

# Psat Nmsqt Practice Test 2

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1

## Reading Test

60 MINUTES, 47 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

### DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Mark Slouka, *Brewster: A Novel*.  
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This was a time trial, he said—a one-mile time trial, four laps—not a race. It was meant to give an idea of where we stood, no more.

We'd gathered around the middle of the long side of the track, just ten or twelve of us, including three others who seemed new like me, jogging back and forth in the wind, loosening up. The rest had walked over to the other side of the field.

Falvo took me aside. "Warmed up? How're the shoes?"

"Fine." In the distance I could see kids walking toward the parking lot. The sun stabbed out from under the clouds, glancing off the windshields.

He raised his voice over the wind. "All right, I want you all to stay contained, stay smooth. I don't want to see anybody draining the well today—that means you, Mr. McCann." A tall, tough-looking kid with red hair and a tight face smiled like a gunslinger.

He turned to me. "I don't want you doing anything stupid, Mosher. Some of these boys have been at it for a while. Don't think about them, think about yourself."

I shrugged.

"Pace yourself. Let them do what they do. They'll be about thirty yards ahead after the first lap. Don't worry about them. Go out slow, feel your way, then bring it home as best you can. OK?"

"Sure," I said.

"Remember, it's a time trial. Not a race."

There was no starting gun. We lined up in the gusty wind, Falvo standing in the soggy infield in his dress shoes holding his clipboard like a small high table against his chest with his left hand and his stopwatch in his right and then he barked, "Runners . . . marks? Go!"

They didn't run, they flowed—the kid in the headband, the red-headed kid, and two or three others in particular—with a quiet, aggressive, sustained power that looked like nothing but felt like murder and I was with them and then halfway through the third turn they were moving away smooth as water and I could hear them talking among themselves, and I was slowing, burning, leaning back like there was a rope around my neck. "Too fast, Mosher, too fast," I heard Falvo yelling, and his ax-sharp face came out of nowhere looking almost frantic and then it was gone and there was just the sound of my breathing and the crunch of my sneakers slapping the dirt. The group, still in a tight cluster, wasn't all that far ahead of me.

By the end of the second lap I heard someone far away yelling "Stop, Mosher, that's enough," and then at some point someone else calling "Coming through—inside," and they passed me like a single mass, all business now, and I remember staggering after them, gasping, drowning, my chest, my legs, my throat filling with lead and looking up through a fog of pain just in time to see the kid with the headband, halfway down the backstretch, accelerating into a sustained, powerful sprint.

**PSAT NMSQT Practice Test 2** serves as a critical tool for students preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). This practice test not only helps students familiarize themselves with the format and types of questions they will encounter but also provides an opportunity to assess their understanding of key concepts in mathematics, reading, and writing. In this article, we will explore the significance of the PSAT NMSQT, the structure of Practice Test 2, effective strategies for preparation, and tips for maximizing performance on test day.

## Understanding the PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test administered by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is typically taken by high school juniors, although sophomores can

also take it for practice. The test not only serves as a preparatory tool for the SAT but also plays a crucial role in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## **Key Objectives of the PSAT/NMSQT**

1. Assess College Readiness: The PSAT/NMSQT evaluates a student's readiness for college-level work.
2. Scholarship Opportunities: High scores can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program, offering significant financial aid.
3. SAT Preparation: The PSAT/NMSQT provides practice for the SAT, helping students identify strengths and weaknesses in their academic skills.
4. College Planning: The test results can aid in college planning, guiding students towards appropriate academic paths.

## **Structure of PSAT NMSQT Practice Test 2**

The PSAT NMSQT is divided into three main sections: Evidence-Based Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. Practice Test 2 follows a similar structure, allowing students to simulate the actual test experience.

## **Section Breakdown**

1. Evidence-Based Reading:
  - Duration: 60 minutes
  - Questions: 47
  - Focus: Reading comprehension, critical analysis, and understanding of textual evidence.
2. Writing and Language:
  - Duration: 35 minutes
  - Questions: 44
  - Focus: Grammar, punctuation, and effective language use.
3. Math:
  - Duration: 70 minutes
  - Questions: 48
  - Focus: Problem-solving, data analysis, algebra, and advanced math concepts.

## **Score Calculation**

Each section is scored on a scale of 160 to 760. The total score ranges from 480 to 1520, combining the scores from all three sections. Understanding the scoring system helps students gauge their performance and identify areas for improvement.

# Benefits of Taking Practice Test 2

Taking PSAT NMSQT Practice Test 2 offers several advantages for students aiming to improve their test-taking skills.

