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# Using Your PSAT™ 8/9 Scores to Prepare for College

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# Instructions for Using This Lesson Plan

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The PSAT™ 8/9 supports students on their path to college readiness.

Like all of the assessments in the SAT® Suite of Assessments, the PSAT 8/9 offers scores and reports that provide insightful information about individual student performance on the assessment, including a predicted PSAT/NMSQT® score and their progress toward the college readiness benchmarks.

The purpose of this lesson is to support educators as they review PSAT/NMSQT scores and reports with students.

- The lesson can be used with your students in a **computer lab**, leading them through the **online reports** and resources available to them when they log in to their College Board account.
- The lesson also takes the students through their **paper score report** step by step, explaining each section of the report and the scores they receive.
- In addition, this lesson shares **college planning resources** with students to help them investigate colleges, majors, and their own interests on the path to college readiness.

# Instructions for Using This Lesson Plan *(cont.)*

- The lesson is divided into sections,
  - Section one:** the online reporting portal
  - Section two:** the paper score report
  - Section three:** additional college planning resources
- Some information in each of these sections is repeated to allow the flexibility to review only the online portion or only the paper score report.
- Use this table to tailor the lesson as needed.

Lesson includes:	Use slides:	Reduce notes for slides:	Approximate Time Required
<b>Both online reporting portal and paper score report</b>	1–27	19 (repeats notes for slide 12) 20 (repeats notes for slide 13) 22 (repeats notes for slide 12) 23 (repeats notes for slide 15)	90 minutes
<b>Online reporting portal only</b>	1–14, 21–27	None	60 minutes
<b>Paper score report only</b>	1–4, 15–27	None	45 minutes

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# Using Your PSAT™ 8/9 Scores to Prepare for College



# Get to Know the PSAT™ 8/9



- The PSAT 8/9 is highly relevant to your future success because it focuses on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education.

## It measures:

- What you learn in high school
- What you need to succeed in college
- The PSAT 8/9 measures reading, writing and language, and math skills developed over many years, both in and out of school.
- The PSAT 8/9 does not ask you to recall facts from literature, history, or science, or to complete math formulas, because it measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills.
- You don't have to discover secret tricks or cram the night before.
- There is no penalty for guessing on the PSAT 8/9.
- The assessment is 2 hours, 25 minutes.

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# Benefits of Taking the PSAT™ 8/9



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- Get a baseline of your college readiness.
  - Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT®.
  - Get free, personalized, and focused practice through Khan Academy®.
  - Start getting ready for college with college and career planning tools.
  - See which AP® courses for which you might be ready.

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# How Do I Access My PSAT™ 8/9 Scores and Reports?

1. Review your online score reports.
2. Review your paper score report.



# How Do I Access My Online PSAT™ 8/9 Scores and Reports?

Create a new College Board account or log in to an existing one at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org).

CollegeBoard SAT AP College Planning College Search Store More Search

## My Score Reports

### Sign In

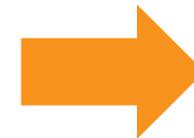
Username

Password

[Forgot username or password?](#)

Access your SAT Suite of Assessment scores with personalized feedback, practice, college planning and career exploration resources.

- See all your scores and if you are on track for college readiness
- Detailed explanations of skills required to be college ready
- Send your scores to Khan Academy for personalized practice recommendations
- Search for colleges that fit your needs
- Start on your score-based practice
- Take a personalized practice test
- Get feedback on your performance



## Create Your Student Account

This one account is for everything, including SAT, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, CLEP, and BigFuture activities, so provide complete and accurate information.

\* = Required

### General Student Information

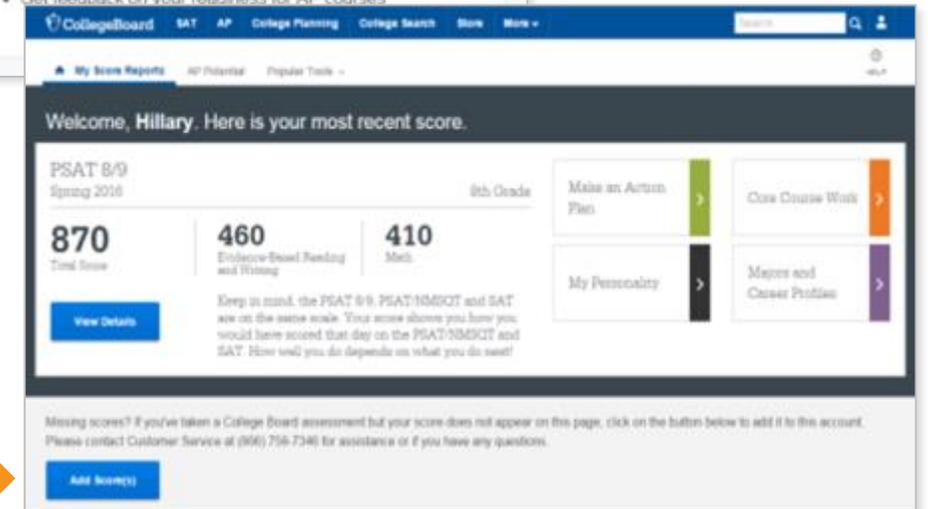
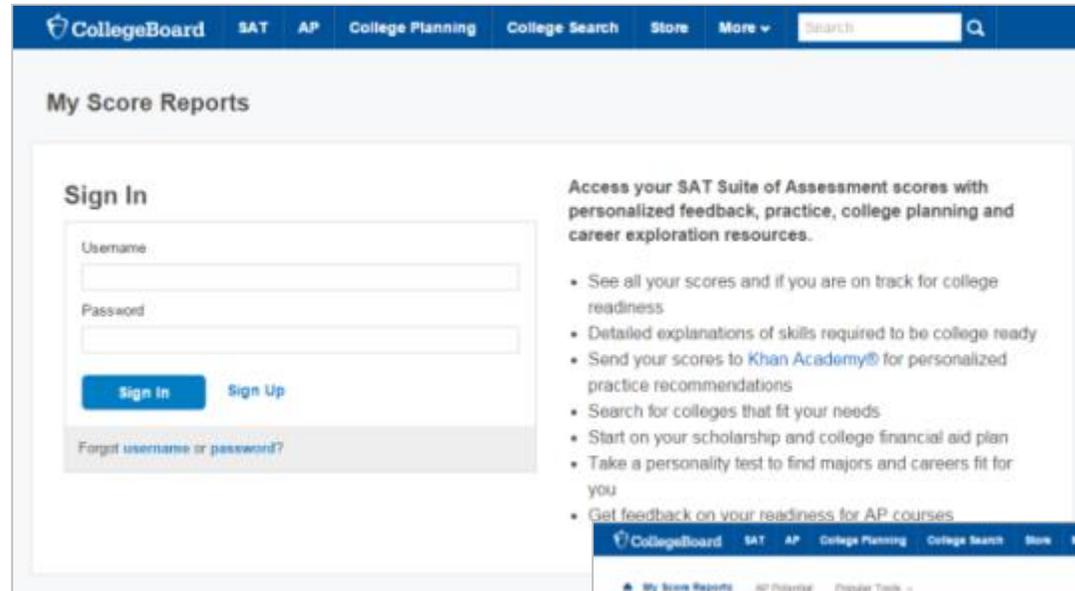
First (given) name: \*

