PSAT
Now What?
ABOUT REVOLUTION

OUR MISSION

• We don’t just improve scores, we also lower stress and improve confidence for students and parents
• We find the perfect tutor match for each of our students
• We want to help families in any way we can, regardless of budget

OUR EXPERIENCE

• We have worked with over 1,000,000 students since 2002
• We have partnered with over 1,000 schools
• We are experts in the intricacies of standardized assessments
• We have industry-leading customer feedback

HOW WE DELIVER RESULTS

• Live, online instruction with the only full-time, professional tutors
• Regular assessments to measure student growth and achievement
• Weekly video updates to keep families informed of progress
Carlmont High School’s dedicated Revolution Prep Advisor is Cassie Brown

- cassie.brown@revolutionprep.com
- 415-994-7614

Our job is to help you set a test preparation plan and execute on it.
WHY PSAT RESULTS ARE SO IMPORTANT

- The PSAT is the initial step in the process of earning National Merit Scholarships

- The PSAT is far and away the test most similar to the ACT and SAT that students have taken to this point

- PSAT results provide data that can inform the ACT/SAT preparation of all students, even those who do not earn National Merit
**PSAT: TRUE OR FALSE?**

T  F   Only juniors are eligible for National Merit Scholarship consideration

T  F   The National Merit Semi-Finalist score is different for each state

T  F   I will not find out about National Merit consideration until September

T  F   Your PSAT score is the sole determinant of National Merit Scholarships

T  F   My PSAT scores are measures of my intelligence
PSAT NOW WHAT?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Know what your PSAT score report does (and does not) tell you
2. Learn the steps to earning a National Merit Scholarship
3. Take full advantage of the testing opportunity
4. Start developing your testing plan today
5. Improve your grades while improving your test scores
6. Pick the preparation option that is right for you
KEY TAKEAWAY #1
KNOW WHAT YOUR PSAT SCORE REPORT DOES (AND DOES NOT) TELL YOU
PSAT SCORING

Scaled Score (Out of 1520)

Reading
Test 1

Writing & Language
Test 2

Math
Test 3 & 4

Total Points: 160 – 760

Math: 1/2 of Total Score
Reading and Writing: 1/2 of Total Score
If you need to spend more time improving your math or reading/writing skills

If you have any fundamental skill gaps that need to be addressed before focusing on the ACT or SAT

The scaled score (but not the percentile) you would have earned on the SAT that day
If you are eligible for National Merit consideration

What is your best plan for score improvement

What scores you are able to achieve on the PSAT, SAT, and/or ACT if you dedicate the necessary time and effort
Your Question-Level Feedback

Questions Overview

Reading

Writing and Language

Math - Calculator

Math - Calculator

Math - No Calculator

Use the test questions to review all of your answers

Question Breakdown – Page 4
Import your PSAT results into Khan Academy
KEY TAKEAWAY #2
LEARN THE STEPS TO EARNING A NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Your NMSC Selection Index

226

NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. The Selection Index score is double the sum of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

Eligibility Information

You meet entry requirements for the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.6 million program entrants.

If your Selection Index places you among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition, you will be notified next September when qualifying Selection Index scores will be made available.
PSAT SCORING
SELECTION INDEX (OUT OF 228)

READING
TEST 1

WRITING & LANGUAGE
TEST 2

MATH
TEST 3 & 4

TOTAL POINTS: 16 – 76
TOTAL POINTS: 16 – 76
TOTAL POINTS: 16 – 76

MATH: 1/3 OF TOTAL SCORE
READING AND WRITING: 2/3 OF TOTAL SCORE
Getting a scholarship is not easy!
~1.6 million juniors take the PSAT/NMSQT exam each year, with ~7,600 students earning scholarships.

Commended status: Top 4% nationally (96th percentile nationally – 212) (~1400 scaled score)

Semi-Finalist status: Top 1% in state (99th percentile in the state)

Fun fact: Semi-finalist scores range from 212 (West Virginia) to 223 (New Jersey)
• Earn a confirming ACT or SAT score on any exam taken from sophomore year through 12/31 of your senior year

• Have a competitive GPA (3.5+)

• Demonstrate leadership in your scholarship application (i.e. student council officer, captain of a sports team, drum major, etc.)

