



May

Understanding Your PSAT 8/9 Scores

All Zeeland 9th graders took the PSAT 8/9 in April. The PSAT 8/9 is part of the College Board's "SAT Suite of Assessments" including the

- PSAT 8/9 - state required preliminary SAT test for all freshmen; taken in April
- PSAT 10 - state required preliminary SAT test for all sophomores; taken in April
- PSAT/NMSQT - an *optional* preliminary SAT test taken in October of the junior year; students who score high enough can qualify for National Merit Scholarships
- SAT - state required test for all juniors as part of the Michigan Merit Exam; taken in April

These tests measure students' college and career readiness. The SAT is one of two standardized tests widely accepted by colleges and universities for college admission (The ACT is the other.)

Scores from the PSAT 8/9 should be available in mid-late May. This newsletter is an effort to help students and parents better understand the scores once they are released.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCORE REPORT

The PSAT 8/9 measures students' knowledge in the following areas, determined by research to be important for college and career readiness, at the level appropriate for 8th and 9th graders: reading, writing and language, and math. A student's raw score is computed by the number of questions answered correctly (no guessing penalty) and raw scores are converted to section scores between 120 and 720 for the following 2 areas:

- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
- Math

Thus, the total PSAT 8/9 score is reported on a 240-1440 scale.

Students are also given "test scores", "cross-test scores," and "subscores." Understanding these scores provide more information about student strengths and areas for improvement.

Percentiles show the percentage of students whose scores are equal to or below the student's total score. Two percentiles are given on the score report. One compares the total score to all 9th graders nationwide and the other to those students who typically take the PSAT. For example, being in the 60th percentile of the nationally representative sample means that a student did better than or equal to 60% of all 9th graders taking the test.

The PSAT 8/9 also offers grade-level benchmarks that help students track college and career readiness. Separate benchmarks are reported for 8th and 9th graders. These benchmarks predict a 75% likelihood of earning at least a C in first semester college courses. The report color codes student achievement of these benchmarks. Green means a student met or exceeded the benchmark. Yellow indicates that a student did not meet the benchmark but was close. Red indicates a score that is more than a year's growth below the grade-level benchmark.

The PSAT 8/9 and the SAT are scored on a common scale. Therefore, if a student earns a 1000 on the PSAT, he/she would have also earned a 1000 on the SAT had he/she taken it on the same test date. The score represents the same level of academic achievement on all three tests.

Below is a sample PSAT 8/9 score report.

The PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report

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

 CollegeBoard

Your Score Report

Get your full report online
studentscores.collegeboard.org

Access Code **A02670146P**



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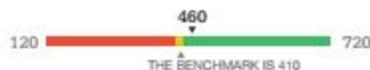
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The PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report, cont.

Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score

460 | 120 to 720

Your Nationally Representative **59th** Sample Percentile



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 satpractice.org.

Your Total Score

900 | 240 to 1440

Your Nationally Representative **55th** Sample Percentile

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!

Your Math Score

440 | 120 to 720

Your Nationally Representative **49th** Sample Percentile



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 satpractice.org.

The College and Career Readiness Benchmark

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

■ Need to strengthen skills ■ Approaching Benchmark ■ Meet or exceed Benchmark

*The red, yellow, and green ranges in the test scores and subscores reflect your areas of strength and weakness compared to the typical performance of students in your grade.

Test Scores 6 to 36 range*



Cross-Test Scores 6 to 36 range

21 Analysis in History/Social Studies
22 Analysis in Science

If a student were to take the same test repeatedly (with no new learning), the standard deviation of the student's repeated test scores is called the standard error of measurement (SEM). Your score range is computed as your score \pm SEM. For PSAT 8/9, these ranges are approximately:

Total Score: Your score \pm 40 points.
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section Score: Your score \pm 25 points.
Math Section Score: Total score \pm 33 points.
Test Scores and Cross-Test Scores: Your score \pm 2 points.
Subscores: Your score \pm 1 to 2 points.

Remember that you will receive scores in the same areas when you take the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT.

Subscores 1 to 15 range*



Ima B. Student

Fall 2016, Grade: 9th Grade, Student ID 424066907

Your Scores: Next Steps

Additional skills and improvement suggestions can be found in your online score report.

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

Reading Test

Improve your skills by focusing on the following suggestions:



- 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

Writing and Language Test

- 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



- 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

Math Test

- 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



- 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

Get more next steps online

studentscores.collegeboard.org



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Ima B. Student Fall 2016, Grade: 9th Grade

Your Question-Level Feedback

Reading

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
1	A	✓	Easy		
2	C	✓	Easy		
3	B	A	Easy		
4	C	✓	Easy	WC	
5	C	✓	Easy	WC	
6	A	B	Easy		
7	B	A	Easy	COE	
8	D	✓	Easy		
9	C	✓	Easy	COE	HSS
10	B	✓	Easy	WC	HSS
11	D	✓	Easy	WC	HSS
12	A	○	Easy		HSS
13	C	B	Easy	COE	HSS
14	A	B	Easy	COE	HSS
15	D	✓	Easy		HSS
16	C	B	Easy		HSS
17	B	✓	Easy	SCI	
18	A	✓	Easy	WC	SCI
19	C	✓	Easy	COE	SCI
20	D	B	Easy	WC	SCI
21	C	✓	Easy		SCI
22	B	C	Easy	COE	SCI
23	D	✓	Easy		SCI
24	D	C	Easy		SCI
25	D	✓	Easy		SCI
26	A	C	Easy	COE	HSS
27	D	C	Easy	COE	HSS
28	A	✓	Easy		HSS
29	C	A	Easy	WC	HSS
30	B	A	Easy		HSS
31	C	✓	Easy		HSS
32	D	✓	Easy		HSS
33	C	A	Easy		HSS
34	B	✓	Easy	WC	HSS
35	A	✓	Easy		SCI
36	B	A	Easy	WC	SCI
37	B	✓	Easy	WC	SCI
38	C	✓	Easy		SCI
39	D	B	Easy	COE	SCI
40	D	✓	Easy		SCI
41	D	✓	Easy		SCI
42	A	○	Easy	COE	SCI