Middle initial:

Last name (surname): \*

# How Do I Access My Online PSAT™ 8/9 Scores and Reports? *(cont.)*

1. Log in to your account.
2. Select PSAT 8/9 Scores.  
\*Or\*
3. Use “Add Scores” to locate scores.



# What Will I Learn About My Scores?

The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for CollegeBoard, SAT, AP, College Planning, College Search, Store, and More. A search bar and a user profile icon are also present. Below the navigation bar, there is a sub-navigation bar with 'My Score Reports' selected, along with 'AP Potential' and 'Popular Tools'. The main content area features a welcome message: 'Welcome, Hillary. Here is your most recent score.' Below this, the score details are displayed: 'PSAT 8/9 Spring 2016' for an '8th Grade' student. The total score is 870, with sub-scores of 460 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and 410 for Math. A 'View Details' button is provided for the total score. To the right of the score details are four interactive cards: 'Make an Action Plan', 'Core Course Work', 'My Personality', and 'Majors and Career Profiles'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section for 'Missing scores?' with a note that scores from other College Board assessments can be added to the account, and an 'Add Score(s)' button.

CollegeBoard SAT AP College Planning College Search Store More

My Score Reports AP Potential Popular Tools

Welcome, **Hillary**. Here is your most recent score.

PSAT 8/9  
Spring 2016 8th Grade

**870**  
Total Score

**460**  
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

**410**  
Math

View Details

Make an Action Plan

Core Course Work

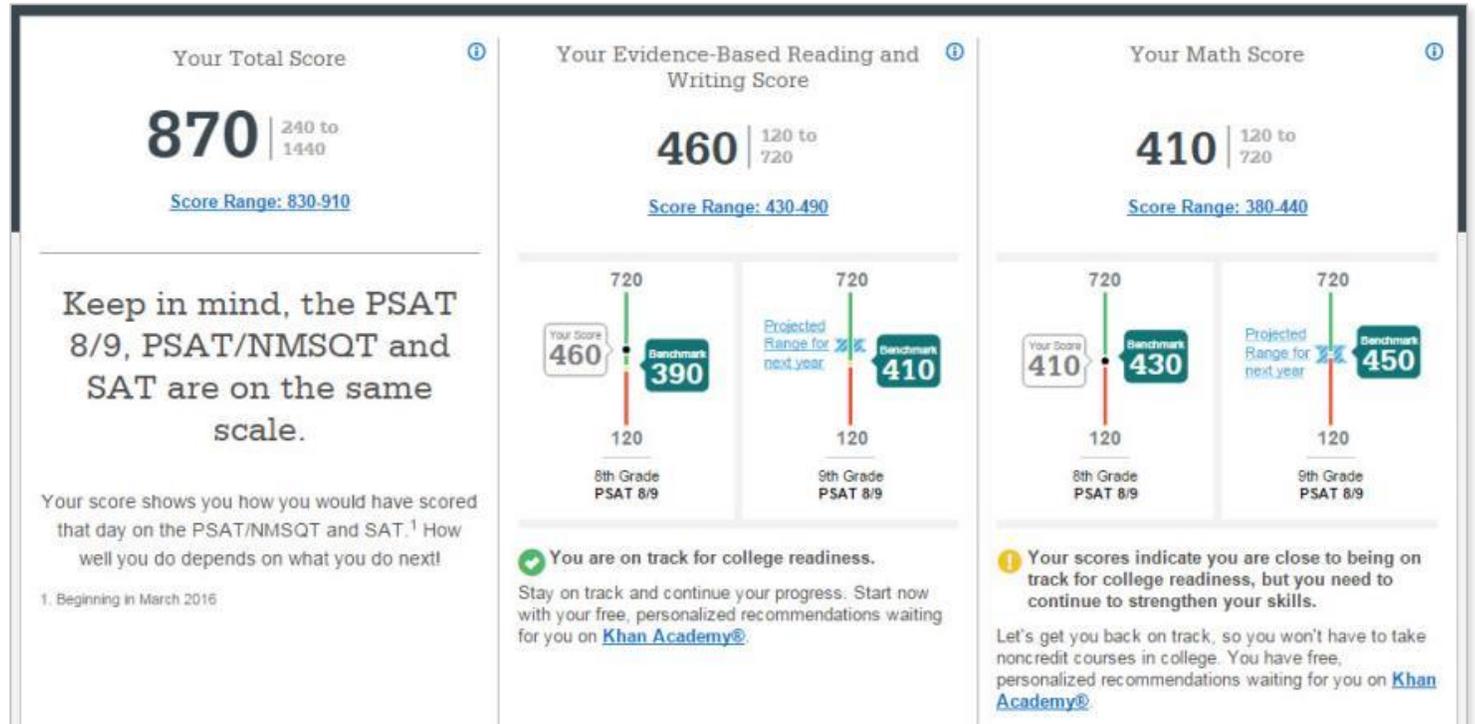
My Personality

Majors and Career Profiles

Missing scores? If you've taken a College Board assessment but your score does not appear on this page, click on the button below to add it to this account. Please contact Customer Service at (866) 756-7346 for assistance or if you have any questions.

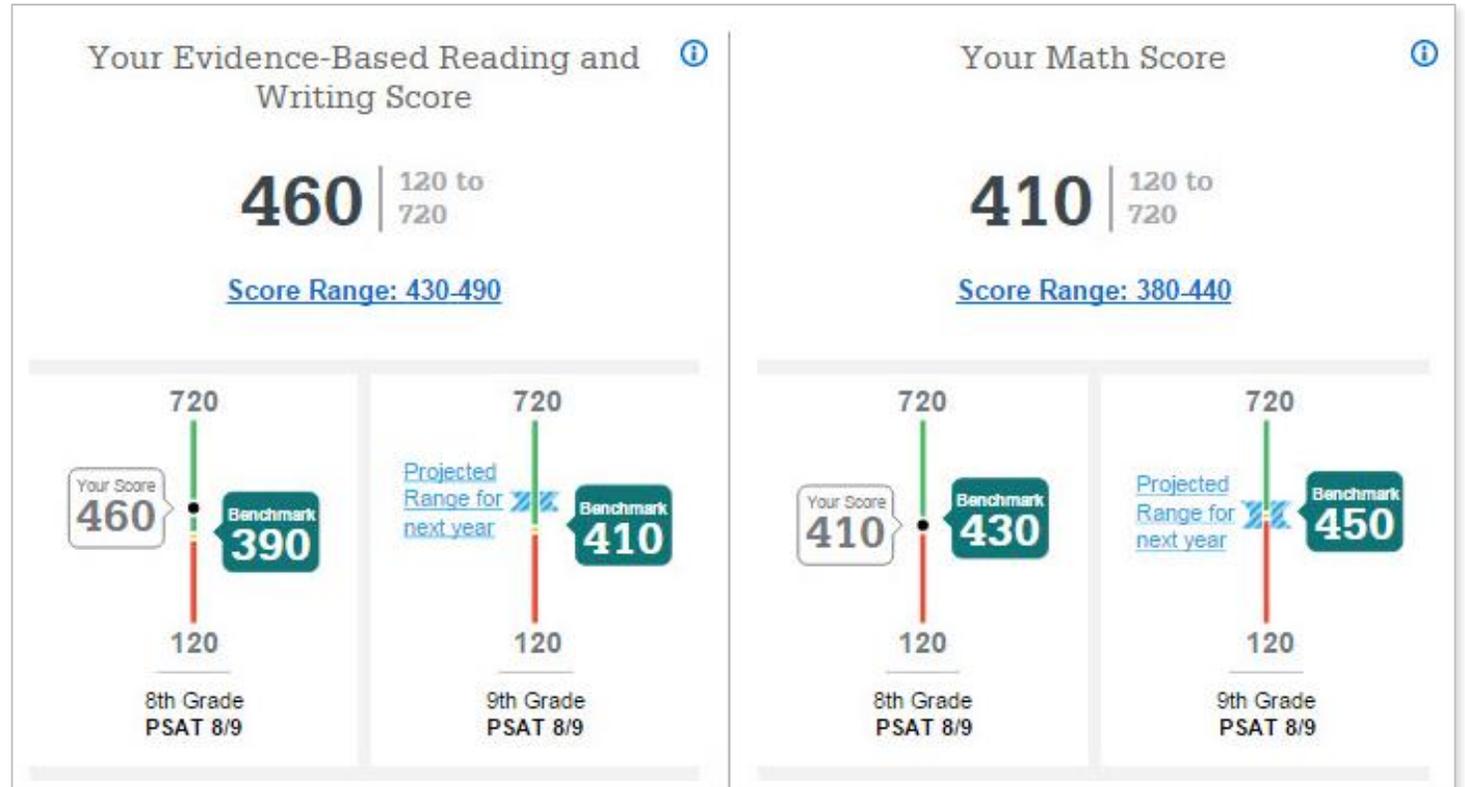
Add Score(s)

# How Do I See My Detailed Scores?



# How Will I Do on the PSAT-Related Assessment Next Year?

The predicted PSAT™ 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT® score is an initial projection based on current data and concordance.



# How Did My Score Measure Against the Benchmarks?

Section scores report scores in performance zones that indicate whether you are on track to meet the college readiness benchmarks on the SAT®.

