Do PSAT/NMSQT scores fairly reflect students' skills?

PSAT/NMSQT Percentiles and Mean Scores

ca be .ed . c. - a,e a. de ? e,f.,- a ce a .f .,. a d.. . - - ,e .

JUNIORS			
Score			

e

- Percentiles indicate the percentage of students whose scores fall below each speci□ed score.
- On the score report, percentiles for juniors compare their performance with that of other juniors who took the test last year. For sophomores or younger students, percentiles compare their performance with that of sophomores who took the test last year.
- Percentiles are based on the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills scores earned by college-bound juniors or sophomores who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year.
- □ e mean score is the statistic that describes the average performance of a group.
- □ e standard deviation is a measure of the variability of a set of scores around their mean. If the test scores cluster tightly around the mean score, as they do when the group tested is relatively homogeneous, the standard deviation is smaller than it would be for a more diverse group.

Reliability

shows how consistently a student would earn similar scores in repeated testings.

	e C e e	A e e e
C e e e e	0.88	3.7
	0.89	3.6
	0.86	4.0

e

Data are based on a sample of sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2013 (all test forms).

- A reliability coe□ cient helps to show expected □uctuation in scores if a student takes a test more than once. □ e higher the reliability coe□cient, the smaller the □uctuation of scores across repeated testings. A reliability coe□cient of 1.00 would indicate perfect reliability, or no expected □uctuation.
- PSAT/NMSQT scores should be interpreted as ranges rather than points. □ e standard error of measurement (SEM) in the table above indicates that a student who took di□erent forms of the test under identical conditions would be likely to earn scores within 4 points of one another.

Points to note

- 60 240,
  , , i . F ,
  56, i
  62, i 59
  177 (56 + 62 + 59).
- - A /

How NMSC uses the Selection Index

i C C)
i . E C’ i 2016 i ’ 2014 A / B A /
Plus , , 1.5 i i C’ . A (11,) i .
1.5 i i C , , 50,000 i 2014 A / i
i 2015. i
i 2016 i C .

A i i Guide to the National Merit Scholarship Program, i i . F , O cial Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT .

i i , , :
i C
A i A i
1560 A , 200
E 60201-4897
847-866-5100

2014 P A /NM A K

h he c ec an e f F m W and F m S f he 2014 e .

FORM W		
CRITICAL READING	**MATH**	**WRITING SKILLS**
Section 1	**Section 2**	**Section 5**
1. B	1. B	1. C
2. C	2. C	2. C
3. E	3. A	3. B
4. D	4. A	4. A
5. D	5. E	5. E
6. A	6. A	6. A
7. B	7. D	7. C
8. B	8. B	8. C
9. D	9. D	9. D
10. A	10. B	10. D
11. B	11. E	11. E
12. C	12. B	12. C
13. E	13. C	13. E
14. B	14. D	14. D
15. C	15. E	15. E
16. D	16. A	16. E
17. D	17. C	17. E
18. C	18. A	18. E
19. A	19. E	19. C
20. E	20. D	20. E
21. B		21. C
22. C		22. A
23. D		23. B
24. A		24. E
		25. C
Section 3	**Section 4**	26. B
25. C	21. A	27. B
26. E	22. E	28. B
27. C	23. D	29. A
28. C	24. D	30. E
29. C	25. B	31. D
30. B	26. A	32. C
31. D	27. C	33. E
32. D	D	
	3/2	
	26.0 < x < 29.5	
	27/2	

2014 PSAT/NMSQT Score Conversion Tables

show how points obtained on the test are converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.

Important to note

- Points represent the total number of correct answers minus a quarter (1/4) of a point for each incorrect answer to a multiple-choice question.
- Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers to student-produced response questions or for omitted answers of any type.
- Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.
- Converting points to scores adjusts for slight differences in difficulty between various forms. A statistical process called equating adjusts for these small differences. This ensures that a score of, say, 65 on one form of the test reflects a similar level of performance as does a 65 on another form of the test.
- There is no advantage or disadvantage in taking either the Wednesday or the Saturday test form.

shows how scores change for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring.

/	-140 &	-110 -1 0	- 0 -100	- 0 - 0	-20 -40	-10 +10	+20 +40	+ 0 + 0	+ 0 +100			