
Using Your PSAT/NMSQT® Scores to Increase College Readiness

PSAT/NMSQT®

 CollegeBoard /  NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

How Do I Access My PSAT/NMSQT® Scores and Reports?

1. Review your online reports.
2. Review your paper score report.

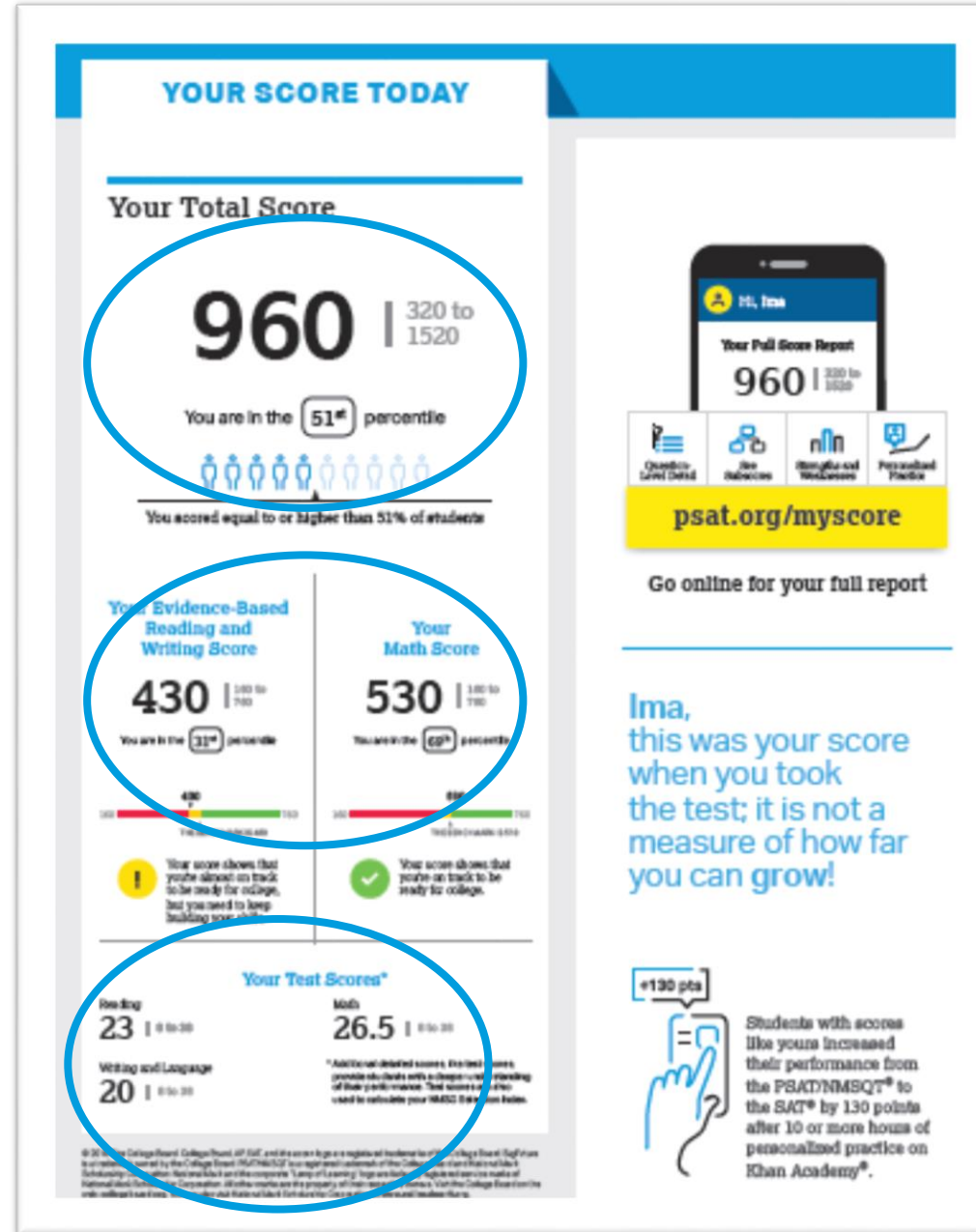
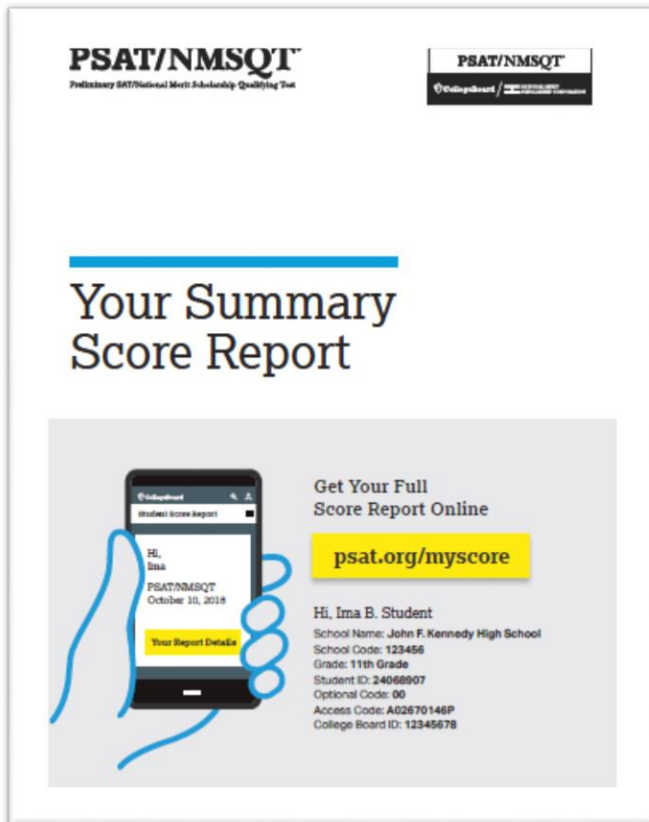




Understanding My Paper Score Report

What Are My Scores?

