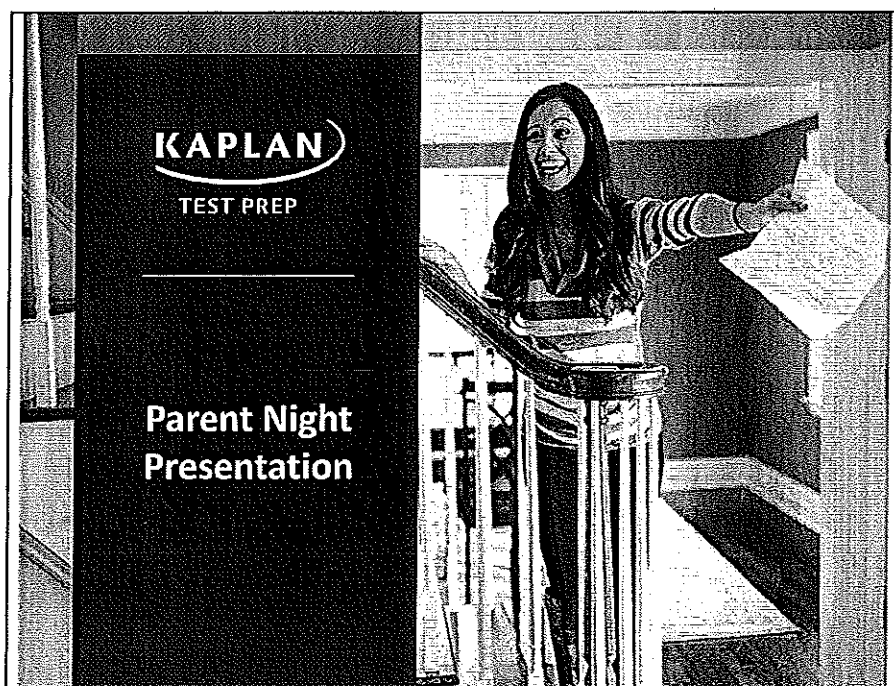




Today's Presentation:

Why
Admissions
Tests Matter

For Middle School and High School Families

Overview of
the PSAT, SAT
& ACT

Reading Your
PSAT Score
Report

Best suited for families of
students that took the PSAT

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

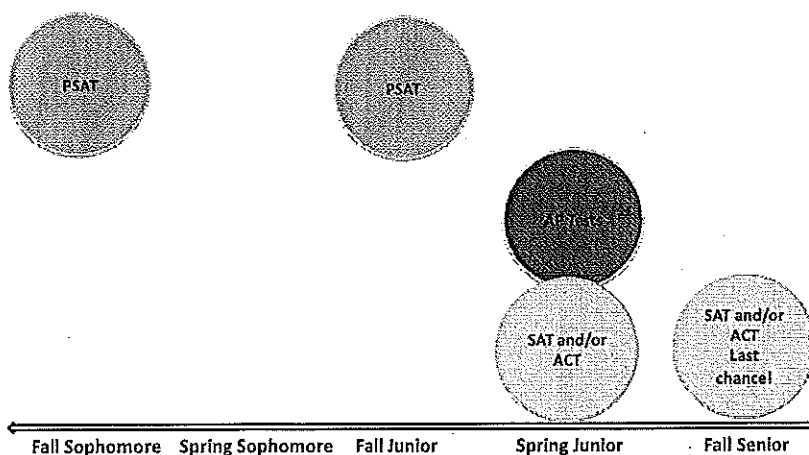
KAPLAN TEST PREP

Why Admissions Tests Matter

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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Test Taking Timeline



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Why Admissions Tests Matter



Merit scholarships are awarded based on test scores and grades



Nearly 90% of colleges placed considerable or moderate importance on test scores*

*According to a National Association for College Admission Counseling study.

** Korn, Melissa. "Job Hunting? Dig Up Those Old SAT Scores." *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones & Company. March 25, 2014. April 9, 2014.