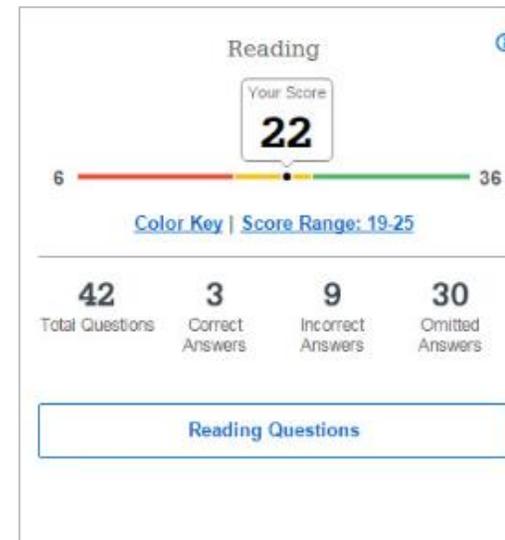
For section scores

**Need to Strengthen Skills** = below grade-level benchmark by more than one year

**Approaching Benchmark** = below grade-level benchmark by one year or less

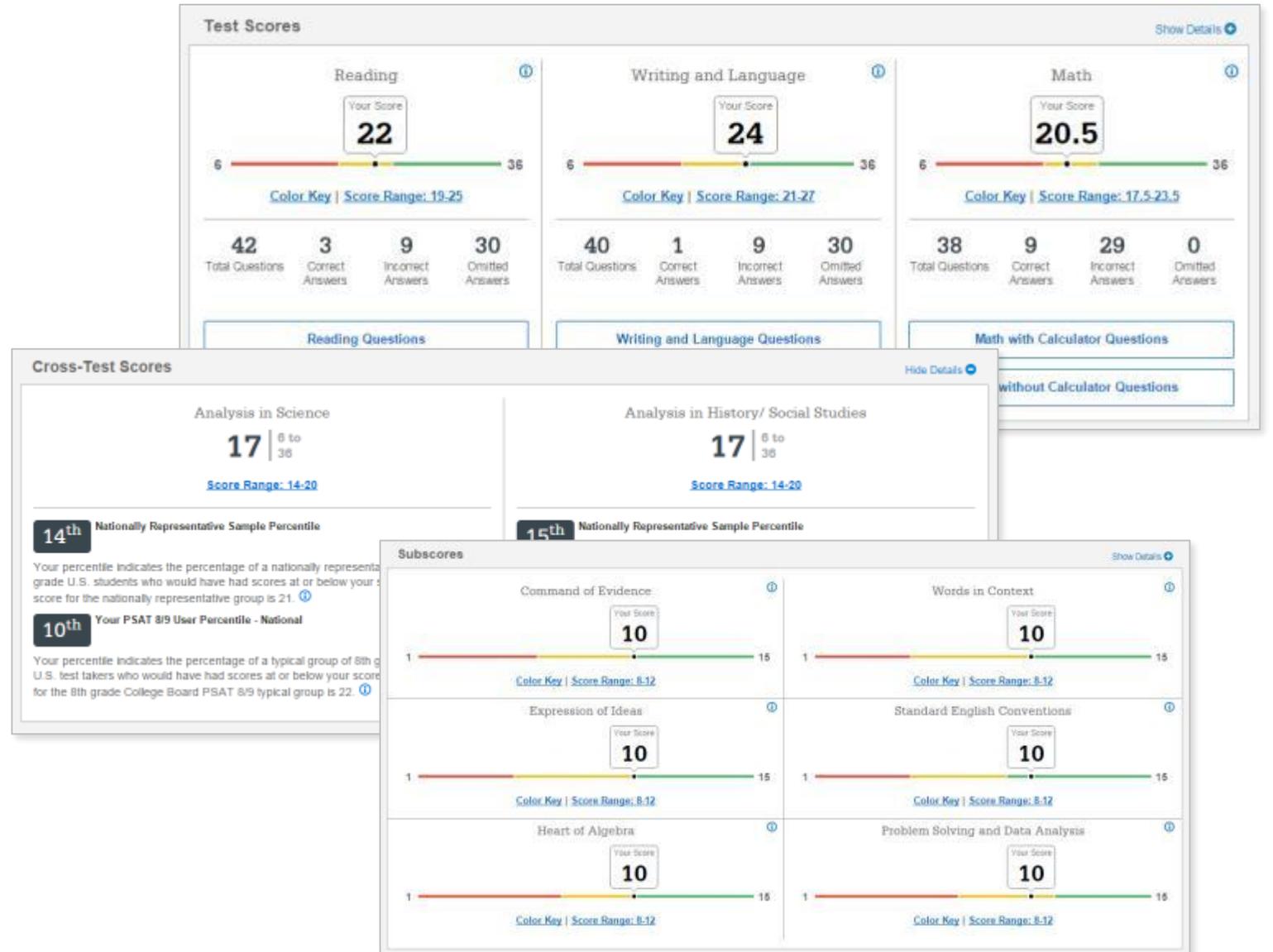
**Meets or Exceeds Benchmark** = at or above grade-level benchmark

The red, yellow, and green ranges in the test scores and subscores reflect areas of strengths and weaknesses compared to the typical performance of students.



# What Do My Scores Tell Me?

Section, test, and subscores all report scores in performance zones that indicate whether you are on track for meeting the college readiness benchmarks on the SAT®.



# How Can I Improve My Academic Skills?

**Skills Insight™ informs you about what you are already likely able to do, and how you can improve your skills.**

**Skills Insight** ▾

With hundreds of skill descriptions and practice questions, PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight is a tool that demonstrates the link between your PSAT/NMSQT scores in Reading, Writing & Language and Math, and Writing and your college readiness skills – the same skills measured on the SAT.

Skills Insight will show a general overview of your skills and improvement areas. For deeper insight into your score sign up for free world class test prep for the SAT with Khan Academy.

