

# Prepare for the 2019-20 PSAT™ 8/9



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# What Is the PSAT 8/9?



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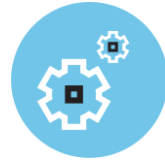
# Some Key Facts

- The PSAT 8/9 is offered to **8th- and 9th-grade students**, testing the same knowledge and skills as the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, and PSAT™ 10 in a way that makes sense for the student's grade level.
- The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline of college readiness to help educators and students figure out **what students need to work on most** so they are ready for college when graduating from high school.
- Scores for the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing educators and students to **measure progress**.
- Test length: 2 hours and 25 minutes.
- There's **no penalty for guessing** or blank responses, also known as "rights-only scoring."

# Benefits of the PSAT 8/9



The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of college and career readiness.



The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10—in a way that makes sense for each grade level.



The score reports will give students comprehensive, personalized feedback on test performance, allowing students to see which questions were answered incorrectly (with exceptions) and which academic skills they should work to improve.



Information on college majors and career exploration is offered by the College Board and Roadtrip Nation.

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# PSAT 8/9 2019-20 Test Dates

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The PSAT 8/9 is given in two testing periods:

**SEPT. 23, 2019 – MARCH 27, 2020**

**APRIL 14 – APRIL 30, 2020**

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# Skills Tested on the PSAT 8/9



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# Skills Tested



## Reading Test



## Writing and Language Test



## Math Test

- Each test assesses the academic skills that students developed over the years, primarily through coursework.
- These skills are considered essential for success in high school, college, and career.

# Reading Test



- 42 passage-based questions;  
55 minutes
- 4 single passages and  
1 pair of passages

## Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as graphs and tables.
- No mathematical computation is required.
- Topic-specific prior knowledge is never tested.
- The Reading Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

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# Reading Test



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## What to Expect

The Reading Test always includes:

- One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature
- One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the Great Global Conversation they inspired. The U.S. Constitution or a speech by Nelson Mandela, for example
- A selection about economics, psychology, sociology, or some other social science
- Two science passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics

# Writing and Language Test



- 40 passage-based questions; 30 minutes
- 4 passages

## Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as graphs and tables.
- No mathematical computation is required.
- Topic-specific prior knowledge is never tested.
- The Writing and Language Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

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# Writing and Language Test

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## What to Expect

The Writing and Language Test puts students in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask students to decide which, if any, of the alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.



# Math Test



- 2 test sections; 60 minutes
- 38 questions  
(31 multiple choice, 7 student-produced responses)

## Quick Facts

- Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses.
- The Math Test is divided into two portions:  
Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
- Some parts of the test will present a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

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# Math Test

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## What to Expect

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most for college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.



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# Math Section

## Math Test – Calculator



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## Students: Know Your Calculator

- A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
- Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.

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# Math Section

## Math Test – Calculator



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## Additional Calculator Tips for Students

- Don't try to use the calculator on every question—no question requires one.
- Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
- Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.

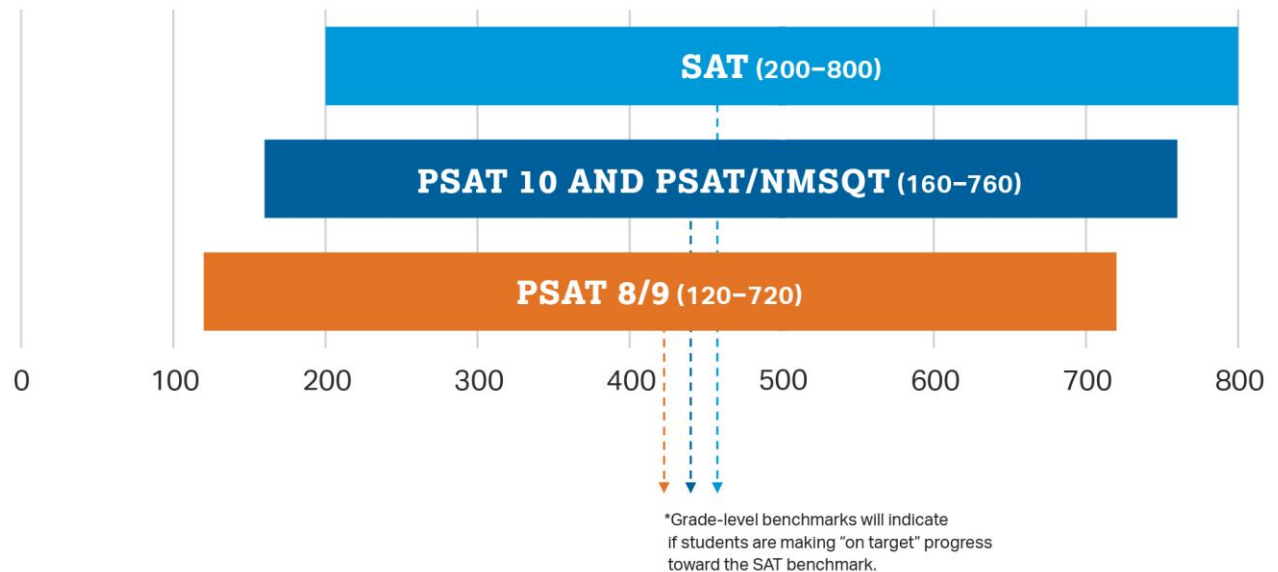
# How Does the PSAT 8/9 Connect to the PSAT 10, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT?

