

# Prepare for the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT®



- » What Is the PSAT/NMSQT?
- » When is the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT?
- » Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT
- » How to Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT
- » Sample PSAT/NMSQT Questions
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A blue-tinted photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book. Behind her, a young man with glasses is also sitting at a desk, looking at a book. Other students are visible in the background, some out of focus. The overall scene is a typical classroom setting.

# What Is the PSAT/NMSQT®?

# Some Key Facts

- » Scores for the SAT® Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing to **Educators measure students progress**
- › Propels students toward **college** and **career readiness**
- › Is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- › Serves as an entry point to nearly \$180 Million in **scholarship dollars**
- » **4+** **MILLION** students took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2015 to get feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT



# What to know about the PSAT/NMSQT?



2 hours 45 minutes

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No penalty for guessing or blank responses  
also known as “rights-only scoring”

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Personalized SAT<sup>®</sup> practice through Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>  
with students own PSAT/NMQST scores

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Scale ranges for the scores are 320 – 1520  
for the total score

# Benefits of the PSAT/NMSQT®:



Personalized SAT® practice on Khan Academy based on students PSAT/NMSQT answers



Aligned to the SAT



Increased access to additional scholarship providers



Online college and career planning tools



Admission and financial aid information from colleges



Majors and career exploration with College Board and Roadtrip Nation

# PSAT/NMSQT 2016

## Test Dates:

- › Primary - Wednesday, **October 19**
- › Saturday, **October 15**
- › Alternate - Wednesday, **November 2**

A blue-tinted photograph of two women in a classroom. In the foreground, a woman with dark curly hair is seen in profile, holding a white marker and writing on a whiteboard. In the background, another woman with blonde hair is looking on. The text 'Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT®' is overlaid in white.

# Skills Tested on the PSAT/NMSQT®

 Reading Test

 Writing and Language Test

 Math Test

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

# Reading Test

» **5 Passages**

» **47 Passage-Based Questions; 60 minutes**

## **QUICK FACTS**

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › No mathematical computation is required.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.



# Reading Test

## What to expect?

In the Reading Test, students will encounter questions like those asked in a lively, thoughtful, evidence-based discussion.

# Writing and Language Test

» 4 Passages

» 44 Passage-Based Questions; 35 minutes

## QUICK FACTS

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- › No mathematical computation is required.

# Writing and Language Test

## 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 three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.

# Math Test

## » 2 Test Sections

## » 48 Questions (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins, 2 sections, 70 minutes)

### QUICK FACTS

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

# Math Test

## What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to 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.

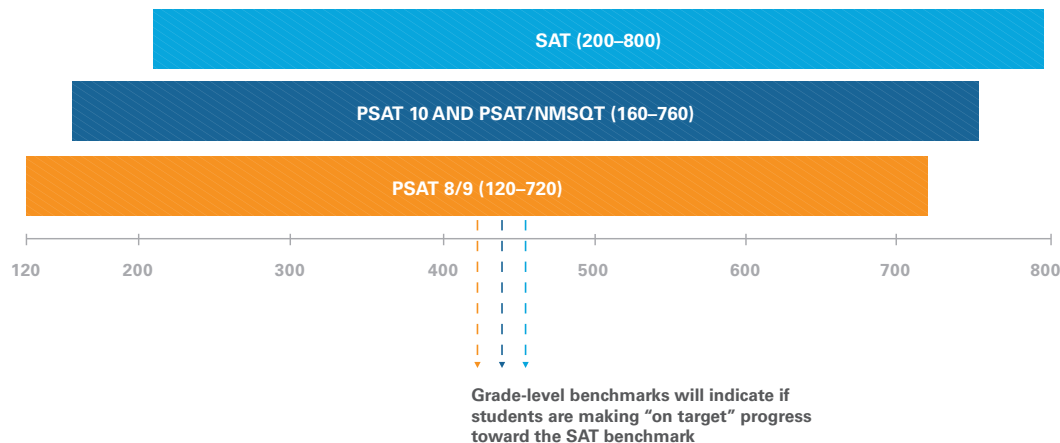
# How Does the PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the SAT®?

