

Get the BFF Tutoring Test-Taking Advantage!

PSAT Scores are in... So now what?



Your BFF
for the SSAT,
SAT & ACT

The scores from your Preliminary SAT, (the PSAT), which you likely took during the school year back in October, were released in December.

If you like what you see, CONGRATS! You're off to a good start. But, if your numbers don't measure up to your expectations, relax—this is just a starting point for your college planning (especially if you are only a sophomore!)

To Download PSAT report:

- Login to your [SAT account](#).
- Click on the "PSAT" menu
- Click on "Scores" from menu
- Click on the Button : Get your PSAT scores
- Click on the Button : "View Details"
- Click "Download report" Button

How to use the PSAT scores?

SOPHOMORES: your scores can provide insight into whether you are a serious contender for a [National Merit Scholarship](#), a chance to earn prestige and cash!

JUNIORS: your results can help you decide if the SAT is a good fit for you. Not sure? Then, take a mock ACT also. But do so quickly. An ideal time to prepare for standardized tests is in the Spring of Junior year, so you will be ready for the late-Spring administrations.

Where Does Test Prep Fit?

You likely did not study for the PSAT. Research proves that test preparation will make a significant difference in your subsequent SAT results if your prep involves a serious commitment of time and effort. You have got to *want* to improve and dedicate yourself to identifying those gaps and practicing. Prep possibilities include personal one-to-one tutoring, classroom instruction, self prep (books, online) and online course instruction.

Next Step for Sophomores:

Contact **BFF Tutoring** to determine if your scores place you 'in the running' to earn the [National Merit Scholarship](#). If so, carve out a few weeks this summer to prep for the Fall PSAT during your Junior year.

Next Steps both Juniors and Sophomores:

1. In the coming months, try sample problems from each the SAT and the ACT. Sit for a mock test of the ACT and compare with your PSAT results (or better yet, sit for a mock of the SAT also!) Once you decide which test is better aligned with your strengths, focus on preparing for that test. Just about every college accepts either the ACT and SAT results.
2. Develop a testing timeline. Plan your prep during less hectic months for you. Also, plan for two or three sittings of the test and hold off on sending scores until after you have completed all testing.

Let's Get Started ! Contact **BFF Tutoring** and let us walk you through your PSAT score report and start a discussion on your specific needs.

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Differences between the PSAT and the SAT

Content: about the same

The PSAT and SAT content and structure are fairly similar.

- Each test contains a reading and writing/ language section as well as a math section that is broken down into a calculator and non-calculator section.
- While the content is the same, the PSAT is generally a little easier.
- Each test provides four answer choices and does not penalize students for wrong answers or guessing.
 - **Language skills:** Both the PSAT and SAT heavily emphasize words in context instead of obscure vocabulary and test skills and knowledge students need for college readiness.
 - **Reading skills:** Section also includes charts/ tables which deliver information through different channels.
 - **The Math sections** reward mastery and fluency in algebra as well as arithmetic, geometry and trigonometry. Both tests will contain grid-in questions as well as multiple-choice questions as well as calculator and non-calculator sections
- **Big difference is the essay. No essay on PSAT; optional on SAT.**

Scores: slightly different

- The PSAT is scored on a scale of 320-1520. The SAT is scored on a scale of 400-1600.
- **Your PSAT score is meant to directly predict your SAT score.** If you get a 1200 on the PSAT, expect to get roughly the same if you took the SAT without further preparation.
- **The PSAT is a little less challenging,** so a perfect score on the PSAT falls a little short of a perfect score on the SAT.

Test Days: different

The SAT takes place on a Saturday. In GA, the PSAT is usually on a Wednesday in mid-October

Test Duration: different

The amount of time and the number of questions for each section differ. **The SAT is slightly longer and has more questions,** but the amount of time per question is about the same.

Additional specifics about sub-score comparisons:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/alignment/math/psat-nmsqt-sat>

Test Duration	PSAT	SAT
Total time	2 hour 45	3 hours + 50 min essay
Reading	60 min 47 questions	65 min 52 questions
Writing	35 min 44 questions	35 min 44 questions
Math no calculator	20 min:17 questions	25 min:20 questions
Math calculator	45 min: 31 questions	55 min: 38 questions
Essay	None	Optional (50 minutes)