



ACT Aspire™, PreACT™, PSAT™ 8/9, and PSAT™ 10 and PSAT/NMSQT® Side by Side

ACT® and SAT® Assessments by Grade Level

	ACT	College Board (SAT)
Grade 3	ACT Aspire	
Grade 4	ACT Aspire	
Grade 5	ACT Aspire	
Grade 6	ACT Aspire	
Grade 7	ACT Aspire	
Grade 8	ACT Aspire (PreACT is appropriate)	PSAT 8/9
Grade 9	ACT Aspire Early High School (PreACT is appropriate)	PSAT 8/9
Grade 10	ACT Aspire Early High School PreACT	PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10
Grade 11	ACT	PSAT/NMSQT or SAT
Grade 12	ACT	SAT

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	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
Background	<p>Vertically aligned with the ACT</p> <p>Reflects students' longitudinal growth</p> <p>First used during the 2013–14 school year and designed to improve and replace the ACT Explore® and ACT Plan® tests during the 2014–15 school year</p>	<p>Models the ACT</p> <p>Provides information about students' future performance on the ACT and their academic progress</p> <p>PreACT, ACT Online Prep™, and the ACT form a series of resources</p>	<p>Establishes a baseline for college and career readiness as students enter high school; designed for 8th and 9th graders</p> <p>Vertically aligned with and on the same score scale as the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT</p> <p>Replacing the Readiness Step™ in 2015–16 (see Compare PSAT 8/9 and Readiness Step for more information)</p> <p>Not considered for entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program</p>	<p>Provides a chance to check in on progress toward college and career readiness and success; connects students to AP® courses, scholarships, and colleges</p> <p>Both PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT cover the same material</p> <p>PSAT/NMSQT redesigned for 2015–16 school year (see PSAT/NMSQT Redesign Specifications)</p>
What is it?	<p>ACT Aspire has three different types of assessments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classroom (periodic) 2. Interim (periodic) 3. Summative <p>Aligned with the College and Career Readiness Standards and the Common Core State Standards</p>	<p>An additional resource for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders, as ACT Aspire is also available to 8th graders and ACT Aspire Early High School is also available to 9th and 10th graders</p> <p>Models the ACT, can be easily administrated, and is affordable</p> <p>Results are delivered quickly</p>	<p>The first test in the SAT Suite of Assessments</p> <p>Focused on the content and skill domains that students will need to be successful in college as appropriate for 8th and 9th grade students</p>	<p>Part of the SAT Suite of Assessments, the PSAT/NMSQT is designed for 10th and 11th graders and is used to measure and track student college and career readiness</p> <p>PSAT 10 is not considered for entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program, but the PSAT/NMSQT® is</p> <p>On the same score scale and includes the same content domains as the SAT</p> <p>Focused on the most important skills for college success</p>



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Which grades can take this?	<p>Classroom Assessments taken by grades 3–8</p> <p>Interim and Summative Assessments taken by grades 3–10</p> <p>Grades 9–10 take the ACT Aspire Early High School Assessment</p> <p>Classroom and Interim Assessments available throughout the school year</p> <p>Summative Assessments offered in fall and spring</p>	<p>Designed for 10th graders, but it is also appropriate for 8th and 9th graders</p>	<p>Taken by 8th and 9th graders</p> <p>Offered in fall and spring</p>	<p>PSAT 10 taken by 10th graders in the spring</p> <p>PSAT/NMSQT taken by 10th and 11th graders in the fall</p>
Content and Format	<p>ACT Aspire assesses five main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Math 3. Reading 4. Science 5. Writing <p>Largely administered via computer; paper/pencil option only available for Summative Assessments</p>	<p>PreACT assesses four main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Math 3. Reading 4. Science <p>Administered via paper/pencil only</p> <p>Includes ACT Interest Inventory, which gives students insight on their interests and college majors and careers</p>	<p>Two sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reading Test b. Writing and Language Test 2. Math <p>Administered via paper/pencil only</p> <p>Reading and Writing and Language items are all multiple choice</p> <p>Math has multiple-choice and student-produced response (grid-in) items</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u> 2 hr. and 25 min.</p>	<p>Two sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reading Test b. Writing and Language Test 2. Math <p>Currently administered via paper/pencil only</p> <p>Reading and Writing and Language items are all multiple choice</p> <p>Math has multiple-choice and student-produced response (grid-in) items</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u> 2 hr. and 45 min. for each test</p>