## 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:

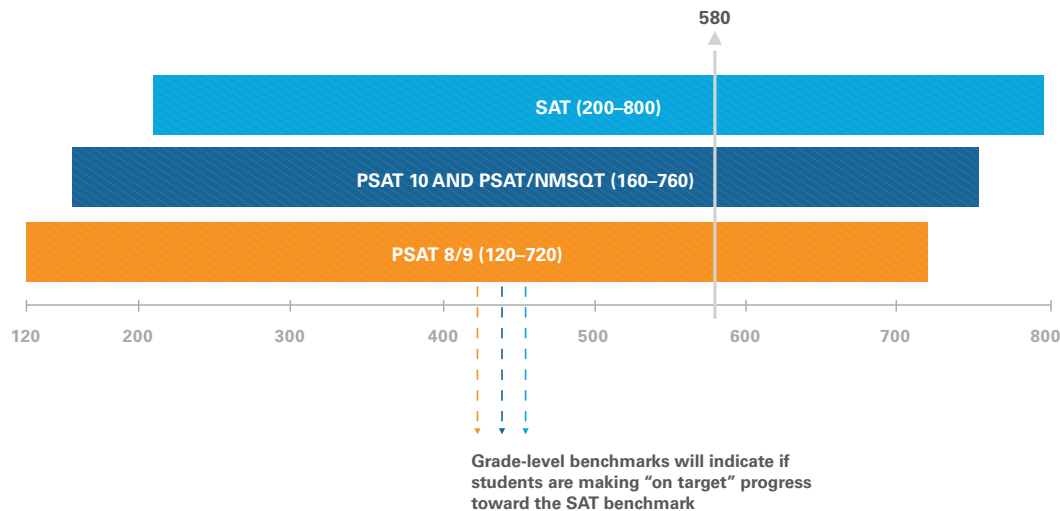
All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.





# How Does the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> Connect to the SAT<sup>®</sup>?

That means the score students get on the PSAT/NMSQT is the same score they would have gotten on the SAT if it was taken on the same day.



# How Does the PSAT/NMSQT® Compare to the SAT®?

## PSAT/NMSQT

## SAT

2 hours 45 minutes



Time

3 hours 50 minutes

X



Essay

Optional

160 – 760



Section Score Range

200 – 800

Take control of your learning by working on the skills you choose at your own pace with free online courses.

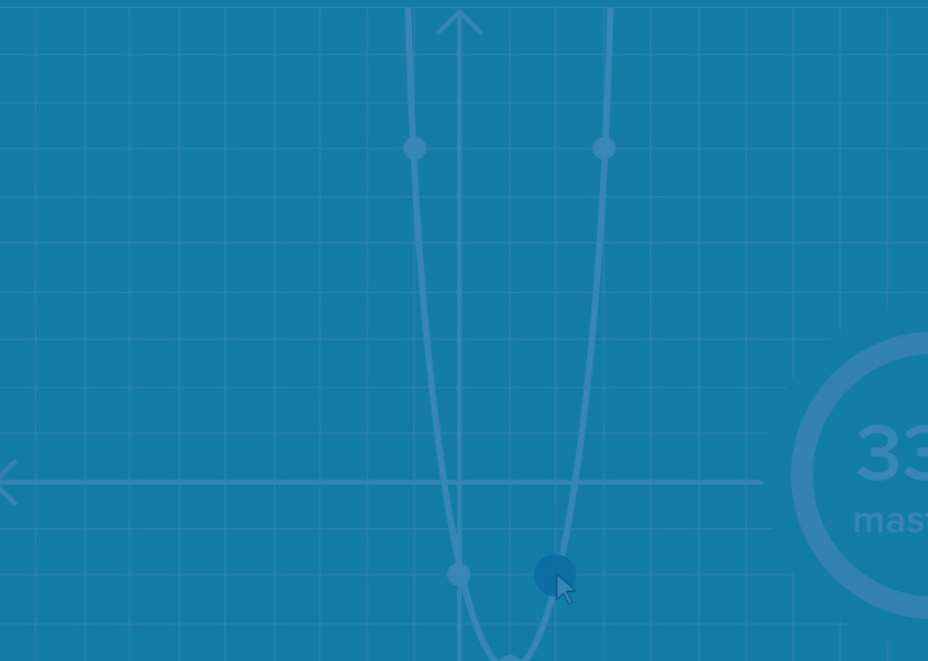


Algebra

UP NEXT: Parabolas

☒ Practice

# How to Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>



Sharpen your skills with over 100,000 interactive exercises.