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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An Overview: PSAT, SAT, and ACT

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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A Primer: PSAT, SAT, and ACT

PSAT

- Used for scholarships
- Can only officially be taken once
- Taken in October of junior year
- Helps prepare students for the SAT

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New PSAT/NMSQT Overview

Category		Features
	Timing	2 hours, 45 minutes
	Structure	Aligned with the New SAT, and almost the same length No Essay
	Scoring	▪ No guessing penalty ▪ Now scored on a scale of 1520 ✓ Evidence-Based Reading & Writing ✓ Math

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A Primer: PSAT, SAT, and ACT

SAT & ACT

- Used for college admissions
- Used for scholarships + merit-based grants
- Can retake several times
- Colleges accept both tests!
- Usually taken Spring of junior year + Fall of senior year

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SAT (Post March 2016) Overview

Category	Features
 Timing	3 hours, 50 minutes <i>including 50 minute essay</i>
 Scoring	• Now scored on a scale of 1600 ✓ Evidence-Based Reading & Writing ✓ Math • New optional Essay scored separately • No wrong answer penalty • 4 answer choices

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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SAT Overview

Category	Features
 Evidence-based Reading & Writing Section	• Reading and Writing combined • Reading details: ✓ No sentence completions ✓ Passage topics include US and World Literature, History/Social Studies, and Sciences (500 - 750 words) ✓ 65 minutes • Writing and Language details: ✓ Focus on extended prose (400 - 500 words) ✓ 35 minutes

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SAT Overview

Category	Features
 Math Section	• Three areas of concentrated focus: ✓ Problem solving and data analysis ✓ "The Heart of Algebra" ✓ "Passport to Advanced Math" • Math fluency emphasized ✓ 25 minutes / 20 questions without a Calculator ✓ 55 minutes / 38 questions with a Calculator • Grid-In questions

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ACT Overview

Category	Features
 Timing	3 hours, 25 minutes <i>including 40 minute essay</i>
 Scoring	- Scored on a scale from 1 – 36 <i>average score from four test sections:</i> ✓ English ✓ Math ✓ Reading ✓ Science - Optional Essay scored separately - No wrong answer penalty

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ACT Sections

Category	Features
 English	45 minutes / 75 questions Evaluate the structure of various passages: • Usage/Mechanics/Grammar • Rhetorical skills / organizing text
 Mathematics	60 minutes / 60 questions • Large focus on Algebra and Geometry • A few Trigonometry questions
 Reading	35 minutes / 40 questions • Compare and contrast paired passages
 Science	35 minutes / 40 questions • Data interpretation and analysis

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 TEST PREP

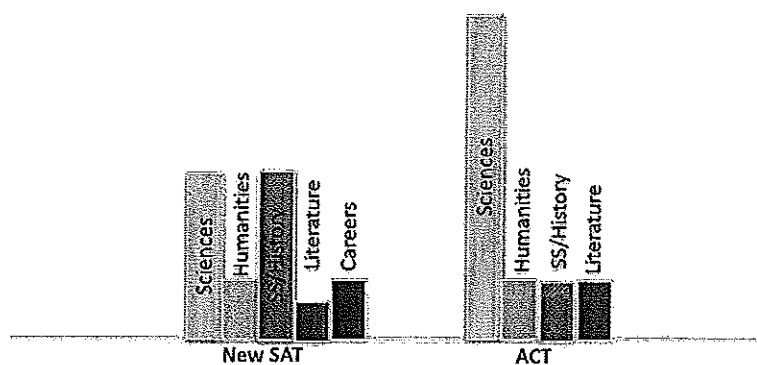
Optional Essays on the SAT and ACT

Category	Features
 Essay	▪ Essay is optional ▪ 50 min on SAT, 40 min on ACT Asks students to write a timed essay on a given topic, integrating text content