## Content and Domain Alignment

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills.

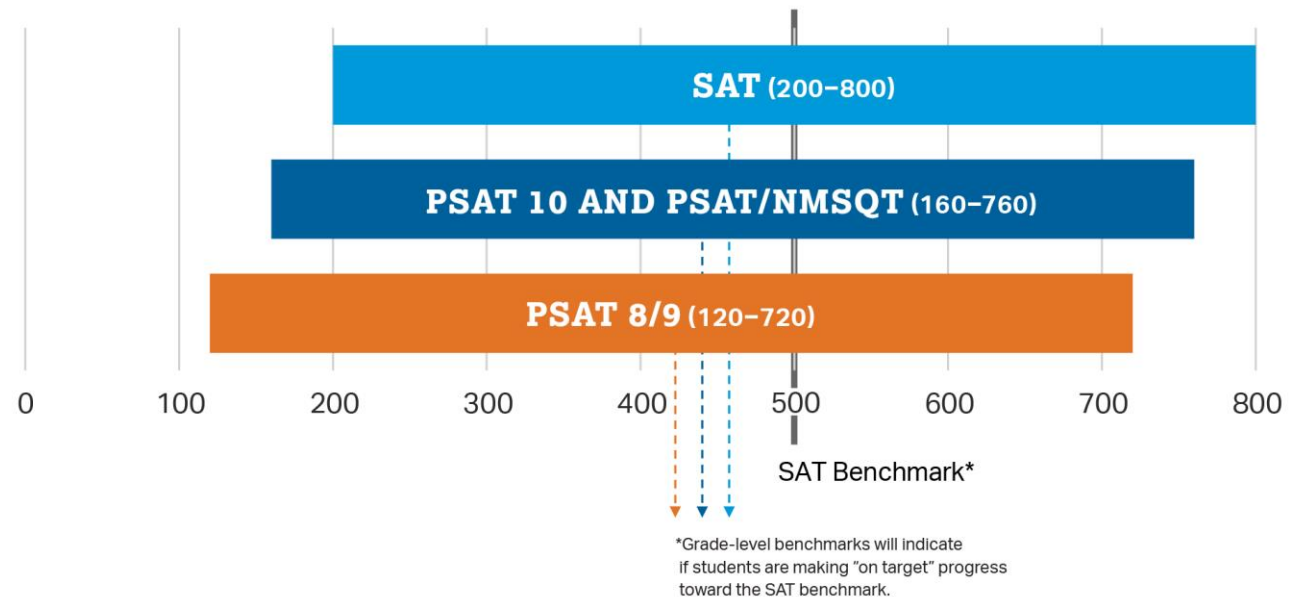
## Scoring

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.



# How Does the PSAT 8/9 Connect to the PSAT 10, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT?

The score students get on the PSAT 8/9 is the same score they would have gotten on the PSAT10, PSAT/NMSQT, or SAT if they'd taken it on the same day.



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# How to Prepare for the PSAT 8/9



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# Know How the PSAT 8/9 Is Scored

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## Rights-Only Scoring

- 1 point for each correct answer
- No points deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions

## Math Student-Produced Responses

- Enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals.
- If rounding a decimal, make sure to enter as many characters as are allowed.

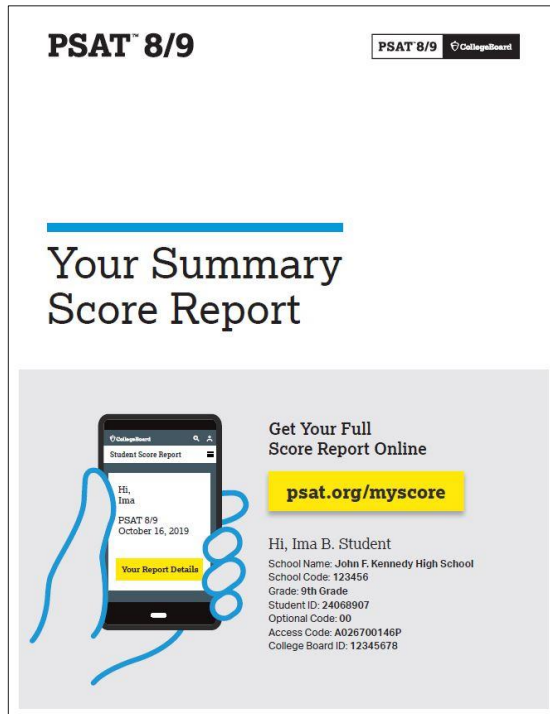
## Scale

- 120–720 for each test section
- 240–1440 for the total score

# Personalized Skills Information

## The PSAT 8/9 Score Report

- Contains information **to help students improve their academic skills.**
- **Lists skills** that students have the best chance of improving with additional work.