# Know How the PSAT/NMSQT® Is Scored

## Rights-Only Scoring:

- » 1 point for each correct answer
- » 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

## Math Grid-ins

- » You can enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals
- » If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box

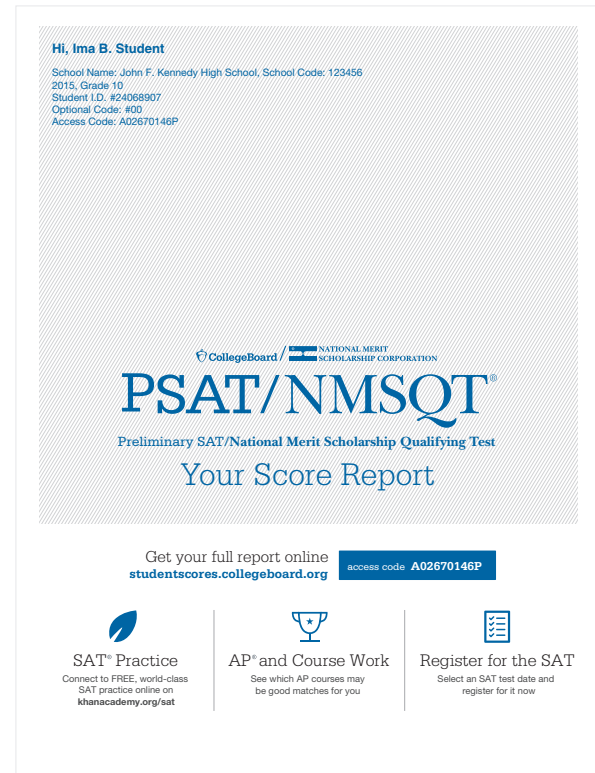
## Scale

- » 160 – 760 for each test section
- » 320 – 1520 for the total score

# Personalized Skills Information

## The PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report

- » Contains information **to help students improve academic skills.**
- » **Lists skills** that students have the best chance of improving with additional work.
- » Connects to **personalized practice** recommendations on **Khan Academy.**