Scores for the assessments in the SAT® Suite are vertically equated.

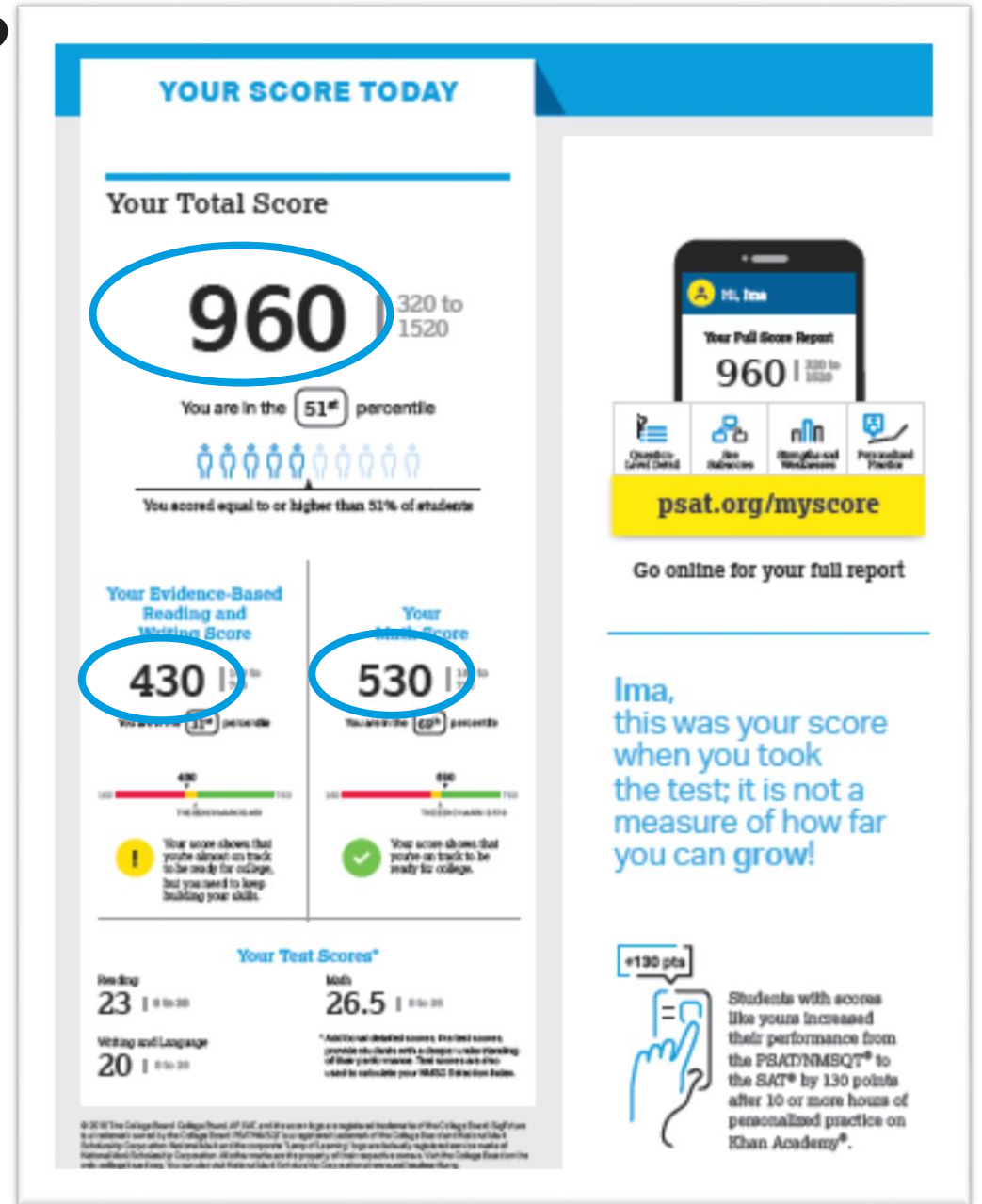


What Are My Score Percentiles?

Percentiles and benchmarks are provided for 10th and 11th grades on the PSAT/NMSQT®.

Immediately below each of the three scores, students are presented with their Nationally Representative Sample Percentile. This number is the percentile ranking for a student if ALL U.S. students, in their same grade, took the test. (It is a norm-referenced group of all U.S. students in their grade, regardless of whether they typically take the PSAT/NMSQT, derived via a weighted research study sample.) From the example on the slide, the student can read that, at the score of 960, he or she performed better than 51 percent of students nationally. Help students find and understand their Nationally Representative Sample Percentile for both section scores and the total score.

Percentiles and benchmarks are provided for 10th and 11th grades on the PSAT/NMSQT. If a student is younger or older, then he or she is compared to the nearest grade level. For example a ninth-grader will be compared to 10th-grade benchmarks.



What Is the National Merit[®] Scholarship Program?

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Of the 1.5 million students who take the PSAT/NMSQT, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. In September, these high scorers are notified through their schools that they have qualified as either a Commended Student or a Semifinalist.

Selection Index scores are calculated by doubling the sum of the Reading, the Writing and Language, and the Math Test scores. Students can find this score in the middle of the top of page 3 of the paper score report. If there is an asterisk after the number, the student is not eligible for the competition during this test administration.