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

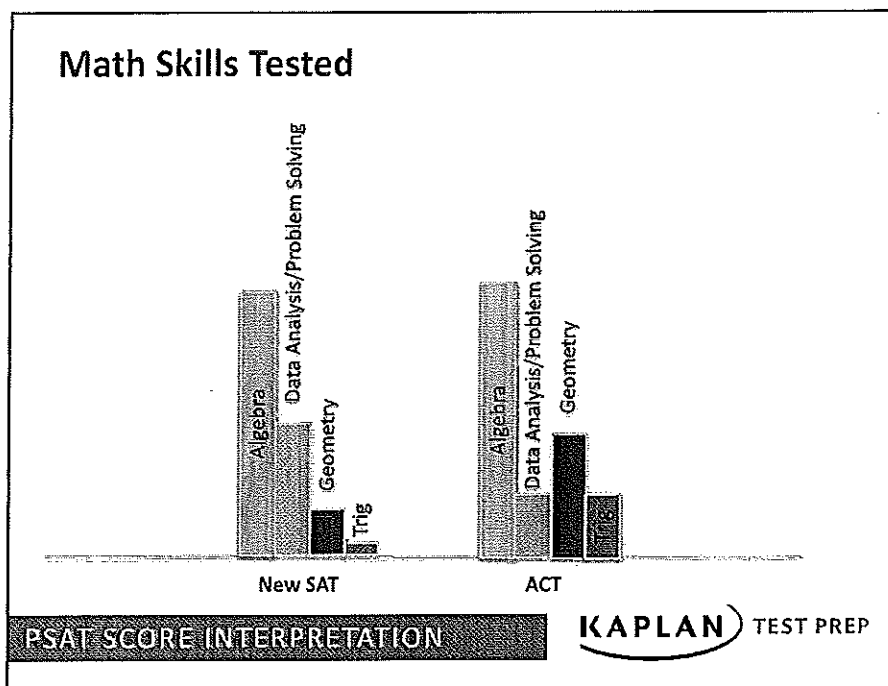
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Reading Passage Topics



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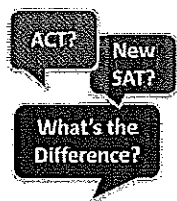
SAT vs. ACT: Common Misconceptions

The SAT is more widely accepted than the ACT	Myth!
The ACT is easier than the SAT	Myth!
You should only take the ACT if you are good at science	Myth!

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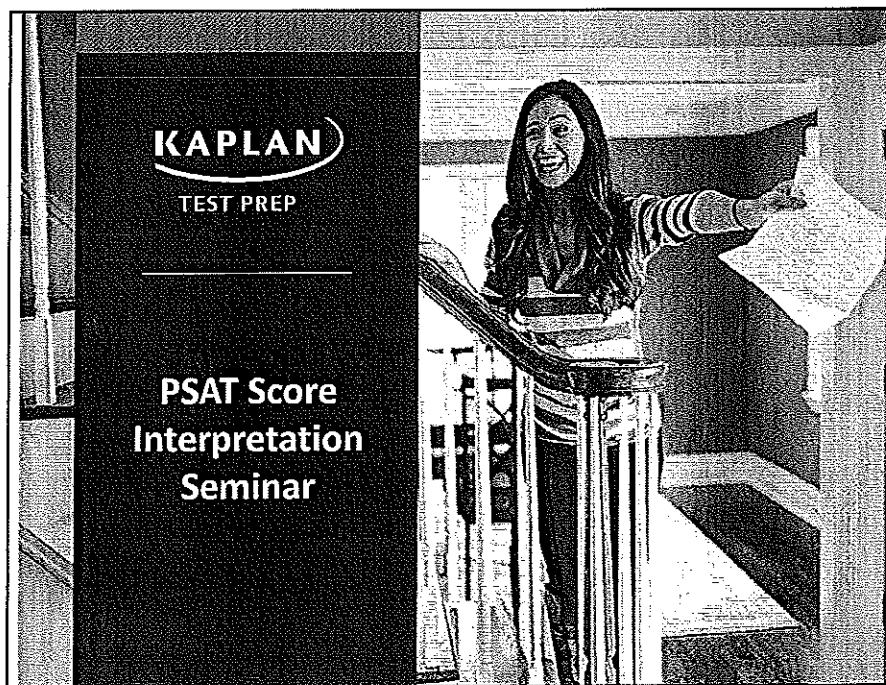
SAT and ACT: Top 5 Key Differences

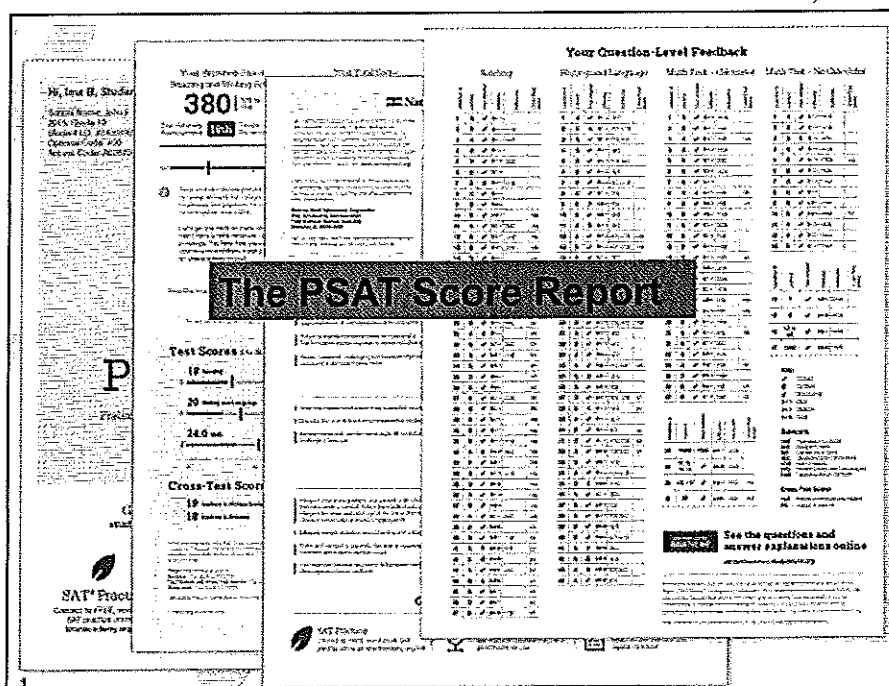


1. The SAT has a greater focus on History & Social Studies passages, while the ACT requires more Science reading.
2. Both focus on Algebra, but the SAT has a greater emphasis on Data Analysis & Problem Solving.
3. Both essays are optional, but the SAT essay requires additional text analysis.
4. The SAT has a No Calculator Math section.
5. The SAT Math section has grid-in questions.

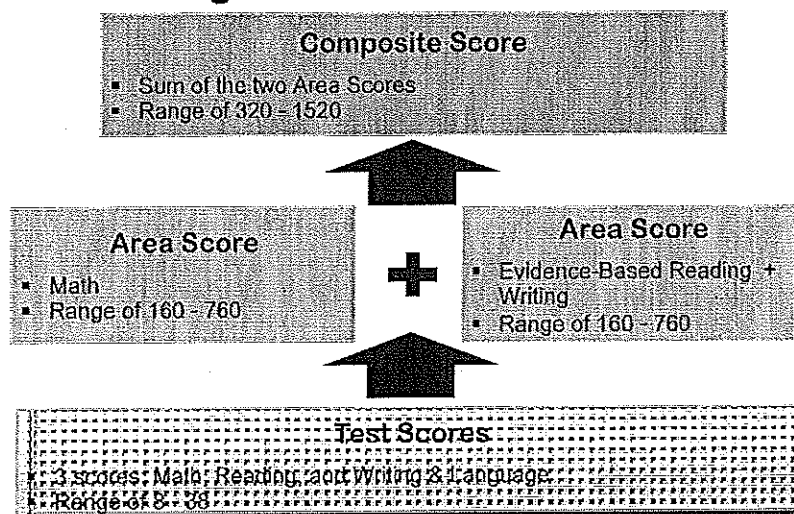
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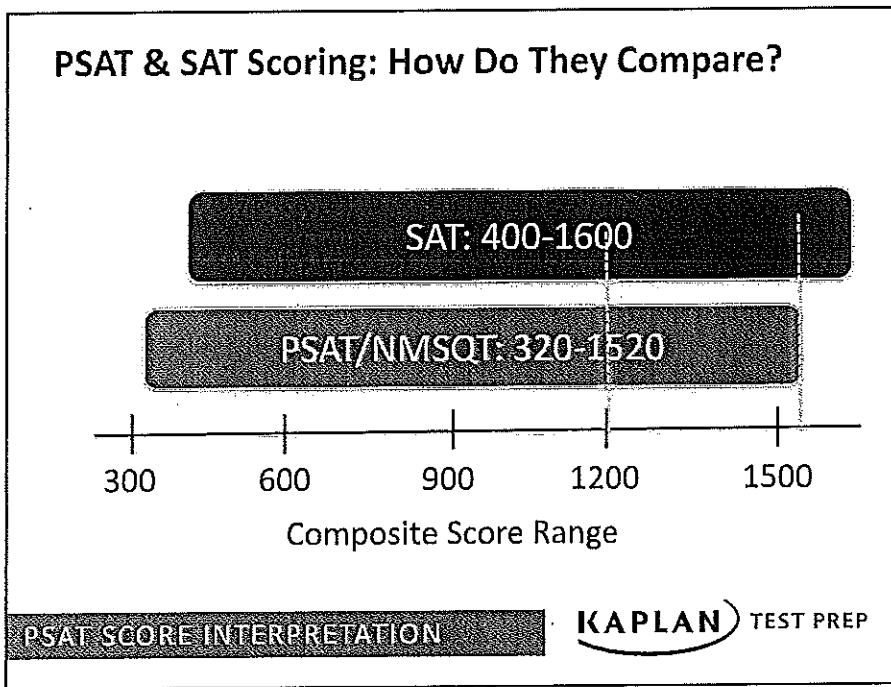
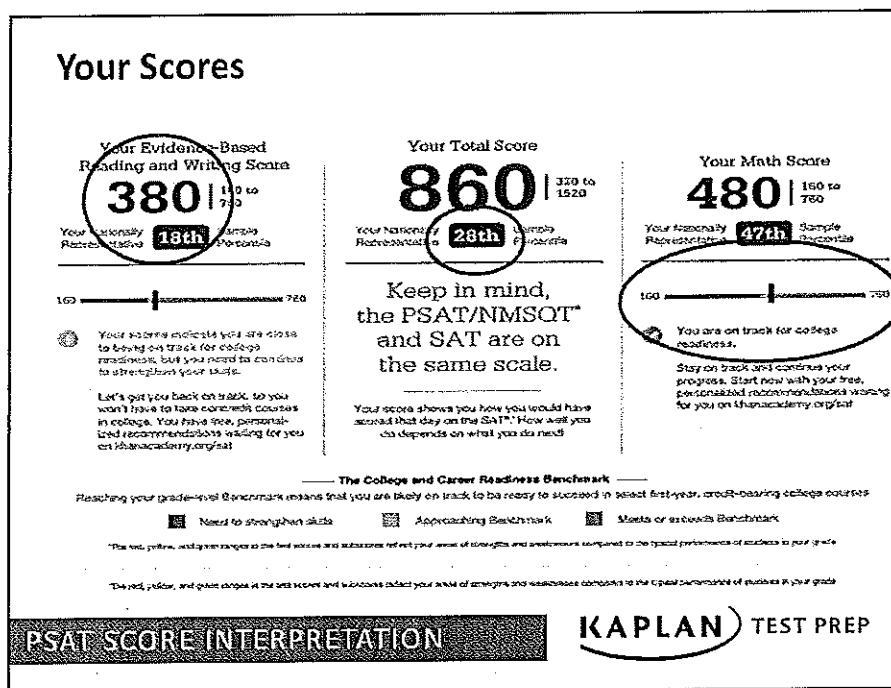


PSAT Scoring Details



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Cross-Test Scores

Score Range	8-38
Number of Scores	2
Definition	▪ 2 Cross-Test Scores: 1. Analysis in History/Social Sciences 2. Analysis in Science ▪ Scores will reflect how students perform on specific questions across Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing that are tied to History/Social Studies and Science

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Subscores

Score Range	1-15
Number of Scores	7
Definition	▪ Reading and Writing & Language: ✓ Command of Evidence ✓ Relevant Words in Context ▪ Writing & Language: ✓ Expression of Ideas ✓ Standard English Conventions ▪ Math ✓ The Heart of Algebra ✓ Passport to Advanced Math ✓ Problem Solving and Data Analysis

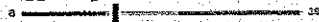
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Your Scores (cont.)

Test Scores 4 to 38 range*

18 Reading



20 Writing and Language



24.0 Math



Cross-Test Scores 4 to 38 range*

19 Analytic in History/Political Studies

18 Analytic in Science

When you take back-to-back tests, your scores may differ slightly from each testing session. This happens because of normal fluctuations in your performance, and reflects the range of your scores, not a change in your performance. For the PSAT/NMSQT, these ranges are also variable.

Total Test score is 40 points.

Section Test score is 10 points.

Test Scores and Cross-Test Scores range from 0 to 38.

Subscores range from 0 to 38.

Remember that you will receive scores on the SATs when you take the SAT.

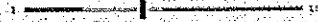
* Beginning in March 2015

Subscores 1 to 15 range*

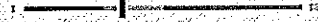
6 Command of Evidence



7 Words in Context



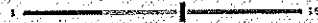
6 Expression of Ideas



8 Standard English Conventions



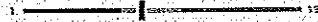
9 Heart of Algebra



8 Problem Solving and Data Analysis



7 Passport to Advanced Math



John B. Student

John B. Kennedy High School, Chicago, IL, Grade 11, PSAT/NMSQT

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National Merit

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 2017 competition, NMSC will consider the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores of some 1.5 million test-takers at nationally high school (junior) and merit program entry requirements. For more information, please visit www.nmsc.org.

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions (see right-hand column) 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
1500 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4977

Include your name and home address along with your high school name, address, and e-mail contact number.

Your NMSC Selection Index

124*

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

Eligibility Information

The asterisk (*) next to your Selection Index means you do not meet entry requirements for the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. See your responses to entry requirements to the right.

NOTE: Students leaving high school and entering college in 2018 or later must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in their 3rd year (senior year) of grades 11-12 to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Entry Requirements

(Information you provided on your entry or sheet)

High school student:

YES

Year to complete high school and attend full-time in college:

2018

Years to be spent in grades 11-12:

4

U.S. Citizenship:

NO, but I am a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and I intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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Setting yourself up for success: SAT & ACT

DO...	Why
Read, read, read!	Reading comprehension is heavily tested – reading for fun will help
Pay attention in class	The SAT and ACT reflect skills learned in the classroom
Get an SAT or ACT book and do practice problems	The types of questions repeat a lot
Get to know the format	The instructions are always the same
Take practice tests	You'll know what to expect on test day

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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Your Next Steps

Junior Year

- PSAT in October for National Merit Qualification
- Focus on Academics – this is a critical year!
- Research admissions requirements for target, reach, and safety schools
- Prepare for the SAT or ACT
- Take AP and Subject Tests

Senior Year

- Take the SAT and/or ACT for the last time
- Take AP and Subject Tests
- Request recommendation letters
- Complete college applications
- Fill out FAFSA
- Research scholarships
- Keep your grades up!

PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION

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Next Steps and Resources

What do you need?	Where to find it:
A Free Practice Test – learn what the SAT/ACT is like	Online at www.kaptest.com
SAT/ACT Resources	SAT Change Resources www.kaptest.com/satchange Where Do I Register for the SAT/ACT? www.collegeboard.com www.act.org Your College Counselors

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Thank You!

Ryan DeGuzman, Pre-College Programs Manager
ryan.deguzman@kaplan.com
 973-845-8855

Feel free to contact me, visit kaptest.com/satchange,
 or call 1-800-KAP-TEST for additional resources, classes, and
 information about the New SAT and ACT.

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