# Preparation Starts in School

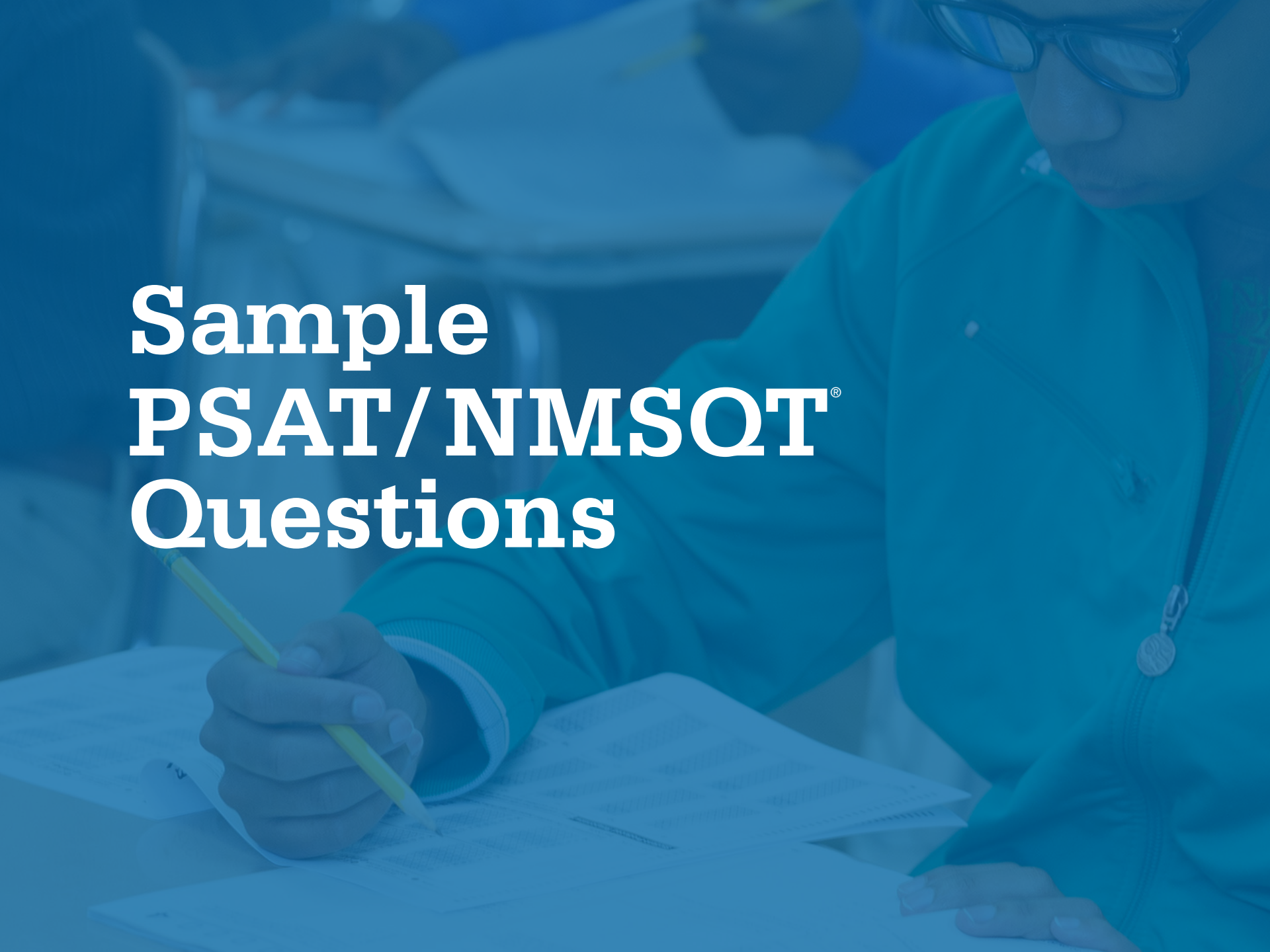
## Read

- » Continuous reading improves vocabulary and develops essential skills.

## Take Challenging Courses

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



A student wearing glasses and a blue jacket is sitting at a desk, holding a yellow pencil and looking down at a test paper. The background is blurred, showing other students in a classroom setting. The entire image has a blue tint.

# Sample PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> Questions



## READING TEST

### Passage-Based Questions

#### Passage Excerpt:

[. . .]The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

*Adapted from Richard Florida, The Great Reset.*

*© 2010 by Richard Florida.*

As used in line 2, “intense” most nearly means

- (A) emotional.
- (B) concentrated.
- (C) brilliant.
- (D) determined.



## READING TEST

### Passage-Based Questions

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As used in line 2, “intense” most nearly means

(A) emotional.

**(B) concentrated.**

(C) brilliant.

(D) determined.



## READING TEST

### Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine word meaning within a social science context. While students may frequently use the word “intense” to describe personalities or emotions, the context of this sentence requires students to recognize that “intense” can also mean “concentrated.” The best answer here is choice B because the context makes clear that the clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity is expected to be denser, or more concentrated in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions, over the coming decades. In these ways, the question draws students back to the text rather than rewarding only isolated vocabulary knowledge.



# WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

## Passage-Based Questions

### Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, **5** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [. . .]

5

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) evacuated
- (C) departed
- (D) retired



# WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

## Passage-Based Questions

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- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) evacuated
- (C) departed**
- (D) retired





# WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

## Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine which word makes the most sense in the context of a sentence. “**Departed**” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways. In this sort of question, students must demonstrate not only facility with language in general but also skill in using language in particular contexts to convey meaning clearly and precisely.



## MATH TEST

Calculator: Permitted

Aaron is staying at a hotel that charges \$99.95 per night plus tax for a room. A tax of 8% is applied to the room rate, and an additional one-time untaxed fee of \$5.00 is charged by the hotel. Which of the following represents Aaron's total charge, in dollars, for staying  $x$  nights?

(A)  $(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5$

(B)  $1.08(99.95x) + 5$

(C)  $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D)  $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



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**(B)  $1.08(99.95x) + 5$**

(C)  $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D)  $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



## MATH TEST

Calculator: Permitted

This problem asks students to interpret a situation and formulate a linear expression that represents the situation mathematically. The construction of mathematical models that represent real-world scenarios is a critical skill.

The total charge is the room rate, the 8% tax on the room rate, and a fixed fee. If Aaron stayed  $x$  nights, then the total charge is  $99.95x + (0.08 \times 99.95x) + 5$ , which can be rewritten as  $1.08(99.95x) + 5$ .



## MATH TEST

Calculator: Not Permitted

In this equation, what is the value of  $k$ ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

(A)  $\frac{9}{7}$

(B)  $\frac{9}{13}$

(C)  $\frac{33}{17}$

(D)  $\frac{33}{13}$



## MATH TEST

Calculator: Not Permitted

In this equation, what is the value of  $k$ ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

In this problem, students will demonstrate their fluency in solving equations in one variable.

Choice B is correct. Simplifying the numerators yields

$$\frac{5k+3}{6} = \frac{9+k}{9}$$

and cross-multiplication gives  $45k + 27 = 54 + 6k$ .