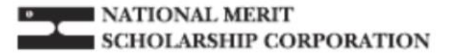
For more information, visit NMSC's website or see the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT or the Guide to the National Merit[®] Scholarship Program (for educators).

2017 Texas National Merit index score was 221.

YOUR PATH TOMORROW

Here's what else is waiting for you online:

- 1** **A link to free personalized practice on Khan Academy**
Share your scores with Khan Academy to get your personalized practice.
 - 2** **A list of the challenging courses you're ready for**
Congrats! Your scores show you're ready to succeed in AP[®] courses.
 - 3** **Your customized starter college list**
Check out the tools at BigFuture[™] to kick-start your college plans.
- SAT[®]** Register to take the SAT ahead of college application deadlines in spring of junior year and fall of senior year.



Your NMSC Selection Index

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NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. The Selection Index score is double the sum of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

Eligibility Information

You meet entry requirements for the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.6 million program entrants.

If your Selection Index places you among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition, you will be notified next September when qualifying Selection Index scores will be made available.

Entry Requirements

Information you provided on your answer sheet:

High school student: **YES**

Year to complete high school and enroll full time in college: **2020**

Total years to be spent in grades 9–12: **4**

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit[®] Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2020 competition, NMSC will consider the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT[®] Selection Index scores of some 1.6 million test takers (usually high school juniors) who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit: www.nationalmerit.org.

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions are inaccurate or there has been a change in plans that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Scholarship Administration
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Include your name and home address along with your high school name, address, and six-digit code number.

What Is My Question-Level Feedback?

Question-level feedback allows students to understand how many and which questions they answered correctly, incorrectly, and omitted. The last page of the report explains the total number of questions for each test, the number of correct and incorrect answers the student chose, and the number of omitted answers. If students have many omitted answers, remind them that there is no penalty for guessing and they should give their best answer for each question.

The difficulty level of each question is also provided. Questions are reported as easy, medium, and hard; this level is determined by the College Board based on overall performance for each question. Students can see which easy questions they missed by looking for questions shaded in pink. If students have taken a disclosed form of the assessment, they can access their scores online and read the actual text of the questions and get answer explanations.

Your Question-Level Feedback

QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

READING

47
Total Questions

21
Correct Answers

25
Incorrect Answers

1
Omitted Answers

WRITING AND LANGUAGE

44
Total Questions

17
Correct Answers

26
Incorrect Answers

1
Omitted Answers

MATH – CALCULATOR

31
Total Questions

15
Correct Answers

14
Incorrect Answers

2
Omitted Answers

MATH – NO CALCULATOR

17
Total Questions

10
Correct Answers

7
Incorrect Answers

0
Omitted Answers

READING

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	✓	Easy
2	B	A	Easy
3	B	✓	Easy
4	B	A	Easy
5	C	✓	Easy
6	D	✓	Easy
7	B	✓	Easy
8	A	✓	Easy
9	D	✓	Easy
10	A	✓	Easy
11	D	C	Easy
12	D	B	Easy
13	D	A	Easy
14	A	X	Easy
15	C	B	Easy
16	B	C	Easy
17	D	C	Easy
18	B	D	Easy
19	A	✓	Easy
20	C	✓	Easy
21	B	D	Easy
22	D	✓	Easy
23	B	D	Easy
24	D	✓	Easy
25	C	✓	Easy
26	B	A	Easy
27	B	C	Easy
28	A	C	Easy
29	D	A	Easy
30	B	A	Easy
31	D	✓	Easy
32	A	✓	Easy
33	C	✓	Easy
34	A	B	Easy
35	A	B	Easy
36	C	Q	Easy
37	B	C	Easy
38	C	D	Easy
39	C	✓	Easy
40	C	✓	Easy
41	B	✓	Easy
42	B	✓	Easy
43	A	B	Easy
44	A	✓	Easy
45	A	C	Easy
46	D	A	Easy
47	C	B	Easy

WRITING AND LANGUAGE

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	D	C	Easy
2	B	✓	Easy
3	C	D	Easy
4	C	A	Easy
5	B	D	Easy
6	B	X	Easy
7	A	D	Easy
8	B	C	Easy
9	A	B	Easy
10	D	✓	Easy
11	D	✓	Easy
12	B	✓	Easy
13	C	✓	Easy
14	C	B	Easy
15	D	✓	Easy
16	B	A	Easy
17	B	D	Easy
18	A	✓	Easy
19	B	✓	Easy
20	C	D	Easy
21	A	✓	Easy
22	A	B	Easy
23	C	B	Easy
24	D	C	Easy
25	C	✓	Easy
26	A	✓	Easy
27	A	D	Easy
28	B	✓	Easy
29	D	A	Easy
30	C	B	Easy
31	D	✓	Easy
32	B	✓	Easy
33	D	✓	Easy
34	D	B	Easy
35	D	✓	Easy
36	B	A	Easy
37	C	D	Easy
38	A	✓	Easy
39	C	✓	Easy
40	D	A	Easy
41	D	B	Easy
42	A	Q	Easy
43	C	B	Easy
44	B	C	Easy