Writing and Language

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
1	A	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	HSS
2	A	✓	Easy	SEC	
3	A	✓	Easy	SEC	
4	C	A	Easy	EOI	HSS
5	B	D	Easy	COE, EOI	HSS
6	B	A	Easy	EOI	HSS
7	D	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	HSS
8	B	C	Easy	SEC	
9	D	○	Easy	SEC	
10	C	✓	Easy	COE, EOI	HSS
11	B	○	Easy	SEC	
12	C	✓	Easy	COE, EOI	SCI
13	B	✓	Easy	SEC	
14	A	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	SCI
15	C	D	Easy	EOI	SCI
16	B	✓	Easy	SEC	
17	A	D	Easy	EOI	SCI
18	C	D	Easy	COE, EOI	SCI
19	D	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	SCI
20	B	✓	Easy	SEC	
21	D	✓	Easy	SEC	
22	C	✓	Easy	SEC	
23	A	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	
24	D	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	
25	D	A	Easy	EOI	
26	A	✓	Easy	SEC	
27	C	A	Easy	EOI	
28	B	✓	Easy	COE, EOI	
29	C	✓	Easy	COE, EOI	
30	A	B	Easy	SEC	
31	C	✓	Easy	SEC	
32	C	B	Easy	EOI	
33	D	✓	Easy	SEC	
34	A	✓	Easy	COE, EOI	
35	D	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	
36	B	C	Easy	COE, EOI	
37	A	✓	Easy	SEC	
38	D	○	Easy	SEC	
39	C	✓	Easy	WIC, EOI	
40	C	B	Easy	EOI	

Math Test—Calculator

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
1	A	B	Easy	PSD	
2	C	✓	Easy	HDA	
3	C	B	Easy	PSD	
4	D	○	Easy	PSD	
5	B	C	Easy	PSD	SCI
6	C	✓	Easy	PSD	
7	D	C	Easy	PSD	SCI
8	B	✓	Easy	HDA	
9	B	✓	Easy	PSD	
10	D	C	Easy	PSD	
11	C	○	Easy	PSD	SCI

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
12	C	A	Easy	HDA	
13	A	✓	Easy		
14	B	A	Easy	HDA	
15	C	✓	Easy	PSD	
16	D	✓	Easy	PSD	HSS
17	D	A	Easy	PSD	SCI
18	C	○	Easy	PSD	SCI
19	C	✓	Easy	PSD	HSS
20	B	D	Easy	HDA	
21	A	C	Easy	HDA	HSS

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
22	.5, 1/2	✓	Easy	HDA	
23	100	✓	Easy	HDA	
24	27	✓	Easy	PSD	HSS
25	30	○	Easy	PSD	HSS

Math Test—No Calculator

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
1	A	C	Easy	HDA	
2	B	○	Easy	HDA	
3	B	C	Easy	HDA	
4	A	✓	Easy		
5	C	B	Easy	HDA	

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
6	D	B	Easy		
7	C	B	Easy		SCI
8	A	✓	Easy	HDA	HSS
9	D	✓	Easy	HDA	
10	A	B	Easy		

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Cross-Test Score
11	7	6	Easy		
12	15	✓	Easy	HDA	
13	15, 3/2	✓	Easy	HDA	

Access Code
A02670146P

See the questions, and the answer explanations, online
studentscores.collegeboard.org

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Ima B. Student Fall 2016, Grade: 9th Grade

Subscore

- COE Command of Evidence
- WIC Words in Context
- EOI Expression of Ideas
- SEC Standard English Conventions
- HDA Heart of Algebra
- PSD Problem Solving and Data Analysis

Key

- ✓ Correct
- Omitted
- U Unscorable
- Easy
- Medium
- Hard

Cross-Test Score

- HSS Analysis in History/Social Studies
- SCI Analysis in Science

00606-006
160041107

*Students who test in spring 2017 will see if they answered correctly. Actual questions, answers, and answer explanations won't be provided.

WHY IS THE SAT SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COLLEGES?

The PSAT 8/9 is a test to help familiarize students to the SAT, a college entrance exam widely used across the country. Colleges use SAT results to:

- Identify applicants for admission (among other factors such as high school classes taken, GPA, extra-curricular activities, essay, etc.)
- Place students in first year college courses.
- Help students develop an appropriate program of study.
- Help scholarship/loan agencies identify qualified applicants.

NEXT STEPS

For students who desire to continue practicing for the SAT the College Board also offers a variety of FREE resources. Sample questions, along with paper and pencil practice tests for the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT, are available at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>. Additionally, the College Board has partnered with the Khan Academy to provide students with thousands of practice questions, video lessons, test taking tips, and full length practice tests. The College Board also offers the option for students to download a daily practice app. More information is available at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.

Students interested in learning more about the college planning process and exploring career options are encouraged to utilize the College Board's BigFuture site at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>.