• Submit a recommendation from your high school principal or someone the principal designates as a school official

• Write a strong personal essay
KEY POINT #3
TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE TESTING OPPORTUNITY
STANDARDIZED EXAMS ARE BIG OPPORTUNITIES

• Standardized exams are the second most important factor for college admission (after your academic transcript)
• The ACT, SAT, and Subject Tests are final opportunities to impress admission officers
• Scores on college admission tests can factor heavily into merit-based scholarships
# The ACT and SAT Are Very Similar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration (w/ essay)</strong></td>
<td>3 Hours 55 Minutes</td>
<td>4 Hours 10 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content Covered</strong></td>
<td>Math, reading, and writing</td>
<td>Math, reading, and writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test Offerings</strong></td>
<td>Seven times each year</td>
<td>Seven times each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guessing Penalty</strong></td>
<td>No Guessing Penalty</td>
<td>No Guessing Penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science Section</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Math Weight</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calculator Usage</strong></td>
<td>Allowed on All Math Questions</td>
<td>Allowed on Some Math Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Order of Difficulty</strong></td>
<td>Only Math Goes from Easy to Hard</td>
<td>Only Math Goes from Easy to Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big Challenge</strong></td>
<td>Time Crunch</td>
<td>Higher-Order Thinking Skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students will be able to retake 1-3 individual ACT sections (including Writing), as opposed to needing to retake the entire exam.

Students will only be able to retake individual ACT test sections via computer at approved ACT testing centers.

ACT score reports will provide the option for students to send their best ACT test results to colleges and include a calculated ACT Superscore, as opposed to needing to send multiple complete score reports to colleges.
• All colleges accept the ACT and SAT, so find out early which test is best for you
• There are no test dates when it is easier to earn a competitive score than others, so find out early which test dates are best for you
• Most students take the ACT or SAT 2 or 3 times, with the majority of students scoring higher the second time they take the exams
• You can use Superscoring, if your goal school(s) allow it
• Dedicate an amount of time and effort that is commensurate to the testing opportunity
TAKE THE ACT OR SAT AT THE TIMES THAT ARE BEST FOR YOU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB*</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL**</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ACT and SAT are both offered seven times during the year.

*ACT not offered in New York
**ACT not offered in California or New York

= Question and Answer Service
ONLY PREPARE FOR ONE EXAM AT A TIME
Official PSAT or SAT results, when compared with a practice ACT, can help you learn which test is right for you.

Most students score similarly on both exams.

Your dedicated Revolution Prep Academic Advisor can send you official exams and help you decide whether the ACT or SAT is your “test preference”.
All families have the opportunity to go over their exam results 1-on-1 with their dedicated Revolution Prep Academic Advisor. This is an opportunity to use your exam results to develop a tailored score improvement plan. Maximize your time and effort by having a consultation soon after receiving your scores.
KEY TAKEAWAY #4
START DEVELOPING YOUR TESTING PLAN TODAY
PLANNING AHEAD ALLOWS US TO DEDICATE THE TIME AND EFFORT NEEDED TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OUR TEST SCORES!
Work with your counselor and parents to set your school list

Google “admitted student profile” to identify interquartile ranges for GPA and test scores

Visit colleges that interest you

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>25th/75th Percentile ACT</th>
<th>25th/75th Percentile SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td>33/35</td>
<td>1500/1580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>33/35</td>
<td>1470/1570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>33/35</td>
<td>1490/1560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>33/35</td>
<td>1460/1550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>33/35</td>
<td>1410/1540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC – Berkeley</td>
<td>30/35</td>
<td>1340/1540</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Naval Academy</td>
<td>27/32</td>
<td>1240/1520</td>
</tr>
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<td>Middlebury</td>
<td>31/34</td>
<td>1340/1510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>30/34</td>
<td>1330/1500</td>
</tr>
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<td>University of Miami</td>
<td>30/33</td>
<td>1320/1460</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>29/33</td>
<td>1300/1440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>28/32</td>
<td>1290/1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
<td>25/30</td>
<td>1180/1360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence</td>
<td>25/30</td>
<td>1170/1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DePaul</td>
<td>23/28</td>
<td>1060/1260</td>
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</table>
DEVELOP A TESTING PLAN

