PSAT/NMSQT®

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Fall 2026

PSAT/NMSQT

Paper Test Directions

Translated into <Language> for Students

Notes to the Proctor

Using this document on test day:

Distribute this document once students are seated.

Students may use this document to read translations of the directions that are read aloud or printed in their test book. Students may keep this document open and on their desk during the entire testing period. Students may **not** be given additional time, unless approved by College Board as a separate accommodation.

Collect this document from each student at the end of testing and securely destroy it.

IMPORTANT: Students must not sign in to Bluebook on test day for any reason, including section timing. All timing MUST be administered by the proctor using the Paper Testing Script. Use of Bluebook will cause a misadministration and require a retest.

Notes to the Student

The following is a translation of the directions your proctor will read aloud, as well as the written directions found in your test book. Follow along as your proctor reads the English directions aloud. If you have questions about what is being read by your proctor, please raise your hand.

- These translated directions may not match word-for-word what is read by your proctor; however, the relevant information is the same.
- Your proctor may skip some instructions that don't apply to your testing situation.
- You may keep this document on your desk for the entire testing time but must return it to the proctor after testing.
- You may NOT use this document for scratch paper.
- At various times, your proctor will announce the time remaining in the section, as well as breaks when appropriate. If you are testing with an approved accommodation, these announcements may differ from the timing and breaks listed in this translated document. Please listen carefully to the announcements read by your proctor.
- If you are testing with an approved accommodation, your proctor may give you additional directions in English.
- Icons are used throughout this document to draw your attention to specific information:

Important information

Directions found in your test book

All shaded text indicates directions spoken by your proctor.

About National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an annual academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which is cosponsored by College Board and NMSC, is the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program. If you have questions about any aspect of the National Merit Scholarship Program, including student participation requirements, the selection process, and awards offered, visit **www.nationalmerit.org**.

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Welcome

Welcome. Today you're taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, also known as the PSAT/NMSQT, which focuses on what you're learning now. It's also a chance to practice for the SAT and qualify for scholarship programs.

Before you begin the test, I will read some instructions and hand out some booklets of information for you to review and complete. I'll also give you any materials related to your accommodations. And if you brought a calculator, I'll make sure it's acceptable.

Please listen carefully to these instructions.

If you have phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, or other prohibited devices, turn them off and put them under your desk now.

On your desk, you should have your sign-in ticket, pencils, and any testing aids you're approved to use as an accommodation. If you brought them, place your acceptable calculator and backup calculator under your desk. Be sure to clear all saved formulas from your calculator. I will let you know when you can use your calculator.

If you brought a snack, drink, calculator cover, or any cleaning supplies, such as hand sanitizer, please place these items under your desk. Please remove any other items from your desk and place them in your bags at the front or side of the room.

You should also have 1 sheet of scratch paper, which I'll collect after the test, so don't tear it. Write your full name in the top right corner. If you don't have a sheet of scratch paper yet, let me know when I come by your desk. I'll now walk around the room to confirm that your desks are clear and ready for testing.

3 Instructions for Students with Certain Accommodations

Your proctor may read the following instructions to you or supporting staff. Otherwise, they will skip ahead to Prepare for Testing.

For students testing with assistive technology, your proctor will say:

If you're using approved assistive technology, now is the time to make sure it's working. If you customized your settings during practice, you may need to repeat this step now. Remember, you can use the built-in features on your device.

For students testing with a human reader, your proctor will say:

Readers must read questions aloud as often as requested. It's important that they read only exactly what is in the script. They must not elaborate, even if you ask them to.

For students testing with a scribe, your proctor will say:

Scribes must write only the answers and corrections that you dictate. They can't prompt you in a way that would result in a different response. Scribes will read your answers back to you if you want to review your work.

For students testing with a braille format, your proctor will say:

The braille test is divided into several books. You will be given 1 book at a time. Throughout the test, each question is separated from another with a line. Each question begins in cell 1, with runovers beginning in cell 5. Each answer choice begins in cell 3, with runovers beginning in cell 5.

The braille is in Unified English Braille (UEB). The Math sections are in the Nemeth Code unless you are approved for Braille Paper Testing UEB with Technical Math. The braille math reference book contains math formulas and directions for use with all mathematics sections. Your test includes raised line drawings of graphs and figures used in the test.