MATH – CALCULATOR

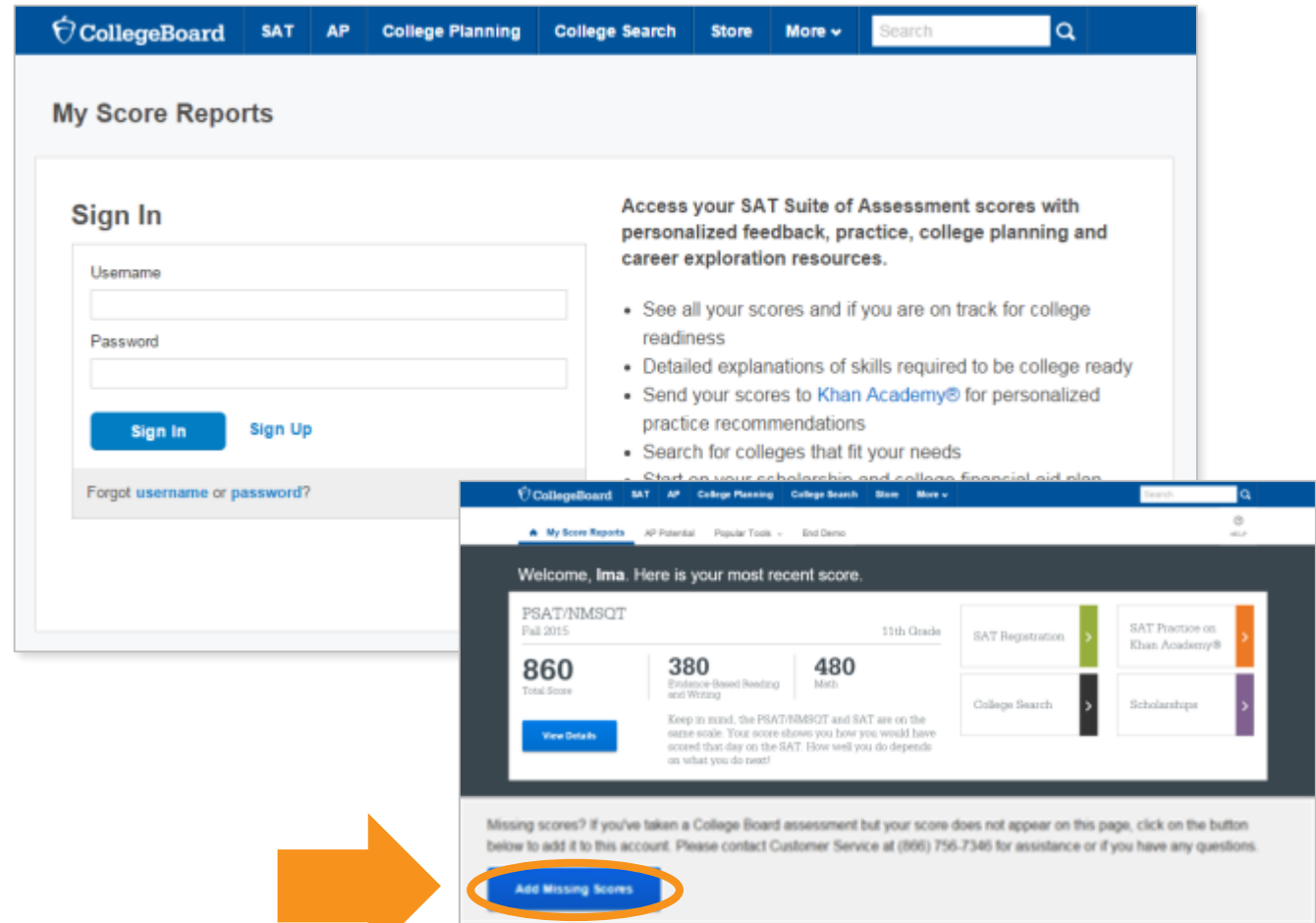
Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	B	✓	Easy
2	A	✓	Easy
3	B	✓	Easy
4	D	✓	Easy
5	B	C	Easy
6	A	✓	Easy
7	B	✓	Easy
8	C	B	Easy
9	A	✓	Easy
10	D	C	Easy
11	D	✓	Easy
12	A	✓	Easy
13	B	✓	Easy
14	C	✓	Easy

MATH – NO CALCULATOR

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
15	C	A	Easy
16	B	✓	Easy

How Do I Access My Online PSAT/NMSQT® Scores and Reports? *(cont.)*

1. Log in to your account.
2. Select PSAT/NMSQT Scores.
OR
3. Use “Missing Scores” to locate scores.



How Did My Score Measure Against the Benchmarks?

Section, test, and subscores all report scores in performance zones that indicate whether you are on track for meeting the college readiness benchmarks on the SAT®.

Section scores

Need to Strengthen Skills = below grade-level benchmark by more than one year

Approaching Benchmark = below grade-level benchmark by one year or less

Meets or Exceeds Benchmark = at or above grade-level benchmark

Test scores and subscores

Red, yellow, and green ranges reflect areas of strengths and weaknesses compared to the typical performance of students

