## PSAT ${ }^{\text {™ }} 10$

## Understanding <br> Scores

## FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



## PSAT 10 Score Report Resources

## Congratulations to your student for taking the PSAT 10 at their school. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for students and their families.

## What's Included

This document delves deeper into the meaning of your student's PSAT ${ }^{\text {M }} 10$ scores, including what the assessment measures, how it is scored, and how you can use the data to monitor your student's progress.

The document also provides:

- Information about estimating how much a score may change from the PSAT 10 to the PSAT/NMSQT ${ }^{\oplus}$ or SAT ${ }^{\oplus}$.
- A sample score report walk-through so you can interpret your student's score report.


## Related Resources

Visit our PSAT 10 Score Information page at satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/scores to find information about:

- Score release dates
- Managing access to online scores
- Resources for online score reports
- Downloadable Understanding Scores for Students and Families documents in English and Spanish


## CONTACTS FOR

STUDENTS AND PARENTS


# The PSAT 10 and the SAT Suite of Assessments 

## The SAT Suite of Assessments

The SAT Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT ${ }^{\text {TM }} 8 / 9$ (for grades 8 and 9 ).

The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in gradeappropriate ways. They work together to show college readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kind of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in middle school and high school courses taught today.

## Going Digital

While the transition to digital brings a number of studentand educator-friendly changes, many important features of the SAT Suite have stayed the same. The SAT Suite continues to measure the knowledge and skills that students are learning in school and that matter most for college and career readiness. The digital SAT Suite is easier to take, easier to give, more secure, and more relevant. We haven't simply created a digital version of the current paper and pencil tests-we're taking full advantage of what digital testing makes possible.

This Understanding Scores document provides information about how to interpret and use scores on the PSAT 10.

The PSAT 10 that students take in 2024 will be delivered digitally. It includes the following sections:

## READING AND WRITING

The Reading and Writing section measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. It also measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation.

## MATH

This section includes multiple-choice and student-produced response questions, and students are permitted to use a calculator on all math questions. The Math section assesses skills in algebra, problem solving and data analysis, manipulation of complex equations, geometry, and trigonometry.

## How the PSAT 10 Is Scored

All test questions are first scored as correct or incorrect. There is no penalty for guessing. The difficulty level and other qualities of each question (such as how well it differentiates skill level or how easy it is to guess on a question) as well as whether the student got the question right or wrong are taken into account when calculating a student's score. This score is then converted to the reported scaled score of 160-760 on each section. Every test conforms to a standardized specification of question types and qualities, so all students have equitable opportunity to demonstrate their strengths.

## How the PSAT 10 Is Organized

Students receive a total score that is the sum of their scores.
The digital SAT Suite uses multistage adaptive testing (MST). Relying on MST means we can fairly and accurately measure the same things with a shorter, more secure test while preserving test reliability. Both the Reading and Writing and the Math sections are divided into two equal-length and separately timed stages, each composed of a module of questions. The first module contains a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Based on how a student performs on the first module, the second module of questions will either be more difficult or less difficult.

By adapting to a student's performance level, the responsive test will provide students with a more efficient assessment of their academic strengths.

## PSAT 10 Scores

## Total Scores

The total score is the sum of the two section scores; its range is $320-1520$.

## Section Scores

Students receive scores in the range of 160-760 for each of two sections:

- The Reading and Writing section
- The Math Section


## Accessing Official Student Scores

The student's school has access to a downloadable PDF called "Your Score Report" for every PSAT 10 test taker. Students can get this score report from their school and review it with their families and with educators at their school.

Students who took the PSAT 10 and provided a mobile phone number during testing can view their scores on the BigFuture School app. For more information, see page 12 in this document, or go to satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool.

## NOTE

The BigFuture School app is available to domestic students 13 and over. See page 12 for more information.

As always, students age 13 and older may use a personal College Board student account to view additional insights online.

## Information About Scores

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the three scores available from their PSAT 10 assessment-total score, Reading and Writing section score, and Math section score. For each score, the official score report PDF includes:

- The range of possible scores: 320-1520 for total score, and 160-760 for section scores.
- The All Tester Percentile (formally called the "User Percentile") of each score. For example, if a student's score is in the 70th percentile, $70 \%$ of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student's score.

All Tester Percentiles are based on the actual scores of the past 3 cohorts of students who took the PSAT 10 in 10th or 11th grade, for tests completed anywhere in the world. Students in 10th grade are provided the 10th-grade percentile, and students in 11th grade are provided the 11th-grade percentile. Students testing outside of these grades are provided the nearest percentile to their grade (i.e. a 9th grader is provided the 10th-grade percentile).