4 Prepare for Testing

The Reading and Writing section and the Math section each contain two modules, timed individually. I'll post the start and stop times for each timed module here *[your proctor will indicate where this information will be posted]*, and I'll announce when 5 minutes are left in each module.

I'll walk around the room every now and then to make sure everyone is working on the correct module. For this test, you can only work on one module at a time. This may be different from what you're used to, so be sure not to move ahead or look back in the test book, even if you finish the current module.

Once the test is over, please stay seated and don't leave the room until I dismiss you. If you have any final questions, you may ask them now. If you need help or extra scratch paper at any time, raise your hand and I'll come over. Remember to write your full name on extra scratch paper. Does anyone have any questions?

I will now give you your test book. Don't open it yet.

See the translation of the back cover of your test book, following this section.

Turn to the back of your test book and print your last name, first name, and middle initial, if you have one. You can find the school name, College Board school code, and our room number written on the board. When you have completed this step, please put your pencil down and look up at me.

I will now distribute a copy of the *Paper Test Taker Administration Instructions* to each of you.

The test you're about to take is a paper format of the digital PSAT/NMSQT. When students complete exam setup in Bluebook, the digital testing application, they see and respond to important information. The booklet I just gave you contains the same information.

Open your booklet to page 3 and read under **Student Starts Here**. Follow the instructions, which include completing some information on the front cover. You can find your registration number on your sign-in ticket. Raise your hand if you need help finding any of the information required. When you are finished, put your pencil down and look up at me.

You'll now read through and complete the rest of the *Paper Test Taker Administration Instructions*. It's important to read through the entire document carefully. First, you'll read sections about these instructions and what information I'll ask you to complete. Then you'll read a section called **Use of the Bluebook App**. This section explains how your answers will be transcribed from your test book into the Bluebook app. When you have finished reading and checked the box at the end of the section to show that you agree to these policies, put your pencil down and look up at me.

Next, you'll have 15 minutes to read and agree to the testing rules for this exam. I will dismiss anyone who tries to break the rules, and their scores will be canceled. They may also be prevented from taking College Board tests in the future.

When you have finished reading the testing rules and checked the box at the end of the section to show that you agree to follow these rules, continue reading the **Privacy Statement** to understand how College Board puts your privacy first. When you reach the end of the **Privacy Statement** section, please stop reading, put your pencil down, and look up at me.

You'll now be asked several questions to determine your entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Then you'll read through some optional content about College Board programs and services. When you reach the section titled **Digital Test Security**, please stop reading and look up at me.

We're almost finished with the *Paper Test Taker Administration Instructions*. Please read the reminder about rules that apply to this test. To signify your agreement with these rules, write the test security pledge given below the list of rules. When you are finished, please put down your pencil and look up.

Please review the 4 pieces of information listed under **Confirm Your Info on Your Test Book**, then turn to the back of your test book and either confirm that your information is accurately recorded there or add the correct information now. Then, above your name on the back cover of the test book, print your registration number from your sign-in ticket. This information will help College Board match your test book and answers with your transcription. When you are finished, please put down your pencil and look up.

Thank you for completing this information. Please close your booklet and place it under your desk.

4.1 Back Cover Directions

NOTE: The following is a translation of the back cover of your test book. When instructed, you should write on your test book, not this document.

Your Name (Print) _____
LAST FIRST MI

School _____
SCHOOL NUMBER NAME OF SCHOOL ROOM NUMBER/NAME

PSAT/NMSQT

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

- You may work on only one module at a time.
- If you finish a module before time is called, check your work on that module only. You may NOT turn to any other module.

MARKING YOUR ANSWERS

- Be sure to answer your questions properly in this book.
- Circle only one answer to each question. If you change your mind, completely erase the circle. You will not get credit for questions with more than one answer circled, or for questions with no answers circled.

USING YOUR TEST BOOK

- You may use the test book for scratch work.
- You may not fold or remove pages or portions of a page from this book, or take the book from the testing room.

TEST SECURITY

You're bound by the following rules for today's test:

- You may not give or receive help during the test. You may not share or post anything related to this test.
- Your answers must be entirely your own. College Board will review your responses.
- If you attempt to cheat, your scores will be canceled, college admissions offices may be notified, and you will be disqualified from taking any AP®, SAT®, or CLEP® exams.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

In order for your test to be scored, you must read the following statement, make a check next to "I agree," and sign your name.

I am the person who is supposed to take this test. I agree to follow the rules above and understand what will happen if I break them.