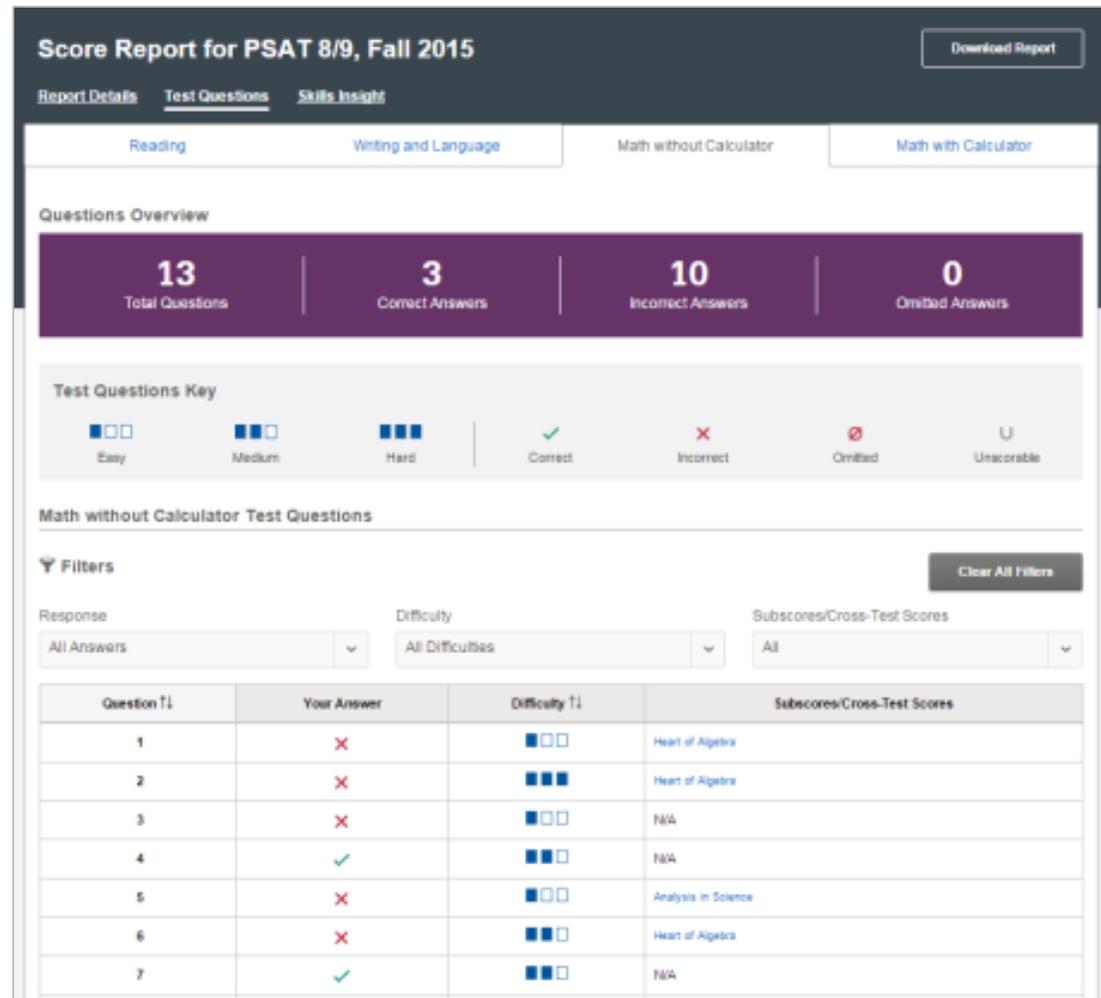
Free, personalized practice for the SAT at Khan Academy >

Reading	Writing & Language	Math
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Your Score</p> <p><a href="#">Reading Questions</a></p>	<p><b>Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts</li><li>Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in somewhat challenging text</li><li>Command of Evidence</li><li>Standard English Conventions</li><li>Revise somewhat challenging text to ensure that information is presented in the most logical order</li><li>Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts</li><li>Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in somewhat challenging text</li><li>Expression of Ideas</li><li>Relevant Words in Context</li><li>Standard English Conventions</li></ul>	<p><b>Improve your skills by focusing on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text</li><li>Command of Evidence</li><li>Standard English Conventions</li><li>Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purposes such as persuading an audience</li><li>Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within challenging texts</li><li>Expression of Ideas</li><li>Relevant Words in Context</li><li>Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text</li><li>Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purposes such as persuading an audience</li><li>Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within challenging texts</li></ul>

# What Can I Learn from the Questions?

Check the level of difficulty of each question and the related subscores and cross-test scores.

- Look at the types of questions I answered incorrectly and skipped:
  - Identify the level of difficulty. How many questions did I miss at each level?
  - Was I more likely to skip questions associated with any subscore or cross-test score?
  - What inferences can I make about areas for improvement based on the types of questions I missed and skipped?



# What Is My AP Potential™?

**AP Potential uses scores from the PSAT™ 8/9 to provide predictions for two AP® Exams for ninth-grade students.**

College Board research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree on time than non-AP students.

**Score Report for PSAT 8/9, Fall 2015**

**What is AP?**  
Advanced Placement is a College Board program that enables students to pursue college-level studies – with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both – while still in high school. The program offers courses in more than 30 subjects. The [full list of courses](#) and descriptions is available on the AP website. If you've taken a College Board assessment while in grades 9-12, see below for your potential for success in AP courses. If you've taken an assessment while in grades 9-12, but don't see any AP courses listed below, [link the scores](#) to this account or contact Customer Service at (866) 756-7346 for assistance.

**High School Core Course Work**  
Colleges have different high school course requirements, but all expect you to take classes that challenge your skills. Try to take a core course load of 4 years of English and at least 3 years of Math, Science, and Social Studies. As you work towards your high school diploma, you should consider taking courses that align with your future career interest and college major, which may require more than the standard core course load. You may also want to think about taking Advanced Placement courses in your later years of high school.

