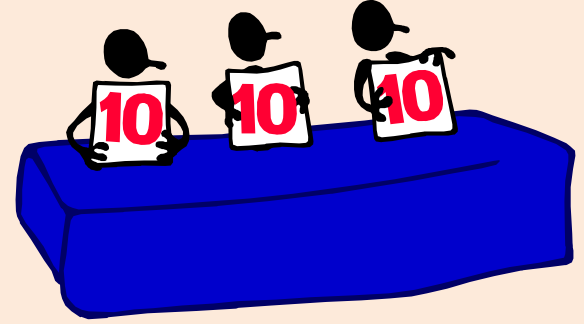


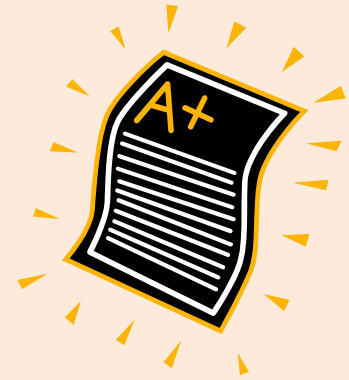


# Area 1: The Scores



- Each PSAT/NMSQT score—critical reading, math, and writing skills—is based on a scale of 20 to 80.
- The score **ranges show how much scores might vary** if students were to take the PSAT/NMSQT repeatedly without learning additional skills. In other words, the scores within this range are considered “equal” statistically.
- **Percentiles compare the student’s performance with those** of other students. Juniors are compared with all juniors who took the test; sophomores and younger students are compared to all sophomores who took the test.
- **SAT<sup>®</sup> Ranges estimate how a student might score on the SAT Reasoning Test<sup>™</sup>.** Keep in mind that additional learning and growth before taking the SAT will affect the scores

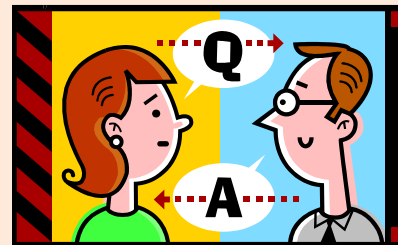
# Scores



## Raw Score

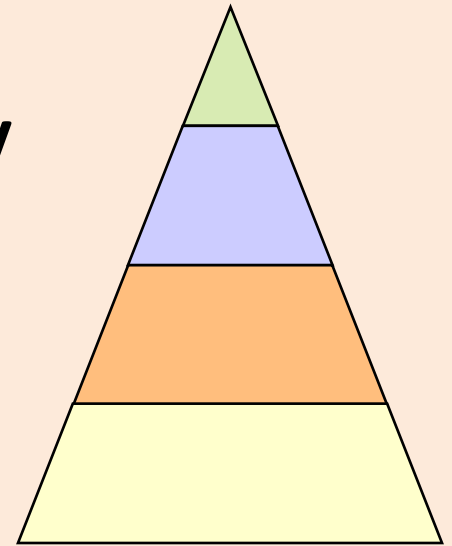
- Determined by number of correct answers minus  $\frac{1}{3}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  the number of incorrect answers
- Answers left blank are not included
- Ways to improve: more answers correct or fewer answers wrong
- Scores may be seen as SAT scores by adding a 0.  $56 = 560$ .... An average SAT score is 1560.

# Area 2: Answers Section



- **This section shows** the correct answer, the student's response, and the difficulty level of the question. (Math questions also indicate the general math area covered in the question.)
- Students should have received their test book along with their Score Report.
- At the bottom of this section is an overview showing the number of correct answers for each level of difficulty and the number of points subtracted for wrong answers.
- Encourage your child to go over questions she or he got wrong. Did she or he really not know the answer? Make a careless error? Guess instead of leaving the question blank?

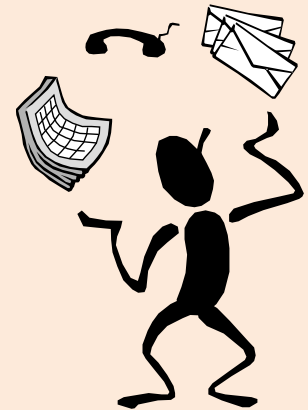
# Level of Difficulty



- 1 – 3 easy questions
- 4 – 6 medium questions
- 7 – 10 difficult questions
- Read and follow personal results to improve scores
- In 2008, the average score for eleventh graders was about 47 in Critical Reading, 49 in Mathematics, and 46 in Writing Skills. The average score for tenth graders was about 42 in Critical Reading, 44 in Mathematics, and 41 in Writing Skills.

# Area 3: Improving Skills

- **Here are some specific** skills that need improvement. These were identified based upon the pattern of responses across test questions.
- For each student, we give personalized feedback for up to three critical reading and math skills and up to two writing skills.
- This does not necessarily mean that these are the only skills that need improvement. However, the skills listed here are the ones that can be **best improved** through additional attention and learning.
- Share this information with teachers, as these skills affect classroom performance and are important for success in college.



# Area 4: National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

- **NMSC cosponsors the PSAT/NMSQT, which** stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.
- High school students enter NMSC programs, usually as juniors, by taking the PSAT/NMSQT and meeting other published entry requirements. NMSC uses the Selection Index score—the sum of the critical reading, math, and writing skills scores—as an initial screen of students who enter its programs and to designate groups of students to be honored.
- If the Selection Index has an asterisk, see the NMSC section on the back of the Score Report. NMSC will notify principals of students whose Selection Index scores qualify them for recognition.



# Area 5: Educational Plans

- **Before the test, each student** provided information on her or his grade average and the college major she or he is considering.
- In this section, the College Board provides important information about the indicated major, including recommended high school courses that will help prepare for college-level work.



# Area 6: Extra Resources

- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>

# What happens next?

- Students should use the information provided on the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report to improve their academic skills and plan for their postsecondary goals.
- Select courses for upcoming semesters that will prepare for education and career goals.
- Take challenging courses: Consider honors and AP<sup>®</sup> courses.
- Tenth-graders and younger students should take the PSAT/NMSQT again in 11th grade to enter competitions conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Eleventh-graders should register for the SAT, and possibly SAT Subject Tests™, this spring. (Online at **[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)** or “**express register**” in My College QuickStart.)

# Sources

- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/parent-tutorial-for-understanding-psat-nmsqt-results-english.pdf>
- <http://www.mindspring.com/~mcguidance/psat.htm>