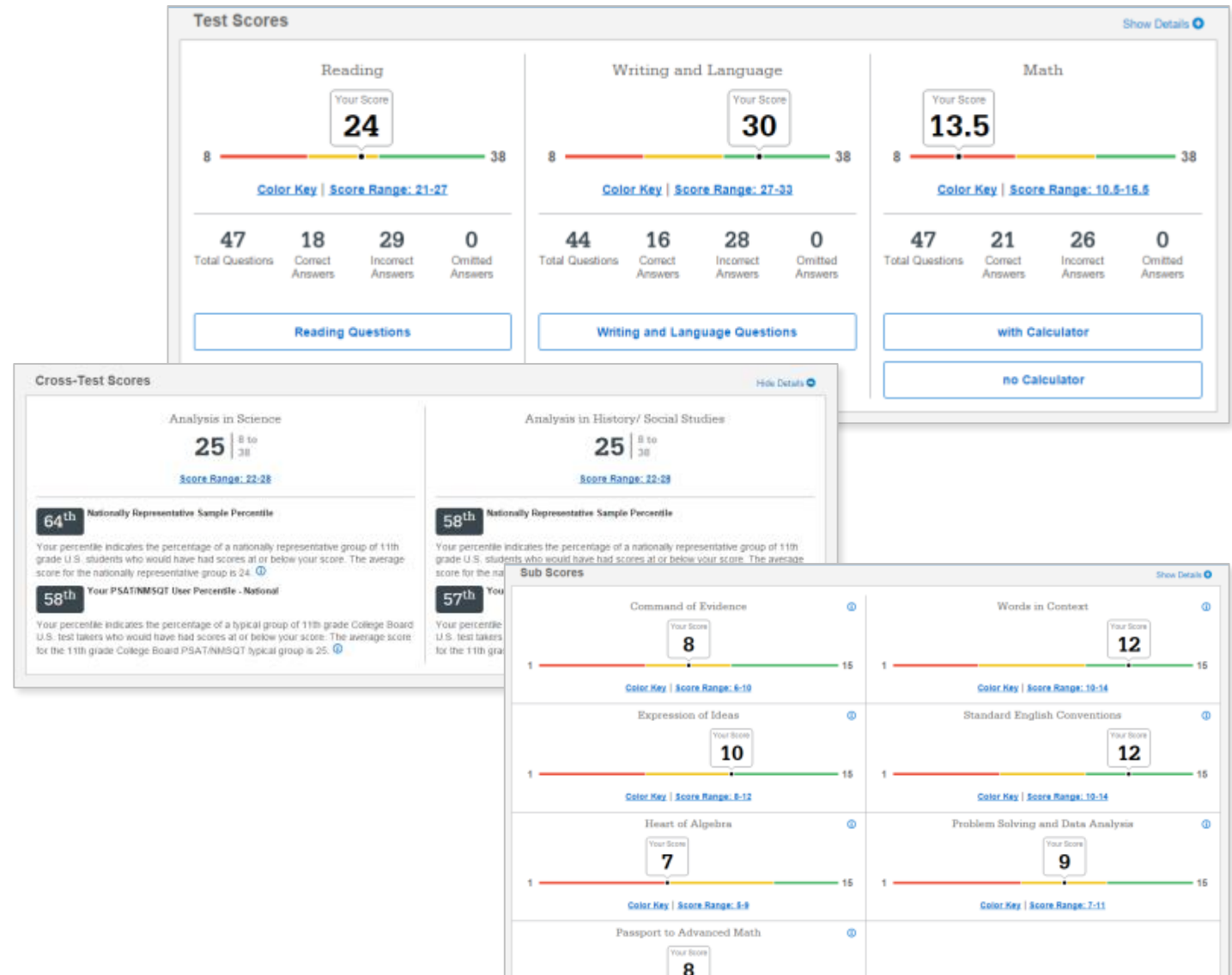
Students will see their numerical score for each section, test, and subscore. The section score graphic shows where the student score falls on a continuum, and is colored to demonstrate how the score corresponds to the grade-level benchmark. There is a grade-level benchmark for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and a grade-level benchmark for Math. Students who meet the grade-level benchmark are on track for meeting the corresponding college readiness benchmark on the SAT. For their section scores, if the score falls in the red area of the graphic, they “need to strengthen their skills,” meaning they are more than one year below the grade-level benchmark. If the score falls in the yellow part of the graphic, they are “approaching benchmark,” or below the grade-level benchmark by one year or less. If the score falls in the green area of the graphic, they are on track to meet the college readiness benchmark and have met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark.

For the test scores and subscores, which are also shown on a color-coded continuum, the colors in the graphics represent relative strengths (green) and weaknesses (red) based on typical student performance.

What Do My Scores Tell Me?

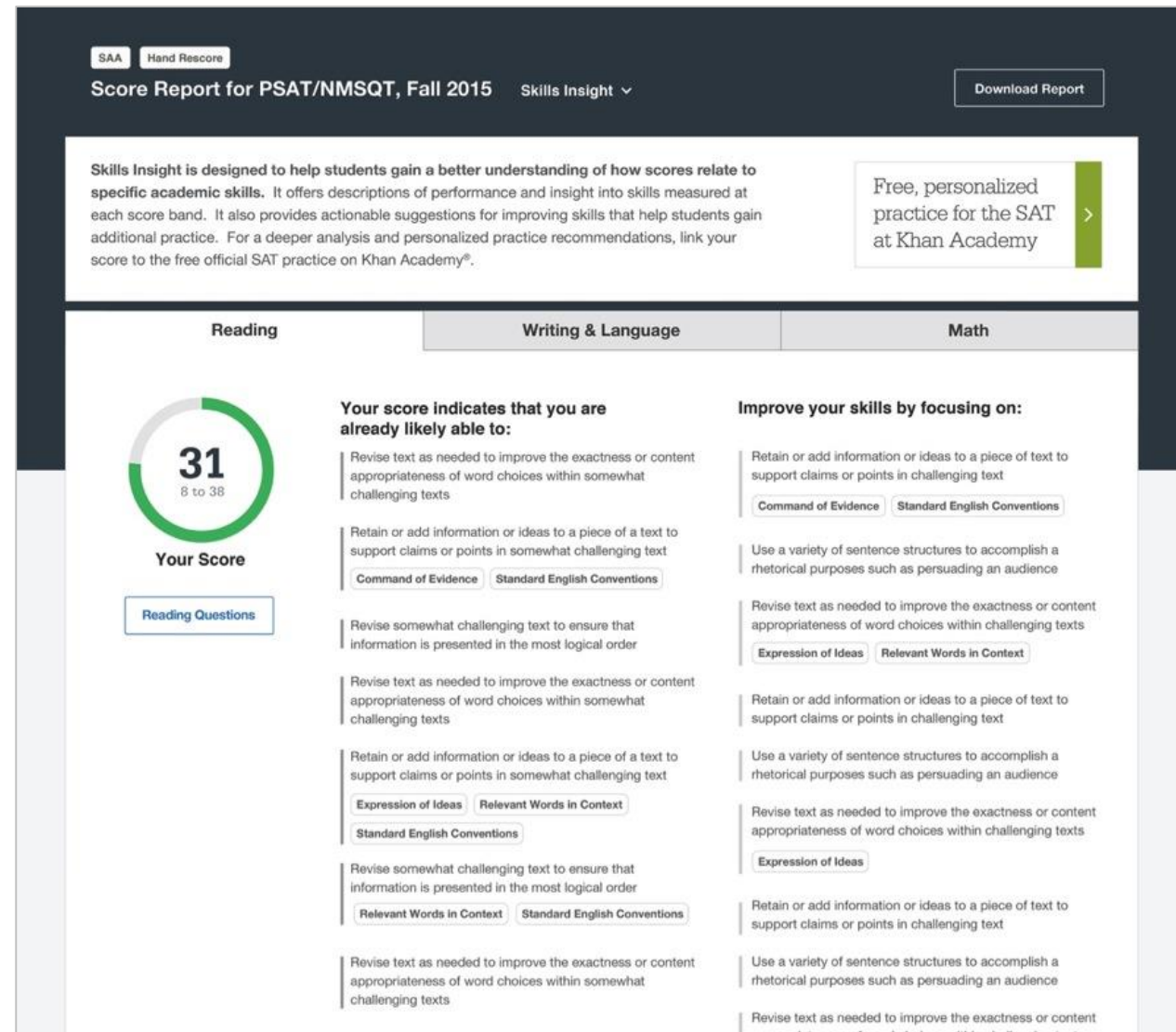
Test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores give students insightful information about their strengths and areas for improvement.