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## Preparation Starts in School

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### Read

Continuous reading improves vocabulary and develops essential skills.

### Take Challenging Courses

This will help students to develop and strengthen their critical thinking skills.

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# Take the 2019-20 PSAT 8/9

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How to Sign Up: \_\_\_\_\_

Test Day/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Make sure you bring:**

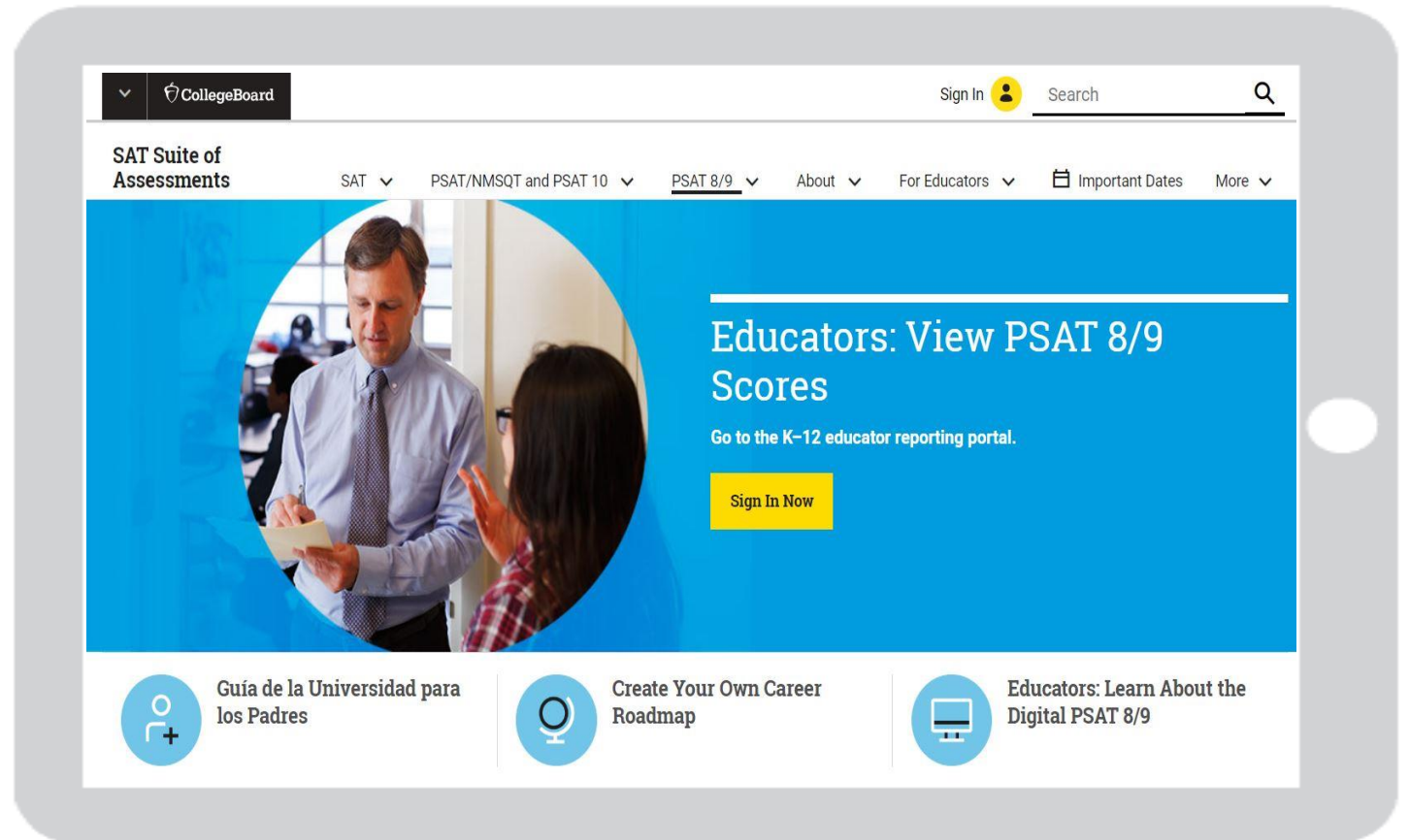
- Two No. 2 pencils
- Calculator (optional)

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# Resources



# Resources



For general information about the PSAT 8/9,  
please visit:

[psat.org/8-9](https://psat.org/8-9)

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# Good luck!