

## **Information Sheet for PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test): Grades 9 and 10**

### **Why should I take the PSAT in grades 9 and 10? How will it help me?**

- Both the PSAT 8/9 and the PSAT 10 are designed to prepare students for the SAT (grade 12 for college admission) and the PSAT/NMSQT (grade 11 for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
- All of these tests measure skills and knowledge that are needed for future success, measuring what you are learning in high school and how well you are preparing yourself for college.

### **What content is covered on the PSAT tests?**

- Reading: about 48 questions; 60 minutes
- Writing and Language: about 44 questions; 35 minutes
- Math: about questions; 70 minutes

#### *Reading:*

When you take the Reading Test, you will read passages from many content areas and interpret information graphics (charts, tables etc.). Then you will use what you have read to answer multiple choice questions. You will be expected to look for evidence in the reading passages as well as find relationships between the graphics and the passages.

#### *Writing and Language:*

The Writing and Language Test asks you to be an editor and improve passages that were written especially for the test—and include deliberate errors. You are asked to 1)read; 2)Find mistakes and weaknesses; 3)Fix them. All questions are multiple choice.

#### *Math:*

The Math test emphasizes problem-solving, modeling, using tools strategically, and using algebraic structures. The problems reflect real world situations, relating to jobs and your personal life as well as math in science and social science courses. Most of the problems offer multiple choice answers but you will also have grid-in answers where you have to solve the problem first then write the answer into a grid on the answer sheet.

### **Tips for taking the PSAT:**

- Instead of 5 multiple choice answers, the test now offers only 4 so you have a better chance of getting the answer right when you guess.
- No penalty for guessing so give all questions your BEST GUESS.
- All the sections include graphs and charts so you are expected to interpret, describe and represent data visually and in words.
- Math questions include multi-step grid-in word problems.

### **How do I prepare to do well on the PSAT?**

- Read and write widely and often.
- Pay attention to data representation and analysis in math and science.
- Prepare to back up your answers with evidence from the readings.
- Understand the relationship among words and numbers.

### **How do I sign up to take the PSAT?**

Where: College and Career Center (CCC)

Cost: Grade 9: \$11.00; Grade 10: \$16.00

**Deadline: Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

CAP Lesson: Should I take the PSAT?  
Worksheet

Answer the following questions:

1. My post high school plans are: (circle one)
  - a. To join the military
  - b. To find a job
  - c. To enroll in community college
  - d. To enroll in a 4-year college
  - e. To take a year off and travel
  - f. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. The course(s) that I am taking now that I consider the most helpful is/are:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

True / False: Based on the information you have been given, write T or F before each statement below.

3. \_\_\_\_ When you are taking the PSAT, you should guess if you are not sure about an answer.
4. \_\_\_\_ There are 3 sections in the PSAT—they are Math, Reading and Science.
5. \_\_\_\_ The Reading Test includes graphs and other visual representations that are related to topics on science, history and multiple content areas.
6. \_\_\_\_ All three tests offer only multiple choice answers.
7. \_\_\_\_ You will be asked to be an “editor” in the Reading Test.
  
8. Reflection questions:
  - a. If I plan to go to school after I graduate from high school, how would I benefit from taking the PSAT now.
  - b. If I don't plan to go to school after graduation, how would I benefit from taking the PSAT?

**PSAT WILL BE ADMINISTERED ON FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019.**

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