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Content and Format (Continued)	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
	<p>Various question types, including multiple choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced (e.g., place the provided options in a particular order)</p> <p>Periodic Assessments (Interim or Classroom Assessments) are short in duration and measure shorter term student progress as they are administered periodically throughout the school year</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u></p> <p>Interim Assessments: 45 min. or less</p> <p>Classroom Assessments: 15–20 min.</p> <p>Summative Assessments: Anywhere from 3 hr. and 50 min. to 4 hr. and 10 min., depending on grade level</p>	<p>Multiple choice questions and has fewer questions than the ACT, so it takes less time to administer</p> <p><u>Time Allotted for Test:</u></p> <p>2 hr. and 15 min.</p> <p>Additional hour for ACT Interest Inventory</p>		



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Costs	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
	<p>Flexible; depends on which tests (periodic, summative, or both) are bought and for which grade levels</p> <p>Schools can buy 1, 2, or all 3 types of assessments and can select certain grades</p> <p>\$20 per student, which includes the Periodic Assessments</p> <p>\$7 for just the Periodic Assessments</p> <p>Fee waivers are not available</p>	<p>\$12 per test</p> <p>Paid for by schools or districts</p>	<p>\$10 per test</p> <p>Paid for by the school</p> <p>Fee waivers are not available</p>	<p>\$15 per test</p> <p>Schools can request fee waivers for 11th graders taking the PSAT/NMSQT</p>



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Overview of Scoring	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
	<p><u>Overall:</u> 3-digit scaled score, starting from 400 and up for each subject</p> <p><u>Writing Scores:</u> Calculated using a rubric based on the grade level of the student, unlike the other subjects</p> <p><u>Skill Scores:</u> For each subject, scores for specific skills (reporting categories) are also provided</p> <p><u>Supplemental Scores:</u> Scores combining subject areas are reported (e.g., Science and Math to create STEM combined score)</p> <p><u>Progress with Text Complexity Indicator:</u> Score that reports whether students are on track to read complex texts encountered in later grades</p>	<p>Scale ranges from 1–36 like the ACT (more information to come)</p>	<p><u>Total Score:</u> Scale ranges from 240–1440; sum of two section scores</p> <p><u>Section Scores:</u> Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math; scale ranges from 120–720</p> <p><u>Test Scores:</u> Scale ranges from 6–36; scores for each test (e.g., Reading, Writing and Language, and Math)</p> <p><u>Cross-Test Scores:</u> Scale ranges from 6–36; Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science cross-test scores</p> <p><u>Subscores:</u> Scale ranges from 1–15; scores drawn from questions within each section (Reading, Writing and Language, and Math); questions can contribute to one or more subscores</p> <p>No penalty for guessing; students receive 1 point for items answered correctly and 0 points for incorrect answers or items left unanswered</p>	<p><u>Total Score:</u> Scale ranges from 320–1520; sum of two section scores</p> <p><u>Section Scores:</u> Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math; scale ranges from 160–760</p> <p><u>Test scores:</u> Scale ranges from 8–38; scores for each test (e.g., Reading, Writing and Language, and Math)</p> <p><u>Cross-test scores:</u> Scale ranges from 8–38; Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science cross-test scores</p> <p><u>Subscores:</u> Scale ranges from 1–15; scores drawn from questions within each section (Reading, Writing and Language, and Math); questions can contribute to one or more subscores</p> <p>No penalty for guessing; students receive 1 point for items answered correctly and 0 points for incorrect answers or items left unanswered</p>



