SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 WRITING AND LANGUAGE DOMAIN

Content Dimension	Description
Text Complexity	SAT: grades 9–10 to early postsecondary; PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10: grades 9–10 to college and career readiness; PSAT 8/9: grades 6–10
Expression of Ideas	These questions focus on revision of text for topic development, accuracy (consistency between text and graphic[s]), logic, cohesion, and rhetorically effective use of language.
Development	These questions focus on revising text in relation to rhetorical purpose. (Prior knowledge of the topic is not assessed, though consistency of the material within a passage may be.)
Proposition	The student will add, revise, or retain central ideas, main claims, counterclaims, topic sentences, and the like to structure text and convey arguments, information, and ideas clearly and effectively.
Support	The student will add, revise, or retain information and ideas (e.g., details, facts, statistics) intended to support claims or points in text.
Focus	The student will add, revise, retain, or delete information and ideas in text for the sake of relevance to topic and purpose.
Quantitative information	The student will relate information presented quantitatively in such forms as graphs, charts, and tables to information presented in text.
Organization	These questions focus on revision of text to improve the logic and cohesion of text at the sentence, paragraph, and whole-text levels.
Logical sequence	The student will revise text as needed to ensure that information and ideas are presented in the most logical order.
Introductions, conclusions, and transitions	The student will revise text as needed to improve the beginning or ending of a text or paragraph to ensure that transition words, phrases, or sentences are used effectively to connect information and ideas.
Effective language use	These questions focus on revision of text to improve the use of language to accomplish particular rhetorical purposes.
Precision	The student will revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choice.
Concision	The student will revise text as needed to improve the economy of word choice (i.e., to eliminate wordiness and redundancy).
Style and tone	The student will revise text as necessary to ensure consistency of style and tone within a text or to improve the match of style and tone to purpose.
Syntax	The student will use various sentence structures to accomplish needed rhetorical purposes.
Standard English Conventions	These questions focus on editing text to ensure conformity to the conventions of standard written English sentence structure, usage, and punctuation.
Sentence structure	These questions focus on editing text to correct problems in sentence formation and inappropriate shifts in construction within and between sentences.
Sentence formation	These questions focus on editing text to correct problems with forming grammatically complete and standard sentences.
Sentence boundaries	The student will recognize and correct grammatically incomplete sentences (e.g., rhetorically inappropriate fragments and run-ons).
Subordination and coordination	The student will recognize and correct problems in coordination and subordination in sentences.
Parallel structure	The student will recognize and correct problems in parallel structure in sentences.
Modifier placement	The student will recognize and correct problems in modifier placement (e.g., misplaced or dangling modifiers).

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Content Dimension	Description
Inappropriate shifts in construction	These questions focus on editing text to correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense, voice, and mood and pronoun person and number.
Verb tense, mood, and voice	The student will recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense, voice, and mood within and between sentences.
Pronoun person and number	The student will recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun person and number within and between sentences.
Conventions of Usage	These questions focus on editing text to ensure conformity to the conventions of standard written English usage.
Pronouns	These questions focus on the proper use of pronouns.
Pronoun clarity	The student will recognize and correct pronouns with unclear or ambiguous antecedents.
Possessive determiners	The student will recognize and correct cases in which possessive determiners (*its*, *your*, *their*), contractions (*it's*, *you're*, *they're*), and adverbs (*there*) are confused with each other.
Agreement	These questions focus on ensuring grammatical agreement.
Pronoun-antecedent agreement	The student will recognize and correct lack of agreement between pronoun and antecedent.
Subject-verb agreement	The student will recognize and correct lack of agreement between subject and verb.
Noun agreement	The student will recognize and correct lack of agreement between nouns.
Frequently confused words	The student will recognize and correct instances in which a word or phrase is confused with another (e.g., *accept/except*, *allusion/illusion*).
Logical comparison	The student will recognize and correct cases in which unlike terms are compared.
Conventional expression	The student will recognize and correct cases in which a given expression is inconsistent with standard written English.
Conventions of Punctuation	These questions focus on editing text to ensure conformity to the conventions of standard written English punctuation.
End-of-sentence punctuation	The student will recognize and correct inappropriate uses of ending punctuation in cases in which the context makes the intent clear.
Within-sentence punctuation	The student will correctly use and recognize and correct inappropriate uses of colons, semicolons, and dashes to indicate sharp breaks in thought within sentences.
Possessive nouns and pronouns	The student will recognize and correct inappropriate uses of possessive nouns and pronouns as well as differentiate between possessive and plural forms.
Items in a series	The student will correctly use and recognize and correct inappropriate uses of punctuation (commas and sometimes semicolons) to separate items in a series.
Nonrestrictive and parenthetical elements	The student will correctly use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive and parenthetical sentence elements as well as recognize and correct cases in which restrictive or essential sentence elements are inappropriately set off with punctuation.
Unnecessary punctuation	The student will recognize and correct cases in which unnecessary punctuation appears in a sentence.