## Familiarization with Test Format

- Students can become accustomed to the structure and timing of the test.
- Exposure to different question types reduces anxiety on the actual test day.

## Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses

- Practice Test 2 helps pinpoint specific areas where a student excels or struggles.
- Targeted studying can be undertaken to address weak points in understanding.

## Building Test-Taking Strategies

- Regular practice allows students to develop effective strategies for answering questions, managing time, and eliminating incorrect answer choices.
- Familiarity with the types of passages and questions enhances critical thinking skills.

## Effective Strategies for Preparation

Preparation for the PSAT/NMSQT should be comprehensive and structured. Here are some effective strategies to consider.

### 1. Create a Study Schedule

- Allocate specific times each week for studying different sections of the test.
- Include breaks and review sessions to avoid burnout.

### 2. Utilize Official Resources

- Use official College Board materials, including practice tests and study guides.
- Take advantage of online resources, such as Khan Academy, which offers personalized practice plans.

### **3. Practice Active Reading and Writing**

- Engage with a variety of texts, summarizing passages and analyzing arguments.
- Write essays and practice revising them to improve writing skills.

### **4. Familiarize with Math Concepts**

- Review key math concepts, formulas, and problem-solving techniques.
- Solve practice problems and take timed quizzes to enhance speed and accuracy.

### **5. Take Full-Length Practice Tests**

- Simulate real test conditions by timing yourself and taking breaks.
- Review incorrect answers to understand mistakes.

## **Maximizing Performance on Test Day**

To perform well on the PSAT/NMSQT, students should not only prepare academically but also mentally and physically.

### **1. Get Adequate Rest**

- Ensure a good night's sleep before the test day to promote focus and alertness.

### **2. Eat a Balanced Breakfast**

- Fuel your body with nutritious foods to maintain energy levels throughout the test.

### **3. Arrive Early**

- Plan to arrive at the testing location with ample time to spare, reducing pre-test anxiety.

### **4. Read Instructions Carefully**

- Take the time to read all instructions and questions to avoid careless mistakes.

## **5. Manage Your Time Wisely**

- Monitor the time allocated for each section and pace yourself to ensure completion.

## **6. Stay Calm and Focused**

- Practice relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing, to maintain composure during the test.

## **Conclusion**

PSAT NMSQT Practice Test 2 is an invaluable resource for students preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT. By familiarizing themselves with the test structure, identifying areas for improvement, and employing effective study strategies, students can enhance their performance on the actual test day. The insights gained from practice tests not only contribute to academic success but also pave the way for future opportunities in higher education and scholarships. With diligent preparation and a positive mindset, students can approach the PSAT/NMSQT with confidence, ready to showcase their abilities and take the next step in their academic journey.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the PSAT/NMSQT and why is it important?**

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a standardized test that helps students prepare for the SAT. It is also used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program, making it important for college-bound students.

### **How can I access PSAT/NMSQT Practice Test 2?**

You can access PSAT/NMSQT Practice Test 2 through the College Board's official website, where they provide downloadable PDFs and online practice tools.

### **What subjects are covered in the PSAT/NMSQT Practice Test 2?**

The PSAT/NMSQT Practice Test 2 covers Math, Evidence-Based Reading, and Writing, which includes reading comprehension and grammar skills.

### **How does the scoring work for the PSAT/NMSQT?**

The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a scale of 320 to 1520, combining the scores from the Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections. Each section is scored from 160 to 760.

## **What types of questions can I expect in Practice Test 2?**

In Practice Test 2, you can expect multiple-choice questions, grid-in questions for Math, and passage-based reading and writing questions.

## **How should I prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT using Practice Test 2?**

To prepare using Practice Test 2, take the test under timed conditions, review your answers thoroughly, and focus on areas where you struggled to improve your skills.

## **Are there any resources available for reviewing answers from Practice Test 2?**

Yes, the College Board provides answer keys and scoring guidelines for Practice Test 2, along with detailed explanations for each question to help you understand your mistakes.

## **Can taking Practice Test 2 improve my performance on the actual PSAT/NMSQT?**

Yes, taking Practice Test 2 can improve your performance by familiarizing you with the test format, types of questions, and time management strategies, boosting your confidence.

## **Is there a difference between the PSAT and the PSAT/NMSQT?**

Yes, the PSAT is a general term for practice tests, while the PSAT/NMSQT specifically refers to the version that qualifies students for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## **When should I take the PSAT/NMSQT for the best results?**

It is recommended to take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of your junior year of high school, as it is the primary qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship.

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