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Overview of Scoring (Continued)	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
	<p><u>Composite Scores</u>: Average of English, Math, Reading, and Science subject scores; only provided for grades 8–10</p> <p><u>Progress Toward Career Readiness Indicator</u>: From Composite Score, a future ACT National Career Readiness Certificate achievement level is projected</p> <p>No penalty for wrong answers</p> <p>See ACT Aspire Score Scale – By Grade for score scales</p>			



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How are the scores used?	ACT Aspire	PreACT	PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT
	<p>Scale scores are all on a common, vertical scaled system linked to the ACT and are used to track and predict student performance</p> <p>Subject scores will fall into one of three categories: Ready, Close, or In Need of Support</p> <p>ACT Readiness Benchmarks are used to determine if students are on track for college readiness</p> <p>Skill scores are compared to an ACT Readiness Range, which determines whether each student is on target or not</p> <p>ACT Aspire Early High School report (grades 9–10) provides predicted ACT score ranges for each subject and as a composite</p> <p>National average scores (norm scores) provided</p> <p>National Percentile Ranks show how students did compared to other test-takers</p> <p>See Understanding Your ACT Aspire Results for more information</p>	<p>Scores are used to help students and educators learn about students’ academic progress and guide action plans</p> <p>A personalized report based on students’ answers to the ACT Interest Inventory is provided to shed light on students’ areas of interest and related college majors and career areas</p>	<p>The exams in the SAT Suite of Assessments share a vertically aligned score scale so students’ progress can be monitored across grades by the students themselves or educators through high school</p> <p>On the PSAT 8/9, the two cross-test scores and six subscores indicate how students tested in specific skill and knowledge areas</p> <p>Score reports show students’ scores, areas of strength and opportunity, and suggest specific activities; scores can also link to free personalized practice through Khan Academy</p> <p>See Official SAT® Practice for more information</p> <p>Provides college and career readiness benchmarks for both 8th and 9th grades (e.g., if 8th graders meet or exceed certain scores, then they are considered to be on track for college readiness)</p>	<p>The exams in the SAT Suite of Assessments share a vertically aligned score scale so students’ progress can be monitored across grades by the students themselves or educators through high school</p> <p>New to the PSAT/NMSQT and also included on the PSAT 10, the two cross-test scores and seven new subscores indicate how students tested in specific skill and knowledge areas</p> <p>Score reports show students’ scores, areas of strength and opportunity, and suggest specific activities; scores can also link to free personalized practice through Khan Academy</p> <p>See Official SAT® Practice for more information</p> <p>Provides college and career readiness benchmarks for both 10th and 11th grades to monitor if students are on track to becoming college ready</p>



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How are the scores used? (Continued)			<p>Percentiles (percentage of students in a specific grade whose scores fall at or below the student's score) are also provided</p> <p>See Understanding PSAT 8/9 Scores for more information</p>	<p>Percentiles (percentage of students in a specific grade whose scores fall at or below the student's score) are also provided for each test</p> <p>See Understanding PSAT/NMSQT® and PSAT 10 Scores for more information</p>
Additional Resources	<p>ACT Aspire Score Scale – By Grade</p> <p>Understanding Your ACT Aspire Results</p>	<p>PreACT Two-Page Info Sheet</p> <p>PreACT Materials Ordering Quick Start Guide</p>	<p>PSAT 8/9</p> <p>Compare PSAT 8/9 and ReadStep</p> <p>Understanding PSAT 8/9 Scores</p> <p>Official SAT® Practice</p>	<p>The Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and the PSAT 10</p> <p>PSAT/NMSQT® Redesign Specifications</p> <p>Understanding PSAT/NMSQT® and PSAT 10 Scores</p> <p>Official SAT® Practice</p>