

## About PSAT

The PSAT or Preliminary SAT Test, is a multiple-choice standardized test administered by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Approximately 1.3 million students in grade 10 and 11 take the test each year in October. In the US, the scores from the PSAT are used to determine eligibility for scholarships. Although Canadians are not eligible for the National Merit scholarships, students take the exam as practice for the SAT and can choose to be automatically added to mailing lists for US schools.

The PSAT is a shortened version of the actual SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). The test is composed of three sections: Math, Critical Reading, and Writing, and is two hours and ten minutes in length. In comparison, the SAT exam is about 4 hours long.

Each of the three sections is scored on a scale from 20 to 80, with 50 being the median of all test takers. The maximum score one can achieve is 240. The scoring system for the PSAT closely parallels the SAT, which is graded on a scale of 200 to 800, and has a maximum possible combined score of 2400.

## The most common reasons students take the PSAT:

- 1) To Practice for the SAT
- 2) To received feedback on your strengths and weaknesses in the areas of critical reading, writing and math.
- 3) To see how your performance measures up with those of your peers
- 4) To be added to mailing list for US colleges and receive school specific information.

## PSAT Exam Outline

- Critical Reading (*2 sections, 25 minutes each*)
  - 48 Questions, all multiple choice
    - 13 Sentence completions
    - 35 Critical reading questions
  
- Mathematics (*2 sections, 25 minutes each*)
  - 38 questions
    - 28 multiple choice
    - 10 grid-in answers
  - A calculator is allowed on the math sections

- Writing (*1 section, 30 minutes*)
  - 39 questions, all multiple choice
    - 14 identifying sentence errors
    - 20 improving sentences
    - 5 improving paragraphs

## **How to register?**

The PSAT is administered around mid-October on either a Wednesday or Saturday, depending on the school. Unlike the SATs where registration is handled by the College Board, you must register for the PSAT through your high school.

High schools in Toronto (Ontario) that administer the PSAT are:

- Appleby College
- Bishop Strachan School
- Branksome Hall
- Cardinal Carter Academy for Arts
- City Academy
- Father John Redmond Catholic High School
- Greenwood College School
- Havergal College
- Holy Trinity School
- Jean Vanier Catholic School
- Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School
- Pickering College
- Richmond Hill High School
- Ridley College
- Royal St. George's College
- St. Andrew's College
- St. Clement's School
- St. Michael's College School
- St. Mildred's Lightbourn School
- Toronto French School
- Upper Canada College
- York School

If you do not attend the schools above, your options for writing the PSAT are limited. Most school will only administer the test to students who attend the schools. However,

there are a few schools that do offer the exam to external students on a space available basis:

- Havergal College (416-483-3843)
- St. Michael's College School (416-653-3180)

\*When calling, please ask for the guidance counselor for more information on how to register.

**What to bring on test day?**

You should bring the following to the exam

- A couple of pencils and an eraser
- An approved calculator
- Driver's license or another approved picture ID
- A bottle of water