• Develop a long-term testing plan with your dedicated Revolution Prep Academic Advisor

• Increase scores and decrease stress by mapping out the plan that works best for you and by staying ahead of the testing timeline

• Aim to finish standardized testing before the beginning of senior year
SAT Subject Tests are a great opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

- Required at some competitive colleges
- “Recommended” and “Considered” often mean required
- Students can be prepared to take Subject Tests as early as sophomore year

**FIND OUT IF YOU NEED TO TAKE SAT SUBJECT TESTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scaled Score (2019)</th>
<th>SAT Math Percentile</th>
<th>Math Level 1 Subject Test Percentile</th>
<th>Math Level 2 Subject Test Percentile</th>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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**SAT SUBJECT TEST PERCENTILES (2017-2019 GRADUATING CLASSES)**
### SAT Subject Test Basics

- Formally called Achievement Tests (1937-1994) and SAT IIs (1994-2005)
- Single subject focus (20 different subjects)
- 60 minutes
- Multiple choice questions
- There is a penalty for wrong answers
- 200-800 score range
- Offered on SAT dates (with exceptions)
- You can prepare to take Subject Tests at advantageous times (i.e. at the end of the related academic class and/or near when you take the related AP Exam)

#### SAT Subject Test Dates (United States Students)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>AUG</th>
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<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
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<tr>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology E/M</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese w/ Listening</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Dates marked with ✔ are available for testing, while dates marked with X are not.
A GROWTH MINDSET WILL HELP YOU FOLLOW THROUGH ON YOUR PLAN

I can learn anything I want to.
When I’m frustrated, I persevere.
I want to challenge myself.
When I fail, I learn.
Tell me I try hard.
If you succeed, I’m inspired.
My effort and attitude determine everything.

I’m either good at it, or I’m not.
When I’m frustrated, I give up.
I don’t like to be challenged.
When I fail, I’m no good.
Tell me I’m smart.
If you succeed, I feel threatened.
My abilities determine everything.
KEY TAKEAWAY #5

IMPROVE YOUR GRADES WHILE IMPROVING YOUR TEST SCORES
NEVER FORGET THAT YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS THE DOMINANT FACTOR FOR ADMISSION
HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR TRANSCRIPT

- Take the most challenging courses and do well
- Make sure that schoolwork is your top priority
- Stay on top of your homework assignments
- Get the resources and help you need to be successful
• If you are a freshman, do not spend time preparing for college admission tests—focus on your grades; improving core academic skills now will translate to college admission exams later.

• If you are a sophomore, you may be ready to prepare for SAT Subject Tests in the spring and/or test prep during the summer, but make sure your primary focus is your grades.

• If you are a junior, place a greater focus on college admission tests—they are a final chance to impress admission officers!, but don’t forget that colleges do value an upward grade trend.
KEY TAKEAWAY #6
PICK THE PREPARATION Option THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU
PREPARATION OPTIONS

SELF-STUDY

• Can lead to increases if students are motivated to put in time on their own

• Students that spend 20 hours practicing on Khan Academy see average SAT score increases of ~100 points

• Less than 1% of Khan Academy users spend at least 20 hours using the site
• Student-to-teacher ratio is important
• The right teacher makes a big difference
• A 24-hour group course can increase your score 100-250 points (SAT) or 2-5 points (ACT)
Preparation Options
Private Tutoring

- Know what makes a great tutor
- For students seeking scores of 1300+ (SAT) or 28+ (ACT)
- For students seeking score improvements of 200+ points (SAT) or 4+ points (ACT)
1. Know what your PSAT score report does (and does not) tell you
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Phone: 415-994-7614

**HOW REVOLUTION PREP HELPS STUDENTS**

**OUR PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic and Test Prep Tutoring</th>
<th>Small Group Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Functioning</td>
<td>Homework Help</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE RESOURCES**

revolutionprep.com/resources

- Practice Exams
- Webinars & Presentations
- Videos
- Blog Posts