[View all AP Courses](#)

**AP Courses**  
Your score on the PSAT 8/9 taken during Fall 2015 can identify your potential for success in specific AP courses. Below is a list of these AP courses. The chart identifies your potential for each of these AP courses and if these AP courses are offered in your school. You may also look to see if these AP courses match your college major.

Select a Major

Course Title	AP Potential Title	Your School Offers This Course Title	Matches Major Title
<a href="#">European History</a>	●○○○		
<a href="#">World History</a>	●○○○		

Although AP Potential is not reported for Calculus BC, if you have AP Potential for Calculus AB and have performed well in courses leading to Calculus, consider taking Calculus BC. When making course decisions, it is also important to consider other factors such as your prior course work and college and career interests.

**AP Potential Key**

- Potential**  
Your scores show that you have the potential for success in this course. Speak with your teachers or school counselor to see if you have the appropriate prerequisite courses and find out how you can enroll.
- Some Potential**  
Your scores show that you have some potential for success in this AP course. Having interest in the course subject as well as dedication to working hard will increase your chances for success. Speak with your teachers or school counselor to see if you have the appropriate prerequisite courses and find out how you can enroll.
- Potential Not Yet Indicated**  
Your scores show that you may need more preparation and support to be successful in this course. Share your goals and interests with your teachers and school counselor, and learn which high school courses can prepare you for AP courses in the future. If you're already taking an AP course, you can still succeed through hard work and motivation. Talk to your teachers regularly so they can support you.

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# Understanding My Paper Score Report



# What Are My Scores?

Scores for the assessments in the SAT® Suite are vertically equated.

Hi, Ima B. Student

School Name: John F. Kennedy High School, School Code: 123456  
Fall 2016, Grade: 9th Grade  
Student ID: 24068907  
Optional Code: 00  
Access Code: A02670146P

**PSAT 8/9** 

Your Score Report

Get your full report online  
[studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org) Access Code: A02670146P

**Free Practice**  
Practice the skills you need for high school and beyond with Khan Academy™ — free online on satpractice.org.

**Core Course Work**  
Use your results to create a core course work plan in high school.

**Explore**  
Discover majors and careers that connect to the things you care about most with Roadtrip Nation™.

Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score

**360** | 120 to 720

Your Nationally Representative **20th** Sample Percentile

120  720

 **You are on track for college readiness.**

Stay on track and continue your progress. Start now with your free, personalized recommendations waiting for you on [khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat).

Your Total Score

**780** | 240 to 1440

Your Nationally Representative **23rd** Sample Percentile

120  720

**Keep in mind, the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT® are on the same scale.**

Your score shows you how you would have scored that day on the PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT®. How well you do depends on what you do next!

**The College and Career Readiness Benchmark**

Reaching your grade-level Benchmark means that you are likely on track to be ready to succeed in select first-year, credit-bearing college courses.

 Need to strengthen skills     Approaching Benchmark     Meet or exceed Benchmark

Your Math Score

**420** | 120 to 720

Your Nationally Representative **40th** Sample Percentile

120  720

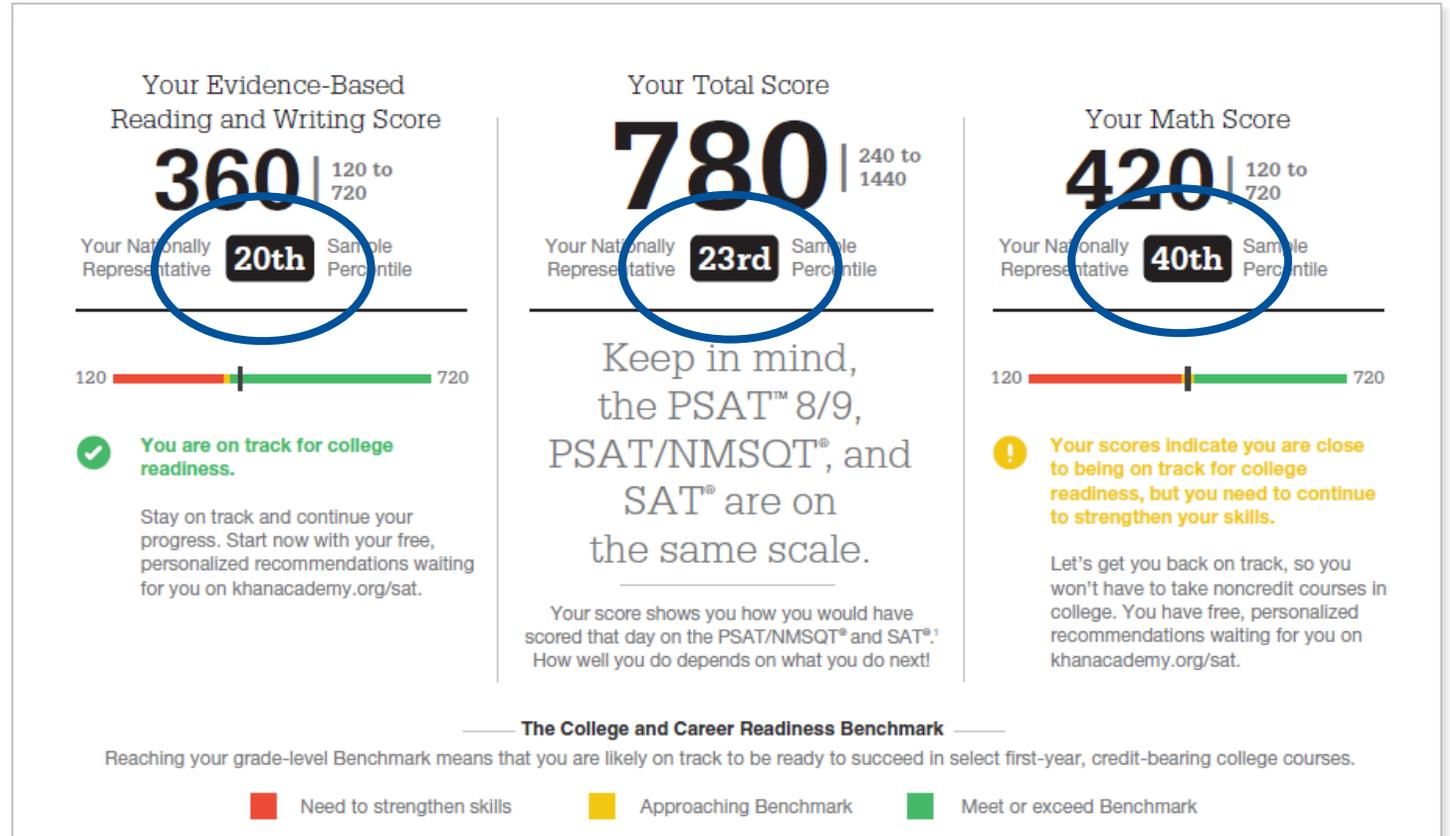
 **Your scores indicate you are close to being on track for college readiness, but you need to continue to strengthen your skills.**