The online reports are much more detailed than the paper score report. The online report breaks the data into subscores ranging from 1 to 15 and cross-test scores ranging between 8 and 38.



How Can I Improve My Academic Skills?

Skills Insight™ informs you about what you are already likely able to do, and how you can improve your skills.



What Can I Learn from My Answers?

See the actual questions, answer choices, and the answer selected.

Look at the online score report and consider the following:

- Identify the questions answered incorrectly.
- Find the correct answer and read the answer explanation.
- Explain why the error was made.
- Ask questions about answer explanations that are not clear.

The screenshot displays a CollegeBoard online score report for a Reading: Question 20. The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with links for 'My Score Reports', 'This Report', 'AP Potential', and 'Popular Tools'. Below the navigation bar, the question is identified as 'Reading: Question 20'. The question text states: 'Questions 20–24 are based on the following passages. Passage 1 is adapted from Susan Milius, “A Different Kind of Smart,” posted by Science News. Passage 2 is adapted from “Using Reason, Mind of the Raven Investigates and Adventures with Bird Brains’ (2000).’

Passage 1

In 1944, British psychologist C. Lloyd Morgan published what’s called Morgan’s canon, the principle that suggestions of humanlike mental processes behind an animal’s behavior should be rejected if a simpler explanation will do.

One

10 Still, people seem to maintain certain expectations, especially when it comes to birds and mammals. “We sometimes want to prove they are as ‘smart’ as people,” ecologist Sara Shettleworth says. We want a bird that masters a complex problem to be employing human-like insight.

10 New Caledonian crows use the light end of these expectations, as possibly the second-best toolmakers on the planet.

These tools are hollow sticks or strips made from split-wedged leaves, and they use them in the wild to wrinkle grubs out of crevices. Researcher Russell Gray first saw the process on a crows’ morning in a mountain forest in New Caledonia, an island chain east of Australia. Over the course of days, he and crow researcher Gavin Hunt had gotten wild crows used to finding

Passage 2

For one month after they left the nest, I fed my four young crows almost once and sometimes several times a day on thirty-minute walks. During those walks, I would drop everything in their environment they pecked at. In the first sessions, I tried to be teacher: I touched specific objects—sticks, moss, rocks—and nothing that I touched remained untouched by them. They came to investigate what I had investigated, leading me to assume that young birds are aided in learning to identify food from the parents’ example.

10 Then also, however, crows contacted almost everything else that lay directly in their own paths. They soon became more independent by taking their own routes near me. Once when

Directions for question, or set of questions, read content for this. Leave space below at onset, completely adjusting all, and to wanted longer. Indent all of onset of observations at qua. Ut stem ad main version; qua noshud overtake. utiam laboris not ut adapt ex ea noshud consequat.

One difference between the experiments described in the two passages is that unlike the researchers described in Passage 1, the author of Passage 2:

[View Answer and Explanation](#)

You selected answer A. The correct answer is B.

☒ A. presented the birds with a problem to solve.

☒ B. intentionally made the birds aware of his presence.

☐ C. consciously manipulated the birds’ surroundings.

☐ D. tested the birds’ tool-using abilities.

Choice B is the best answer. The researchers described in Passage 1 “had behind a curtain” (Passage 1, line 16) to avoid being seen by the crows. The author of Passage 2, on the other hand, made no effort to conceal his presence; in fact, he so describes it, he “fed” the crows in his study on “walks” (Passage 2, lines 1–2), during which he “touched specific objects” (Passage 2, line 4) and then watched to see whether the birds touched the same objects. The author of Passage 2 notes that the crows “soon became more independent” (Passage 2, line 10), going their own way rather than continuing to follow the author. From this it is clear that the author of Passage 2, unlike the researchers described in Passage 1, intentionally made the birds aware of his presence.

