



The PSAT™ 8/9

What the PSAT 8/9 Measures

The PSAT 8/9 measures the skills and knowledge (at the level of content and skill appropriate for eighth and ninth grades) that research shows are the most important for success in college and career. The Reading Test measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. The Writing and Language Test measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation. The Math Test covers a range of math practices, with an emphasis on problem solving, modeling, using tools strategically, and using algebraic structure.

How the PSAT 8/9 Is Scored

Students receive a total score that is the sum of their scores on the two sections (the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section).

To calculate section scores, we first compute the student's raw score—the number of questions correctly answered—for each section. Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers or for unanswered questions.

Next, we convert the raw Reading Test score and the raw Writing and Language Test score to scaled test scores of 6–36. Then, we combine these to produce a scaled Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score of 120–720. We also combine the raw Math Test scores and convert them to a scaled Math section score of 120–720. This conversion process adjusts for slight differences in difficulty among versions of the test and provides a score that is consistent across different versions. The scaled scores are the scores provided on score reports.

Total Scores

The total score is the sum of the two section scores; its range is 240–1440.

Section Scores

Your students receive scores in the range of 120–720 for each of the sections. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score combines the scores for the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test. The Math section score is derived from the Math Test score, including the calculator and no-calculator portions.

Test Scores

The range for the following test scores is 6–36:

- Reading
- Writing and Language
- Math

Cross-Test Scores

The range for cross-test scores is also 6–36. These scores represent student performance on select questions across the three tests and show a student's strengths in the following domains:

- Analysis in History/Social Studies
- Analysis in Science

Subscores

Subscores in the range of 1–15 offer feedback on student performance in the following skill areas:

- Command of Evidence
- Words in Context
- Expression of Ideas
- Standard English Conventions
- Heart of Algebra
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis