Assessment Brief:
PSAT™ 8/9

How many schools do you recognize?

EMU

NMU

KC

UMAA

CMU

Adrian

SVSU

Olivet

Hillsdale

ALMA

LSSU

WMU

WSU

HOPE

FSU

OU

MTU

Kettering

Delta

UM F

GVSU

MSU

How many schools do you recognize?

Michigan Merit Curriculum
High School Graduation Requirements

MATHEMATICS - 4 Credits

Algebra I	Geometry
Algebra II	One math course in final year of high school

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - 4 Credits

English Language Arts 9	English Language Arts 11
English Language Arts 10	English Language Arts 12

SCIENCE - 3 Credits

Biology	One additional science credit
Physics or Chemistry	

SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits

.5 credit in Civics	.5 credit in Economics
U.S. History and Geography	World History and Geography

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit

VISUAL, PERFORMING AND APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Course, Learning or Integrated Learning Experience

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH - 2 Credits
In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 effective for students entering third grade in 2006 (Class 2016)

2015 Michigan College and University Acceptance Statistics

School	GPA	Assessment Statistics	
Adrian College	Avg GPA = 3.23	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg ACT = 23
Albion College	Avg GPA = 3.5	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 25, Avg. SAT Reading = 555 Avg. SAT Math = 525
Alma College	Avg. GPA = 3.5	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 24, Avg. SAT Reading = 561 Avg. SAT Math = 571
Central Michigan University	Avg. GPA = 3.32	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22, SAT 75th %ile Reading = 550 SAT 75th %ile Math = 563
Concordia	Avg. GPA = 3.1	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 21
Eastern Michigan University	Avg. GPA = 3.23	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22, Avg. SAT Reading = 521 Avg. SAT Math = 512
Ferris State University	Avg. GPA = 3.21	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22
Grand Valley State University	Avg. GPA = 3.5	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 24
Hillsdale College	Avg. GPA = 3.81	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 29, Avg. SAT Reading = 690 Avg. SAT Math = 620
Kalamazoo College	Avg. GPA = 3.61	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 28, Avg. SAT Reading = 616 Avg. SAT Math = 634
Kettering University	Avg. GPA = 3.68	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 27, Avg. SAT Reading = 594 Avg. SAT Math = 654
Lake Superior State University	Avg. GPA = 3.26	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22
Lawrence Tech. University	Avg. GPA = 3.4	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 25, Avg. SAT Reading = 543 Avg. SAT Math = 603
Madonna University	Avg. GPA = 3.3	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 23, Avg. SAT Reading = 630 Avg. SAT Math = 580
Michigan State University	Avg. GPA = 3.62	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 26, Avg. SAT Reading = 506 Avg. SAT Math = 622
Michigan Technological University	Avg. GPA = 3.66	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 27, Avg. SAT Reading = 585 Avg. SAT Math = 629
Northern Michigan University	Avg. GPA = 3.02	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 19
Oakland University	Avg. GPA = 3.36	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22
Saginaw Valley State University	Avg. GPA = 3.2	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22
University of Michigan (AA)	Avg. GPA = 3.82	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 30, Avg. SAT Reading = 664 Avg. SAT Math = 701
Wayne State University	Avg. GPA = 3.22	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 22
Western Michigan University	Avg. GPA = 3.32	ACT or SAT accepted	Avg. ACT = 23

The SAT® Suite of Assessments

PSAT 8/9	PSAT/ NMSQT	SAT
Readiness Baseline	**Check-in and Focus**	**Connect to College**
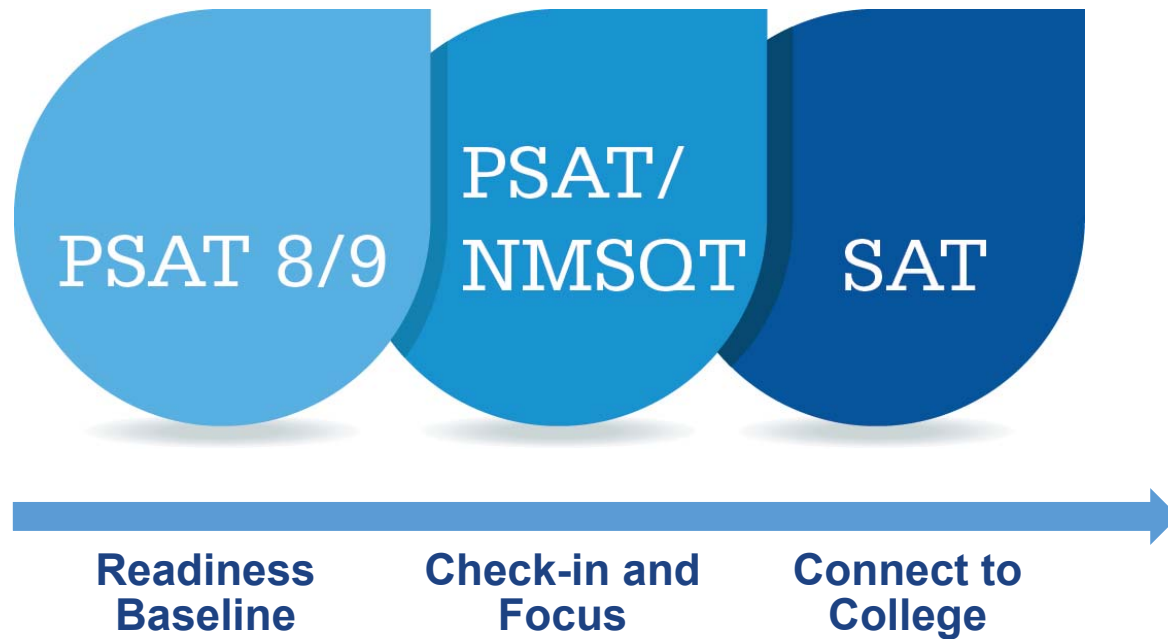
Which Students Should Take the Assessment, and When?

Grade 8	Fall		PSAT 8/9
	Spring		PSAT 8/9
Grade 9	Fall		PSAT 8/9
	Spring		PSAT 8/9
Grade 10	Fall		PSAT/NMSQT
	Spring		PSAT10
Grade 11	Fall	PSAT/NMSQT	
	Spring	SAT/SAT School Day	

Benefits of the PSAT 8/9

The PSAT 8/9 offers many advantages to students and educators. Here are some specific ways the assessment supports teaching and learning:

- **Sets a baseline for measuring student progress.**
- **Prepares students for the PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT.**
- **Links to online, personalized pathway for practice through Khan Academy**
- **Collects and uses valuable data**
- **Identifies skills for improvement.**
- **Builds a college-going culture**.
- **Supports college and career planning**

PSAT 8/9 **Reading** Test Content Specifications

Time Allotted	30 minutes
Passage Word Count	1,500 words total from 4 single passages; 350–400 words per passage
Questions	**Number**
Total	40 questions
Expression of Ideas	24 questions
Standard English Conventions	16 questions
Words in Context	8 questions
Command of Evidence	8 questions
Analysis in History/Social Studies	6 questions
Analysis in Science	6 questions
Passage Contents	
Careers	10 questions
History/Social Studies	10 questions
Humanities	10 questions
Science	10 questions
Graphics	1 or more graphics in 1 or more passages and/or questions
Text Types	
Argument	1 passage
Informative/ Explanatory Text	2 passages
Nonfiction Narrative	1 passage
Text and Graphical Complexity	
Text Complexity	A range from grades 6–10 across 4 passages
Graphical Data	Basic

PSAT 8/9
Writing and
Language Test
Content
Specifications

Time Allotted	30 minutes
Passage Word Count	1,500 words total from 4 single passages; 350–400 words per passage
Questions	**Number**
Total	40 questions
Expression of Ideas	24 questions
Standard English Conventions	16 questions
Words in Context	8 questions
Command of Evidence	8 questions
Analysis in History/Social Studies	6 questions
Analysis in Science	6 questions
Passage Contents	
Careers	10 questions
History/Social Studies	10 questions
Humanities	10 questions
Science	10 questions
Graphics	1 or more graphics in 1 or more passages and/or questions
Text Types	
Argument	1 passage
Informative/ Explanatory Text	2 passages
Nonfiction Narrative	1 passage
Text and Graphical Complexity	
Text Complexity	A range from grades 6–10 across 4 passages
Graphical Data	Basic

PSAT 8/9 Math Test Content Specifications

Time Allotted	Amount
Total	60 minutes
Calculator Portion	40 minutes
No-Calculator Portion	20 minutes
Question Type	
Multiple Choice	31 questions
Student-Produced Response	7 questions
Questions	**Number**
Heart of Algebra	16 questions
Problem Solving and Data Analysis	16 questions
Passport to Advanced Math	6 questions
Additional Topics in Math	0 questions
Contribution to Cross-Test Scores	
Analysis in Science	6 questions
Analysis in History/Social Studies	6 questions

Grade-Appropriate Reading

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 & PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Draw fairly simple, one-step conclusions spelled out clearly in the text	Draw a more subtle inference to reach the right conclusion from a text	Perform several steps to draw the right conclusion from a text
Identify relationships based on multiple, fairly straightforward pieces of information stated in the text	Infer somewhat more complicated relationships based on more subtle pieces of information stated in the text	Infer more complex relationships from the text by piecing facts or incidents together
Determine explicit meaning from the graphic or text	Recognize trends in graphical data	Synthesize information from a graphic and passage

Grade-Appropriate Writing & Language

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 & PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Use punctuation effectively in simple contexts, such as using commas to separate items in a list	Use punctuation effectively in somewhat challenging contexts, such as using a colon to introduce a list	Use punctuation effectively in challenging contexts, such as using a semicolon to link independent clauses
Edit straightforward sentences that pose some challenge, such as sentences with an introductory phrase	Edit compound and complex sentences, including sentences with introductory phrases and clauses	Edit syntactically challenging sentences, such as lengthy sentences that include several clauses
Accurately incorporate basic information from graphics into a text	Accurately incorporate somewhat detailed or nuanced information from graphics into a text	Incorporate accurate, specific, and complex information from graphics into a text

Grade-Appropriate Math

PSAT 8/9	PSAT 10 & PSAT/NMSQT	SAT
Many items requiring one or two steps to solve	Many items requiring two or more steps to solve	Emphasis on multistep problems
May require the use of common geometric equations	May require the use of common geometric equations and spatial reasoning	Requires the use of geometry concepts and reasoning
Includes ratios, proportions, percents, introductory probability, and statistics	Requires comparing linear and exponential growth	Includes statistics topics such as sampling and inferring correlation and causation from a research method
May require the use of properties of right triangles to solve problems	Requires the use of trigonometric relationships	Requires the use of trigonometry

Redesigned Assessment Scores Side-By-Side

Component	PSAT 8/9		Redesigned PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT		Redesigned SAT	
	Number of Scores	Score Range*	Number of Scores	Score Range*	Number of Scores	Score Range*
Total Score	1	240–1440	1	320–1520	1	400–1600
Section Scores	2	120–720	2	160–760	2	200–800
Test Scores**	3	6–36	3	8–38	3	10–40
Cross-Test Scores*	2	6–36	2	8–38	2	10–40
Subscores	6	1–15	7	1–15	7	1–15
Essay Scores	0	n/a	0	n/a	3	2–8

* Score ranges and Cross-Test Scores are pending final research.
** The ReadiStep assessment provided students with one Test Score in the range of 1–7.

Content classification: U.S. and World Literature

This passage is adapted from David Foster Wallace, "All That." © 2009 by Condé Nast.

Once when I was a little boy I received as a gift a toy cement mixer. It was made of wood except for its wheels—axles—which, as I remember, were thin metal rods.

It was the same overlarge miniature as many other toy vehicles—about

Line 5   the size of a breadbox. It weighed three or four pounds. It was a simple toy—no batteries. It had a colored rope, with a yellow handle, and you held the handle and walked pulling the cement mixer behind you—rather like a wagon, although it was nowhere near the size of a wagon.

I liked the cement mixer and played with it as much as or more than I

10   played with the other toy vehicles I owned. At some point, several weeks or

The main purpose of the second paragraph (lines 4-8) is to

A) describe the toy cement mixer.

B) list the narrator's favorite toys.

C) show that simple toys are as fun as complicated ones.

D) explain why the narrator liked the toy cement mixer.

Content: Rhetoric/Analyzing purpose	OBJECTIVE: Students must determine the most likely purpose of a particular part of a text.
Difficulty: Medium	

Answer

- **Choice A** is the best answer because the second paragraph primarily offers a description of the toy cement mixer. In these lines, the narrator describes the size, appearance, and mechanics of the toy, noting that it was "about the size of a breadbox," had "a colored rope, with a yellow handle," and was pulled "rather like a wagon."