# Score Scales and Score Changes 

## Using PSAT 10 Scores to Project SAT Scores

The SAT Suite—from the PSAT 8/9 through the SAT—uses a common score scale for the scores. The ranges reported for each assessment reflect grade-level appropriateness within the common scale. Thus, while the total range for the SAT is $400-1600$, the total range for the PSAT 10 is $320-1520$.

This common score scale means that a student who took the PSAT 10 and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the SAT or the PSAT 8/9 if they had taken either of those tests on that same day; a score of 500 represents the same level of academic achievement on all three assessments.

This also means that student growth across the SAT Suite is easy to determine. If a student takes the PSAT 10 this year and receives a 500 Math section score, and then takes the SAT next year and earns a 550 Math section score, that student has shown a growth of 50 points, which likely resulted from hard work both in and out of school.

## Differences Between Paper and Pencil PSAT 10 Scores and Digital PSAT 10 Scores

The digital PSAT 10 and paper and pencil PSAT 10 measure similar, but not identical, content, so a score on the paper and pencil test is not a perfect predictor of how a student would perform on the digital test (and vice versa).

College Board conducted two concordance studies in the spring and fall of 2022 to establish the direct relationship between paper-based and digital SAT scores. These studies' results support the hypothesis of a direct one-to-one relationship between the two versions of the assessment. In other words, the scores on the two versions of the SAT are comparable, and scores from both tests can be fairly evaluated side by side without a concordance table.

Note that this study process only concorded the two versions of the SAT; concordance between the two versions of the PSAT-related assessments will occur subsequently and may require conversion tables.

The scores have been vertically scaled to allow the accurate measurement of growth from test to test. Students should focus on the section scores if they are curious about the growth they can expect to see in their scores over the next year. Each score report PDF provides a set of projected score ranges for students that reflect typical growth. Of course, a student's individual growth will be shaped by the courses taken and by the practice the student undertakes between assessments.

Students who plan to take the SAT and want to improve their scores should follow these guidelines:

- Develop academic skills through challenging coursework.
- Read extensively and develop strong writing skills.
- Engage in deliberate practice in the 4 math areas that are emphasized the most in the assessments.
- Take full-length practice tests in the digital testing app, Bluebook ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, review results in My Practice, and use Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy for free, personalized practice of the skills they need to improve. To learn more, go to psat.org/practice.


## Benchmarks

## PSAT 10 Grade-Level Benchmarks

The SAT Suite offers grade-level benchmarks that can be used to gauge whether students are on track for becoming college ready each year in grades 8-12. Grade-level benchmarks represent the section scores on each assessment that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready.

## RECOMMENDED USES

Families can compare their students' scores to the grade-level benchmarks above to help them:

- Understand their unique path to success in college and career readiness.
- Identify areas where they may need extra support while there is still time for improvement.
- Consider their readiness for more challenging coursework.

Educators know that grade-level benchmarks shouldn't be used to assign academic tracks, to discourage students from pursuing college, or to keep students from participating in challenging courses. Rather, the benchmarks are intended to help all students better prepare for life after high school. Students and families can review the student's scores together to develop an understanding of what those scores mean. Here's how:

## TALK ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

For each section, the score report in the online student score reporting portal includes an indicator that shows whether the student's score meets the grade-level benchmark. These benchmarks allow students and their teachers to understand how students are progressing toward college readiness.

- If a student is meeting the benchmark for a section, they should continue to take rigorous courses and work hard to stay on track for college success.
- If a student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, they should pursue classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement. Khan Academy can help supplement this work.
- Think of ways to develop each of the skills you have identified for focus and improvement.
- Use the career examples to talk about career interests and options with your students.

For further guidance on interpreting score reports, visit psat.org/scores.

## What the Benchmarks Mean

The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the SAT predict a $75 \%$ likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math.

| PSAT 10 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Grade-Level Benchmarks |  |
| Reading and Writing | Math |  |
| 10th Grade | 430 | 480 |
| 11th Grade | 460 | 510 |

Score reports on the K-12 score reporting portal for the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 include grade-level benchmarks based on how students grow from year to year toward the SAT benchmarks.

Through the online K-12 score reporting portal, the PSAT 10 reports separate benchmarks for 10th graders to help teachers understand students' level of readiness for college and career training programs. Equipped with this information, teachers can address challenge areas for their students while there is still time for improvement. Teachers can also accelerate the progress of students who meet or exceed the benchmarks.

## HOW SCHOOLS MAY USE SCORES

Through our K-12 score reporting portal, educators can access the official downloadable score report PDF for printing and sharing with the student. Educators can also see additional interpretive insights about the student's results. The PDF, titled "Your Score Report" (sample shown on page 8) clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can go over the official score report PDFs with students to help them understand what their scores mean. Reviewing their scores can also help students see their strengths, which can increase their confidence and show them content areas in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

# The PSAT 10 Score Report 

## A Case Study: Sample PSAT 10 Score Report

Take a look at the sample score report below and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret the PSAT 10 score report.


Score Report

## What are Parker's scores?

Parker's Reading and Writing score is 620 , and his Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120. By reviewing his performance on the content domains in each subject, Parker can see where his knowledge and skills are already strong and identify areas where he can improve.

## What are Parker's score percentiles?

Since Parker is in the 10th grade, the percentiles compare his scores with those of all 10th graders worldwide. Parker scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than $60 \%$ of a globally representative group of 10th-grade students. In Math, he scored as well or better than $70 \%$ of a globally representative group of sophomores. Putting both scores together, Parker scored as well or better than 75\% of students in his grade on the PSAT 10 as a whole.

## What can Parker learn from this career snapshot?

Since he's based in the U.S., Parker's score report includes Career Insight exampleshelpful information about growing careers in his state and that connect to his scores. Whether Parker sees a career he's curious about or not, the examples can spark his interest in learning more about what careers are out there and key information like median yearly income, expected growth rate for new job openings in his state over the next five years, and the most common education level for people in that career. While these might be careers worth watching in Parker's state, he can learn more about careers that reflect his interests at satsuite.org/whatsnext.

## How can Parker learn more about his scores?

If he's under age 13, Parker can talk to his school counselor to see his full score report, discuss how to prepare for the SAT, and learn his potential for $\mathrm{AP}^{\circledR}$ coursework. If Parker is age 13 or older, he can also choose to visit psat.org/myscore to personally find out this information.

## How can Parker measure his progress?

Next fall, Parker can take the PSAT/NMSQT to measure the progress he's made since he took the PSAT 10. He can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting sat.org/digital-practice.


## $\theta$ PSAT" 10

Name: Parker Pupil
Grade: 10
Test administration: PSAT 10 Spring 2024
Tested on: Mar. 4, 2024
Your Score Report
Record Locator: 4561264


## Career Insights Snapshot



| Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free. |  |
| :---: | :---: |

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## Additional PSAT 10 Insights

Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the PSAT 10 in the online student scores portal at psat.org/myscore.

## Putting Scores in Context

## SCORE COMPARISONS

Students can gain additional insights into their scores by meeting with their school counselor to review their score report. They can also see more contextual comparisons of their scores in the student scores portal. Students can compare their total and section scores to the average scores of all testers in their:

- School (as applicable)
- District (public schools, as applicable)
- State (U.S.-based \& territories)
- Nation and internationally


## PERCENTILES

The additional insights provided online include percentiles not provided in the downloadable score report PDF.

- The percentile ranks include:
- Country (all testers in the student's country)
- State (all testers in the student's state, available for U.S. and U.S. territories only)
- All testers (domestic and international)
- For the percentiles above, the student's score is ranked among testers from the last 3 years, i.e., who took the


## Score Comparisons

Learn how you scored compared to other test takers. Some comparisons may not be available.

Total
Reading and Writing
Math

Total Score Comparisons
Compare your score to the average scores of the following 10th grade student groups who tested when you did.


## Total Score Percentile Comparisons

Compare your score percentile among the following groups of 10th-grade test takers from the past three years. Find practice options to help you improve.


Online score insights

## TOTAL SCORE 1120

Your Score Range 1080-1160

## Section Scores

The PSAT 10's Reading and Writing section and Math section both focus on the necessary skills for college and career success. View your section scores and compare them against our readiness benchmarks. Learn more about benchmarks.


> You've met the Reading and Writing benchmark ( 430$)$ ! Learn which Reading and Writing skills can help you improve.


You've met the Math benchmark (480). Learn which Math skills can help you improve.