Let's get you back on track, so you won't have to take noncredit courses in college. You have free, personalized recommendations waiting for you on [khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat).



# What Are My Score Percentiles?

Percentiles and benchmarks are provided for eighth and ninth grades on the PSAT/NMSQT®.



# What Are My Score Ranges?

PSAT/NMSQT® scores should be interpreted as ranges rather than singular points.



When you take tests more than once, your scores may differ slightly upon each testing occasion. This expected variation is considered your score range, and reflects the range your scores will likely fall in upon retesting. For the PSAT/NMSQT®, these ranges are approximately:

- Total:** Your score  $\pm$  40 points.
- Section:** Your score  $\pm$  30 points.
- Test Scores and Cross-Test Scores:** Your score  $\pm$  3 points.
- Subscores:** Your score  $\pm$  2 points.

Remember that you will receive scores in the same areas when you take the SAT.

1. Beginning in March 2016

Your scores indicate you are close to being on track for college readiness, but you need to continue to strengthen your skills.

Let's get you back on track, so you won't have to take noncredit courses in college. You have free, personalized recommendations waiting for you on [khanacademy.org/sat](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat).

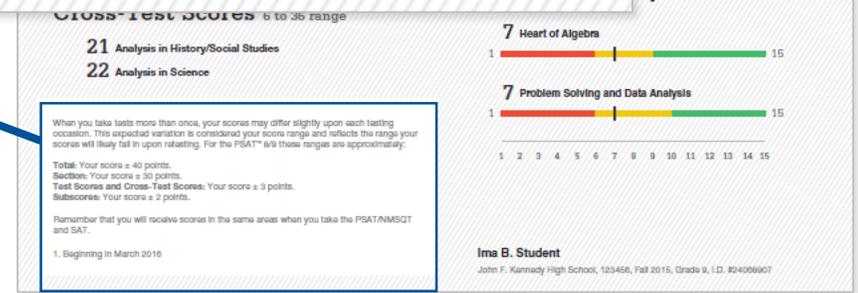
ear, credit-bearing college courses.

ceed Benchmark

performance of students in your grade.

5 range'

entions



# What Are My Areas of Strength? What Skills Do I Need to Build?

## Your Scores: Next Steps

### Your Scores: Next Steps

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**Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:**

- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts
- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in somewhat challenging text
- Revise somewhat challenging text to ensure that information is presented in the most logical order
- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts

**19**  
6 to 36

**Improve your skills by focusing on your ability to:**

- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text
- Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience
- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within challenging texts
- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text
- Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience

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#### Writing and Language Test

**Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:**

- Draw reasonable conclusions from somewhat challenging texts
- Describe the overall structure of a somewhat challenging text
- Identify claims and counterclaims explicitly stated in a somewhat challenging passage
- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts

**17**  
6 to 36

**Improve your skills by focusing on your ability to:**

- Draw reasonable inferences and logical conclusions from challenging texts
- Analyze information presented quantitatively in such forms as graphs, tables, and charts and relate that information to information presented in somewhat challenging text
- Determine how the selection of specific words shapes meaning and tone in a challenging passage
- Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience
- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text

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#### Math Test

**Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:**

- Interpret a linear inequality in one variable with rational coefficients that represents a context. Select the equation of a line of best fit and interpret the slope and intercept of the line in the context of the situation (when a linear model is appropriate)
- Interpret sample statistics understanding and using margin of error
- Solve and interpret a quadratic function or equation that represents a context and requires multiple steps
- Calculate and interpret frequency distributions using tables and other representational methods

**21.0**  
6 to 36

**Improve your skills by focusing on your ability to:**

- Determine how a graph may be affected by a change to its equation
- Determine the value of a constant or coefficient for an equation with no solution or infinitely many solutions
- Using a specified model, make a prediction and compare the predicted values with the actual values in the data set
- Within a context, compare the center of two separate data sets with different spreads
- Determine whether two events are independent given their probabilities
- Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience

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# What Are My Next Steps?

- **Continue to take challenging courses in high school**
- **Link scores with Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>**
- **Set up a practice plan and stick to it**
- **Utilize other resources to research and prepare for college**

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# Official SAT<sup>®</sup> Practice with Khan Academy<sup>®</sup> — It's FREE!

- Go to [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org) and create a free account.
- Get personalized recommendations. Link your Khan Academy account to your College Board account to import past SAT Suite results, or take diagnostic quizzes to get personalized recommendations.
- Create a study plan. Select a test date and set up a practice schedule.



