before taking the test again, you will be given a copy of the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*. Review all the sample questions, study the test-taking tips and strategies, and take the practice test. Get a good night's sleep before the test, and make sure to eat breakfast.

### Use My College QuickStart™ to get ready for college.

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit that includes:

- My Online Score Report — an enhanced score report that lets you review each test question, your answers and the correct answers with answer explanations
- My SAT Study Plan™ — a customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- My Personality — a detailed personality test that helps

you learn about yourself and discover majors and careers that fit your strengths and interests

- My Major & Career Matches — extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now
- My College Matches — a starter list of colleges based on your home state and indicated choice of major

Visit [www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart) to get your My College QuickStart. Use the access code provided on your score report.

*Note:* If you are under 13, you will need parental permission to create your account. Follow the directions provided online.

### What happens now?

You should use the information provided on your score report to improve your academic skills and begin planning for high school, college and beyond. Here are some suggestions:

- As you prepare for high school, choose courses that will best prepare you for your education and career goals.
- Consider taking honors and/or AP® courses in high school.
- Retake the PSAT/NMSQT in high school (talk to your school counselor).
- Get involved in extracurricular and community activities because colleges look for how a student will contribute to the college community.
- Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) often to obtain more information to help you plan for college.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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