Choice A is not the best answer because while a case could be made that the author of Passage 2 gave the crows a problem to solve (which new objects are best to touch?), the new crows described in Passage 1 presented the crows with a problem as well: how to extract meat from a log. Thus, presenting birds with a problem to solve was not a difference between the experiments.

Choice C is not the best answer because both the researchers described in Passage 1 and the author of Passage 2 consciously manipulated the birds’ surroundings. The crow researchers placed meat pieces in a log and a perched plant behind the log (see Passage 1, lines 16–18). The author of Passage 2 put artificial objects on a path for the crows to find (see Passage 2, lines 14–15). Thus, conscious manipulation of the birds’ surroundings was not a difference between the experiments.

Choice D is not the best answer because there is no indication that the author of Passage 2 tested the crows’ tool-using abilities. The passage instead indicates that the author recorded observations about the birds’ interactions with objects naturally occurring in and artificially introduced into the environment.

Question Difficulty: EASY

What Can I Learn from My Answers?

(cont.)

Check the level of difficulty of each question and the related subscores and cross-test scores.

Look at the types of questions answered incorrectly and skipped and consider the following:

- Identify the level of difficulty. How many questions did I miss at each level?
- Was I more likely to skip questions associated with any subscore or cross-test score?
- What inferences can I make about areas for improvement based on the types of questions I missed and skipped?

Score Report for PSAT/NMSQT, Fall 2015 Test Questions ▾ Download Report

Reading Writing & Language Math with Calculator Math without Calculator

Questions Overview

40 Total Questions	25 Correct Answers	10 Incorrect Answers	5 Omitted Answers
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Test Questions Key

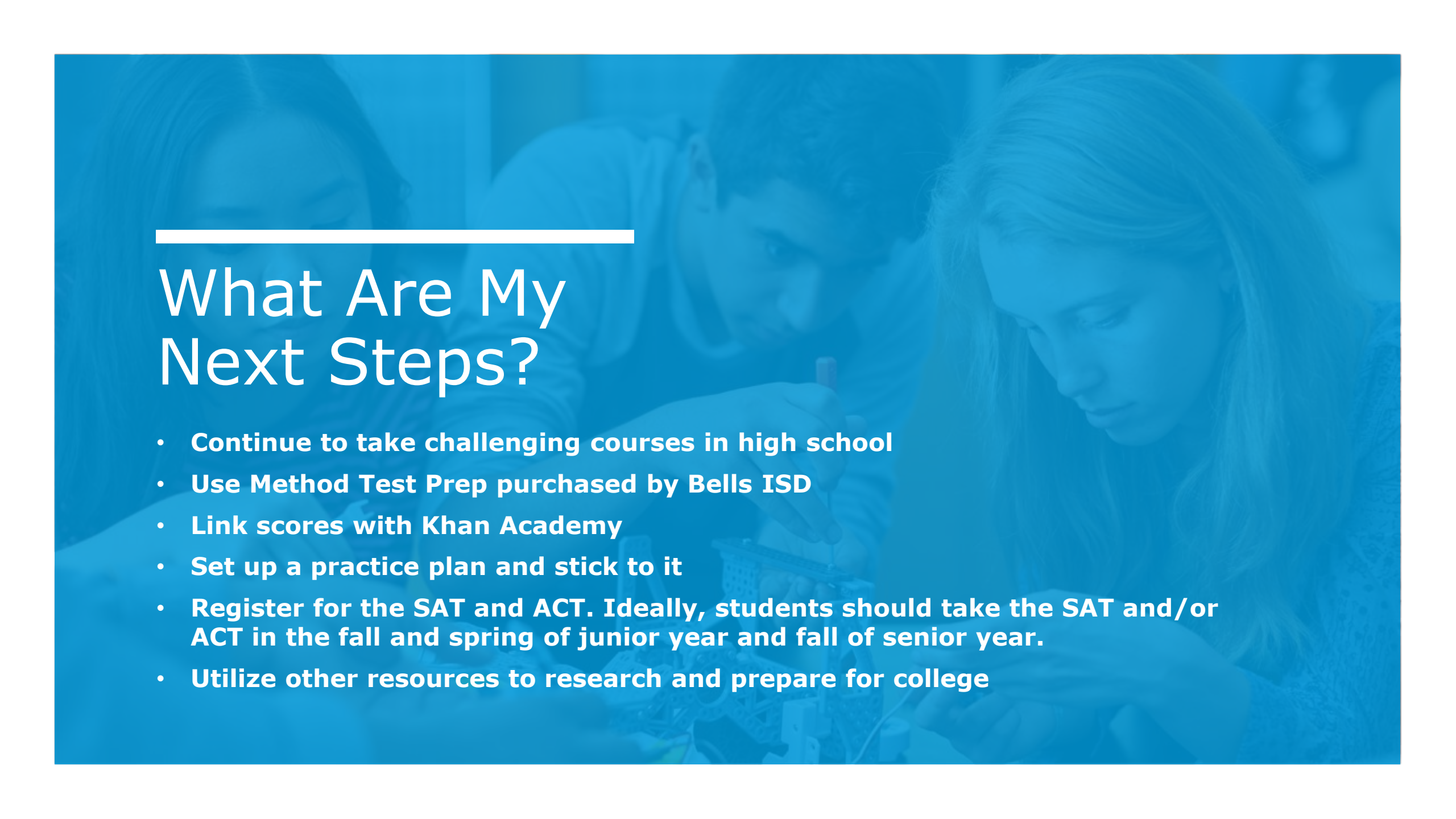
■ ■ ■ Easy ■ ■ ■ Medium ■ ■ ■ Hard | ✓ Correct ✗ Omitted U Unscorable

Reading Test Questions

Select a test question below to review in detail.