Solving for  $k$  yields  $k = \frac{9}{13}$

(A)  $\frac{9}{7}$

**(B)  $\frac{9}{13}$**

(C)  $\frac{33}{17}$

(D)  $\frac{33}{13}$



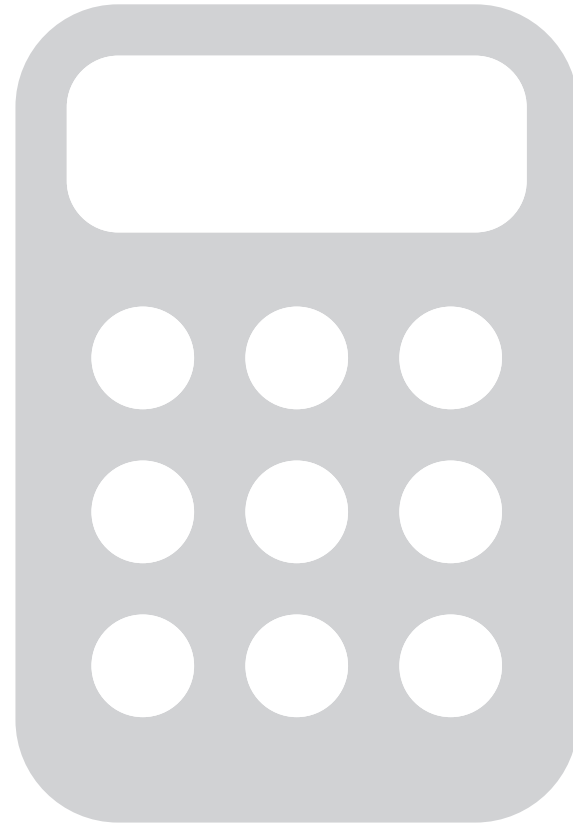


## MATH SECTION

Math Test – Calculator

# 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.







## MATH SECTION

Math Test – Calculator

# 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.

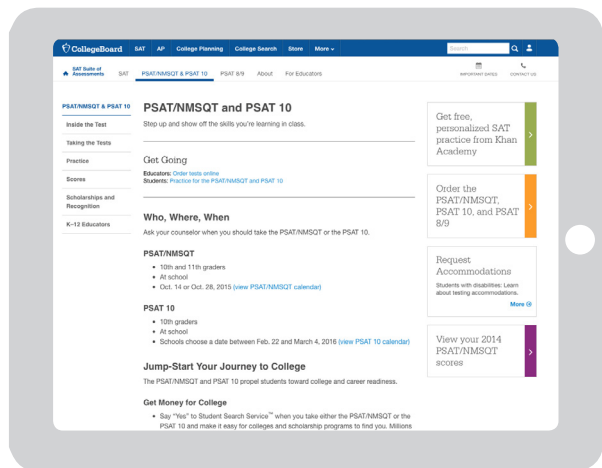
A photograph of two people, a man and a woman, working together at a desk. The man is pointing at a computer monitor while the woman looks on. The image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Resources" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

# Resources



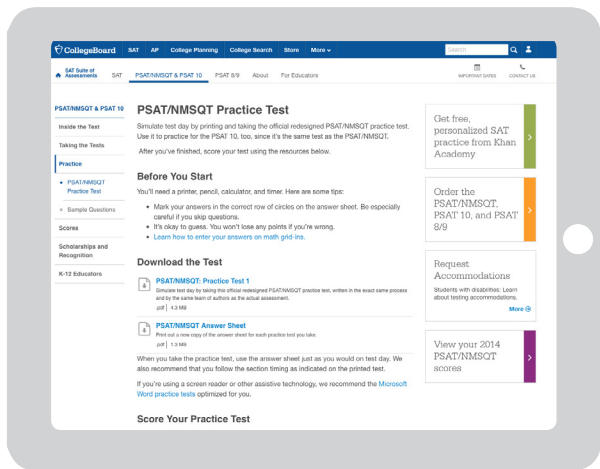
For personalized resources aligned to the SAT® Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT®), please visit:

[satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)



For general information about the PSAT/NMSQT, please visit:

[collegeboard.org/psat](https://collegeboard.org/psat)



Take the practice test in the *PSAT/NMSQT® Student Guide*, available through your counselor or at:

[collegeboard.org/psatpractice](https://collegeboard.org/psatpractice)



To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit:

[nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php](https://nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php)

# Take the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT®

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

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

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

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

## Make sure you bring:

- » Two No. 2 pencils
- » Calculator (optional)





# Good Luck!