

Calculating Your Score – PSAT 10

Because there's no penalty for guessing, your raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly. Raw scores are converted to scores on a scale of 160 to 760 using a process called *equating*. Equating adjusts for slight differences in difficulty between various versions of the test (such as versions taken on different days).

The College Board uses equating to make sure there's no advantage in taking the test on a particular day. A score of 400, for instance, on one day's test means the same thing as a 400 on a test taken on a different day—even though the questions are different.

Making Sense of the Numbers

Score ranges, mean (average) scores, benchmarks, and percentiles can be used to see if you're on track for college readiness.

For the next few years, norm groups for the score ranges, mean scores, and percentiles described below will be derived from research data, not the prior year's test-taking populations. A norm group, also called a reference population, is the group whose data your results are compared to.

Score Ranges

Tests can't measure exactly what you know, and many factors can affect your score. After all, no two days are the same, and if you were to take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 three times in a week or once a week for a month, your scores would vary.

That's why it's helpful to think of each score as a range that extends from a few points below to a few points above the score earned. Score ranges show how much your score might change with repeated testing, assuming that your skill level remains the same.

Mean (Average) Scores

Your score report will show you the mean, or average, scores earned by typical U.S. test-takers per grade. Unless your score is much lower than average, you're probably developing the kinds of reading, writing and language, and math skills you'll need in college.

College Readiness Benchmarks

You'll see a benchmark for each section of the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10. Benchmarks are the scores that represent college readiness. In other words, if you score at or above the benchmark, you're on track to be ready for college when you graduate high school.

If you score below the benchmark, you still have time to work on your skills. Use the detailed feedback in your online score report to see which skills need the most improvement.

Percentile Ranks

A percentile rank is a number between 1 and 99 that shows how you scored compared to other students. It represents the percentage of students whose scores fall at or below your score.

For example, a 10th-grade student in the 57th percentile scored higher than or equal to 57 percent of 10th-graders. You'll see two percentiles:

The Nationally Representative Sample percentile compares your score to the scores of typical U.S. students in a particular grade.

The User Percentile—National compares your score to the scores of typical U.S. College Board test-takers in a particular grade.

With more scores, the new PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 provide a clear, early picture of you and your readiness for college. They help you and your teachers pinpoint areas for improvement. Learn about the tests' place in the vertical score scale that spans all tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments.

Sign in to get your scores.

PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 Score Ranges

PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Total score	Sum of the two section scores.	320–1520
Section scores (2)	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math.	160–760
Test scores (3)	Reading, Writing and Language, and Math.	8–38
Cross-test scores (2)	Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science. Based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests.	8–38
Subscores (7)	Reading and Writing and Language: Command of Evidence and Words in Context. Writing and Language: Expression of Ideas and Standard English Conventions. Math: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math.	1–15