PSAT 8/9 Writing And Language Test Sample Questions

CONTENT: Careers	**OBJECTIVE:** Students must make revising and editing decisions in the context of a passage on a topic related to careers

The Online World of Job Searching

Job searching sites, websites that help job seekers find open positions, have grown in popularity. These sites typically allow users to customize their job searches to focus on specific industries, employers, skills, or geographic areas. Many job search sites have features such as automatic alerts that will send job seekers an email or text message when a relevant job has been posted. Knowing how to use these features and navigate the sites makes it much easier for job seekers to connect with employers.

1 For instance, job seekers can use a site to find the name of the hiring manager of a company and contact that manager directly. The job searching website can provide job seekers with valuable information about a company's mission and history. This information will help job seekers determine if the company seems like a good fit for them.

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?
A) Job seekers can think of job searching websites as strategic "intelligence-gathering" tools.
B) New job postings are sometimes flagged to indicate that they're recent additions.
C) Instead of placing an advertisement in the "help wanted" section of a newspaper, an employer is more likely to post on an online job site.
D) Some people use online job searching sites just to be aware of job opportunities in their area, even if they're not actively looking for a new job.

Content: Development/ Proposition	OBJECTIVE: Students must determine which sentence best signals the main topic of a paragraph.
Difficulty: Hard	

Answer

- **Choice A** is the best answer because it clearly establishes the
- main topic of the paragraph: ways that job seekers can use job
- searching websites to collect information about advertised job
- opportunities and the companies associated with them.

PSAT 8/9 Math Test Sample Questions

CONTENT: Problem Solving and Data Analysis	No Calculator

1

The table below shows how many students in each grade are enrolled in Wilson Middle School's music class and how many are not.

Wilson Middle School Music Class Enrollment

	Enrolled in music class	Not enrolled in music class
6th graders	18	12
7th graders	21	11
8th graders	25	8

What is the probability that a Wilson Middle School student chosen at random is enrolled in music class?

A) $\frac{18}{64}$

B) $\frac{31}{64}$

C) $\frac{31}{95}$

D) $\frac{64}{95}$

Answer $\frac{64}{95}$

- **Choice D** is correct. There are 64 students enrolled in music class
- (18+21+25) and 31 students not enrolled in music class
- (12+11+8), which means that there are 95 students at Wilson Middle School. The probability of randomly selecting a
- Wilson Middle School student who is enrolled in music class is the number of students enrolled in music class divided by the total number of students at the school, or 64.

2

A taxi company charges an initial fee plus a rate for each mile traveled. The table below shows the number of miles traveled and the total amount Brian and Shelly were each charged for a different taxi ride. $\frac{23.50 - 13}{10 - 5}$

Taxi Ride Charges

Person	Miles	Total cost
Brian	10	$23.50
Shelly	5	$13.00

Which function represents the total cost in dollars, $t(m)$, of a taxi ride from this company based on the number of miles, m, traveled?

A) $t(m) = 2.10m + 2.50$

B) $t(m) = 2.50m + 2.10$

C) $t(m) = 5.00m + 10.50$

D) $t(m) = 10.50m + 5.00$

Answer

- **Choice A** is correct. The taxi ride has an initial fee and a cost per mile, and therefore can be modeled by the function

- $t(m) = cm + f$, where c is the cost per mile and f is the initial fee. Each row of the table represents an ordered pair $(m, t(m))$ that satisfies this equation. Therefore, the value of c is , and the $= 2.10$, and the cost per mile is $2.10. To find f, substitute the value of c as well as corresponding values of m and $t(m)$ from the table into the equation. This yields $23.50 = 2.10(10) + f$, or $23.50 = 21.0 + f$. Subtracting 21.0 from both sides of the equation yields $2.50 = f$, so the flat fee is $2.50. Therefore, the total cost in dollars, $t(m)$, of a taxi ride from this company, based on the number of miles traveled, m, can be defined by the function $t(m) = 2.10m + 2.50$.

How To Prepare for the PSAT 8/9

The PSAT test is designed to measure what you have learned so far in school. As with any test do the following:

1. Get plenty of rest beforehand

2. Stay nourished and hydrated. Eat a healthy meal and drink water beforehand.

3. Listen carefully and follow directions from your instructor.

4. Be prepared by bringing only what is asked of you (Pencil, calculator)

5. Relax and try to focus on only the test questions.