Your Score Range 470-530
The Math benchmark for the PSAT/NMSQT is 510 , If you plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT next year, we estimate you'll score between $560-600$

Online score insights

## More About Knowledge and Skills

Based on our Skills Insight ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ tool, we provide students with a deeper dive into the knowledge and skills measured by the PSAT 10. Students may view a breakdown of their knowledge and skills across 4 content areas in Reading and Writing and 4 content areas in Math.

- The online insights go further by helping students view their performance across 7 defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each area.
- Students can:
- Click View Skills and Example Questions in Next Score Band to access the Skills Insight tool and see skills and example questions that students in the next performance score band are typically able to demonstrate, as well as examples of the kinds of questions that these students are likely able to answer correctly.
- From the next performance score band, they can navigate to any other performance score band in the Skills Insight tool, including their current performance score band.


## Section Benchmarks

Another set of insights students can view in the online scores portal are the section level readiness benchmarks. We will indicate if the student has met the section benchmark or not, providing links to resources to help them analyze what skills to focus on for improvement.

Additionally, we show students their score range and provide a link to information about how a score range more accurately reflects their level of knowledge and skills than a single score.


## Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. These are examples, not recommendations, to help jumpstart your career exploration. Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free on bigfuture.org.

CAREER EXAMPLES

| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | $\wedge$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Median Yearly Income in MI | \$59,000 |
| Interest Area* | Doers |
| Number of Jobs/Job Growth in M1** | 25,600 /+10\% |
| Most Common Education Level | Certificate |
|  | See Career Details $\nearrow$ |
| Wind Energy Operations Managers | $\wedge$ |
| Median Yearly Income in MI | \$63,000 |
| Interest Area* | Persuaders |
| Number of Jobs/Job Growth in M1** | 24,300 /+10\% |
| Most Common Education Level | Associate degree |
|  | See Career Details $\nearrow$ |
| Data source: Lightcast.io |  |
| * For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit bigfuture.org. <br> ** Number reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2028. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2023 and 2028. |  |
|  |  |
| Explore Careers $\nearrow$ |  |

Online score insights


Online score insights

## Career Exploration

To expand on the information in their downloadable score report PDF, students can:

- View even more potential careers online at bigfuture.org.
- Tailor their career insights to their own interests.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps down their career path.


## Further Guidance

Students can view next steps with linked resources to do more with their score, including:

- Finding practice resources to improve their score.
- Learning more about the SAT Suite of Assessments.
- Planning for their future using their PSAT 10 score on BigFuture.


## Introducing BigFuture School and Connections

BigFuture School is a free mobile app for students age 13 and older who take the digital PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, or SAT School Day in the United States. It's designed for students to use to get their test scores quickly, get guidance on college and career planning, and learn about financial aid and scholarships. Students may also have the opportunity to opt in to Connections ${ }^{\top \mathrm{TM}}$ —a program that allows them to hear from nonprofit colleges and scholarship programs that may be a good match. Connections puts privacy first. No personal information is shared with institutions unless a student directly chooses to do so. Please know that your school, district, or state may choose to not provide access to Connections for its students or students who test at their schools.

Students who choose not to download the BigFuture School app or who don't have a mobile phone can still access their scores and guidance for future planning. Schools will continue to receive PDF score reports for all assessments they administer, which can be shared with students. And, as always, students can log in to their personal College Board accounts at psat.org/myscore to get additional insights about their scores and explore BigFuture.

If your student provided a mobile phone number when they took the PSAT 10, they can download the BigFuture School mobile app and they'll get a text notification in the app telling them when their scores are available to view.


## Total and Section Scores

The first thing students will see in BigFuture School is their total score, which is a combination of their scores on the Reading and Writing and Math sections.


## Percentile Comparisons

Students will be able to see percentile comparisons that help them understand the percentage of students scoring the same or better than they did. For example, 75th percentile means that their score was the same or higher than $75 \%$ of other students.


## Financial Aid, Scholarships, College and Career Guidance

While students are in the BigFuture School app, they can explore messages about financial aid, scholarships, and guidance to help them plan for college and explore careers.


## Connections

Eligible students may also have the option to hear from nonprofit college and scholarship programs by opting in to a program called Connections.

## Next Steps for Students and Parents

View a video walk-through of the score report: satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-10/scores/ understanding-scores/your-score-explained
Learn more about understanding and using scores: psat.org/scores
Connect to scholarships: collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships
Practice for the SAT: sat.org/digital-practice

## About College Board

College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the $\mathrm{SAT}^{\oplus}$ and $\mathrm{AP}^{\oplus}$ to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture ${ }^{\circledR}$ program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at cb.org.

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