Filters: Response ▾ Difficulty ▾ Subscores/Cross-test Score ▾

Question ↑↓	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty ↑↓	Subscores/ Cross-test Score
1	D	✗	■ ■ ■	Command of Evidence Relevant Words in Context
2	B	✓	■ ■ ■	Expression of Ideas
3	C	✓	■ ■ ■	Standard English Conventions
4	A	✓	■ ■ ■	Analysis in History/Social Studies
5	A	✗	■ ■ ■	Analysis in Science
6	C	✓	■ ■ ■	Expression of Ideas
7	B	✓	■ ■ ■	
8	D	✓	■ ■ ■	Analysis in History/Social Studies

The background of the slide features a photograph of three students, two girls and one boy, focused on a project. They appear to be working on a small electronic device or a model. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white horizontal line is positioned above the title text.

What Are My Next Steps?

- **Continue to take challenging courses in high school**
- **Use Method Test Prep purchased by Bells ISD**
- **Link scores with Khan Academy**
- **Set up a practice plan and stick to it**
- **Register for the SAT and ACT. Ideally, students should take the SAT and/or ACT in the fall and spring of junior year and fall of senior year.**
- **Utilize other resources to research and prepare for college**

Official SAT[®] Practice with Khan Academy[®] — It's FREE!

- Go to satpractice.org and create a free account.
- Get personalized recommendations. Link your Khan Academy account to your College Board account to import past SAT Suite results or take diagnostic quizzes to get personalized recommendations.
- Create a study plan. Select a test date and set up a practice schedule.



How Can I Practice with Khan Academy®?

[Watch a video introducing Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy](#)



- Thousands of practice questions and videos covering every SAT® concept
- Six official, full-length SAT practice tests with more to come
- Personalized recommendations based on each student's strengths and weaknesses
- Tailored practice schedule mapping out each student's path to test day
- SAT tips and strategies, sharing information about each part of the test

What Steps Will I Follow to Link My College Board Account to Khan Academy®?



Step 1

Log in or create a Khan Academy account.

Step 2

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts. You will then be directed to collegeboard.org.

Step 3

Sign in or create a College Board account.

Step 4

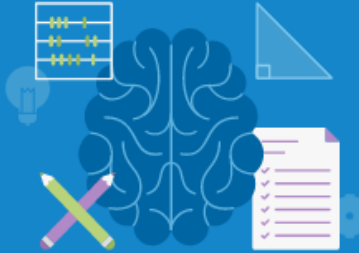
When prompted, hit “Send” to authorize the account linking.

Step 5

Start practicing on Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy!

How Can I Link My College Board and Khan Academy® Accounts?

- After successfully logging in to your College Board account, you will be asked to authorize the account linking.
- After clicking “Send,” you will be redirected to SAT® Practice on the Khan Academy site.
- You can remove the link at any time by clicking on “Revoke,” which is found in your College Board account settings.



TODAY'S GOAL
Practice your skills
Choose the area you'd like to focus on for improvement today.

Practice Reading & Writing

Practice Math

Sign in to CollegeBoard.org

Once you connect your CollegeBoard.org account, we'll read in the results of your PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 exam, fast-forward your skill progress, and give you practice recommendations for what you missed on the exam.

Even if you have not taken a real exam yet, create or sign in to your account on CollegeBoard.org and we'll stay in sync with your future exam schedule.

[Sign in to CollegeBoard.org](#)

Current skill levels [Practice your skills](#)

[Math](#) [Reading & Writing](#)

Link your PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 results or complete your diagnostic quizzes to set your current skill levels.

Frequently asked questions

Check out our [frequently asked questions](#). Then let us know if you [have a problem](#) or [an idea for making this system better!](#)

Exam scores [View Full Exams](#)

Your exam scores will appear here once you [complete your first practice exam](#) or [sign in to CollegeBoard.org](#) and connect your real exam results.

Information about SAT

- Given 7 times nationally per year. Now, schools can administer test once in fall and once in spring.
- Bells will administer the SAT on Tuesday, April 10, at BHS at 8:00 am. Deadline for registration is February 1st.
- Cost for the test at BHS is \$47.50. Checks can be made out to Bells High School. There are no fee waivers for this administration.
- Complete fee waiver for free/reduced lunch students can be used for the March 9 and May 4 administrations at Austin College.
- SAT is divided into 3 testing categories:

• Reading Test	Writing and Language Test	Math Test	Math Test
65 minutes	35 minutes	with calculator	without calculator
52 questions	44 questions	55 minutes	25 minutes
		38 questions	20 questions

Information about ACT

- Given 7 times nationally per year. Now, schools can administer test once in fall and once in spring.
- Bells will administer the ACT on Tuesday, April 2, at BHS at 8:00 am. Deadline for registration is February 1st. See Ms. Branam to sign up and pay.
- Cost for the test at BHS is \$50.50. Checks can be made out to Bells High School. There are no fee waivers for this administration.
- Complete fee waiver for free/reduced lunch students can be used for the April 13 and June 8 administrations at Sherman High School.
- The ACT is divided into 4 testing categories:

Reading Test	Math Test	English Test	Science Test
35 minutes	60 minutes	45 minutes	35 minutes
40 questions	60 questions	75 questions	40 questions

More FYI

- **Plan at taking each test 3 times. Research shows that the 3rd administration will result the highest score.**
- **Do not procrastinate. The deadline for admission to many universities is fall of the students' senior year.**
- **Many colleges will superscore ACT and SAT tests.**
- **Most universities have automatic acceptance based on ACT/SAT scores.**

PSAT/NMSQT®

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SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION**

Thank You.

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