# How Can I Practice with Khan Academy®?

[Watch a video introducing Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.](#)



- Thousands of practice questions and videos covering every SAT® concept
- Six official, full-length SAT practice tests with more to come
- Personalized recommendations based on each student's strengths and weaknesses
- Tailored practice schedule mapping out each student's path to test day
- SAT tips and strategies, sharing information about each part of the test

# What Steps Will I Follow to Link My College Board Account to Khan Academy®?



## Step 1

Log in or create a Khan Academy account.

## Step 2

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts. You will then be directed to [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org).

## Step 3

Sign in or create a College Board Account.

## Step 4

When prompted, hit “Send” to authorize the account linking.

## Step 5

Start practicing on Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy!

# How can I Link My College Board and Khan Academy® Accounts?

- After successfully logging in to your College Board account, you will be asked to authorize the account linking.
- After clicking “Send,” you will be redirected to SAT® Practice on the Khan Academy site.
- You can remove the link at any time by clicking on “Revoke,” which is found in your College Board account settings.

**TODAY'S GOAL**  
Practice your skills  
Choose the area you'd like to focus on for improvement today.

Practice Reading & Writing

Practice Math

**Sign in to CollegeBoard.org**

Once you connect your CollegeBoard.org account, we'll read in the results of your PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 exam, fast-forward your skill progress, and give you practice recommendations for what you missed on the exam.

Even if you have not taken a real exam yet, create or sign in to your account on CollegeBoard.org and we'll stay in sync with your future exam schedule.

[Sign in to CollegeBoard.org](#)

**Current skill levels** [Practice your skills](#)

[Math](#) [Reading & Writing](#)

Link your PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 results or complete your diagnostic quizzes to set your current skill levels.

**Frequently asked questions**

Check out our [frequently asked questions](#). Then let us know if you [have a problem](#) or [an idea for making this system better!](#)

**Exam scores** [View Full Exams](#)

Your exam scores will appear here once you [complete your first practice exam](#) or [sign in to CollegeBoard.org](#) and connect your real exam results.

# What Additional Resources Will Help Me Prepare for My Future?

- BigFuture™
  - College Action Plan
  - College Search
  - Scholarships
  - Financial Aid
- Roadmap to Careers
- Student Search Service®

Dashboard My Score Reports AP Potential Popular Tools

Report Details Test Questions Skills Insight

Your Total Score ⓘ

**880** | 320 to 1520

[Score Range: 840-920](#)

Keep in mind, the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT are on the same scale.

Your score shows you how you would have scored that day on the SAT. How well you do depends on what you do next!

160

11th Grade PSAT/NMSQT

✔ You are on track for college re

Stay on track and continue your prog  
share your scores on [Khan Academ](#)  
free, personalized practice recommen

Make an Action Plan  
College Search  
Search College Majors  
Roadmap to Careers  
Pay for College  
Scholarship Search  
AP & Core Coursework  
SAT Practice  
SAT Registration  
Send SAT Scores

Used Re  
Score  
160 to  
760  
ge: 540  
Project  
Range  
next ye

# BigFuture™ — Search Colleges, Scholarships, and Careers

- Search for colleges.
- Watch videos from real students.
- Hear from education professionals.
- Learn about different colleges.
- Get help paying for college.
- Build a personalized plan for getting into college.

The screenshot shows the BigFuture website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for College Planning, YouCanGo!, SAT, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, CLEP, For Educators, and More. The main header features the BigFuture logo and a search bar with the text "Find Colleges, Advice and More". Below the header, there's a navigation menu with options like "Get Started", "Find Colleges", "Explore Careers", "Pay for College", "Get In", and "Make a Plan". The main content area features a large image of a smiling young woman, Nydia, with a "Meet Nydia" caption. To her right, there are three circular callouts: a green one with the text "I was homesick at first, but now I love my college." and a "Watch" button; a pink one with "Not sure where to start? Go >"; and a blue one with "Search for colleges that fit you.". Below the image, there are three main sections: "find colleges" with a search input and "Go" button; "pay for college" with a progress bar showing "\$1 billion" and a "Get the Facts" button; and "make a plan" with a "What grade are you in?" section and radio button options for 8th or lower, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and H.S. grad.

# Road Map to Careers

**Roadtrip Nation and College Board are partnering to help students connect with careers.**

- Choose your core interests.
- Watch videos of leaders who share your interests.
- Learn about majors and careers that align to your interests.
- See examples of leaders who followed a similar path.

The screenshot shows the landing page for 'Roadmap to Careers'. At the top left is the 'ROADTRIP NATION' logo, and at the top right is a 'Sign In' link. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Roadmap to Careers' is on the left and 'Powered by CollegeBoard' is on the right. The main content area features a large, golden-hued image of a road stretching into the distance at sunrise. Overlaid on this image is the text 'ROADMAP TO CAREERS' in large, bold, white letters. Below this text is a white button with the text 'Start Exploring'. At the bottom of the image area, the text 'Start with your interests—your future will follow' is displayed in white.

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# Student Search Service<sup>®</sup>

**Connects students with information about educational and financial aid opportunities.**

- 
- Participate voluntarily.
  - Connect with more than 1,200 colleges, universities, scholarship programs, and educational organizations.
  - Sign up when you take the test:
    1. Choose to participate in Student Search Service when registering for a College Board test (fill in the circle on the answer sheet).
    2. Provide information about yourself on your answer sheet.
    3. Participating organizations can then search for groups of students who may be a good fit.
    4. FYI: The College Board never shares information on disabilities, parental education, self-reported parental income, Social Security numbers, phone numbers, or actual test scores through Student Search Service.

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# Thank You.