☐ I agree

My signature:_____

Ideas contained in passages for this test, some of which are excerpted or adapted from published material, do not necessarily represent the opinions of College Board.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOK UNTIL THE PROCTOR TELLS YOU TO DO SO.

5 Module 1: Reading and Writing

We'll start testing with the first module of the Reading and Writing section. Once we begin, you'll have ___ minutes to work on Module 1. I'll post the start and stop times, and I'll let you know when 5 minutes are left.

Keep your test book flat on your desk. You may use your test book for scratch work, but be sure you have clearly circled only one answer.

If you finish before I call time, you may check your work in this module, but you may not go to any other module of the test. If you are ready to move on, please put your pencil down and look up, but do not move on until I tell you.

Now, open your test book to the first module in the Reading and Writing section. Read the directions and begin work. Good luck, everyone.

To begin the test, your proctor will say:

Time starts now.

During the Module

When there are 5 minutes remaining, your proctor will say:

You have 5 minutes remaining in Module 1.

When time expires, your proctor will say:

Stop work and put your pencil down.

5.1 Reading and Writing Module 1 Directions

The following is a translation of the directions in your test book for Reading and Writing Module 1.
33 QUESTIONS (STANDARD TIME)

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

5.2 For Students Testing with Extra Breaks or Extended Time

This section applies **only** to students testing with extra breaks or extended time. Your proctor will only read instructions that apply to your testing room. If these instructions do not apply to your testing room, your proctor will continue on to Module 2.

To students testing with extra breaks or extended time, your proctor will say:

Close your test book and leave it on your desk. We'll stop now for a break before the next module. Please listen carefully to these rules:

- Don't discuss the test questions with anyone or access any kind of electronic device during this break or any other break during the test.
- If you need to leave the room, only go to designated areas, the hallway, or the restroom.
- Snacks and drinks are only allowed in designated areas.
- Please be considerate of students working in other rooms and don't talk in the hallway.

To students testing with extra breaks OR extended time (but not extended breaks), your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 5 minutes.

To students testing with extended time AND extended breaks, your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 10 minutes.

Testing Break

At the end of the break, your proctor will say:

Please take your seat. Don't open any section of the test until I tell you to.

6 Module 2: Reading and Writing

We'll continue testing with the second module of the Reading and Writing section. Once we begin, you'll have ___ minutes to work on Module 2. I'll post the start and stop times, and I'll let you know when 5 minutes are left.

Keep your test book flat on your desk. You may use your test book for scratch work, but be sure you have clearly circled only one answer.

If you finish before I call time, you may check your work in this module, but you may not go to any other module of the test. If you are ready to move on, please put your pencil down and look up, but do not move on until I tell you.

Now, open your test book to the second module in the Reading and Writing section. Read the directions and begin work.

To begin the test, your proctor will say:

Time starts now.

During the Module

When there are 5 minutes remaining, your proctor will say:

You have 5 minutes remaining in Module 2.

When time expires, your proctor will say:

Stop work and put your pencil down.

6.1 Reading and Writing Module 2 Directions

The following is a translation of the directions in your test book for Reading and Writing Module 2.
33 QUESTIONS (STANDARD TIME)

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

7 Section Break

Close your test book and leave it on your desk. We'll stop now for a break before we begin the next section. Please listen carefully to these rules:

- Don't discuss the test questions with anyone or access any kind of electronic device during this break or any other break during the test.
- If you need to leave the room, only go to designated areas, the hallway, or the restroom.
- Snacks and drinks are only allowed in designated areas.
- Please be considerate of students working in other rooms and don't talk in the hallway.

For students testing with standard time, your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 10 minutes.

For students with extended breaks or students who qualify for a nutrition break, your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 20 minutes.

Testing Break

At the end of the break, your proctor will say:

Please take your seat. Don't open any section of the test until I tell you to.

8 Module 1: Math

We'll continue testing with the first module of the Math section. Once we begin, you'll have ___ minutes to work on Module 1. I'll post the start and stop times, and I'll let you know when 5 minutes are left. You may place your calculator on your desk now.

Remember to follow these guidelines:

- Keep your test book and calculator flat on your desk. You may use your test book for scratch work, but be sure you have clearly circled only one answer.
- Do not share or exchange your calculator.
- If you have a backup calculator or batteries, keep them on the floor under your desk.
- If your calculator malfunctions and you have batteries or a backup calculator, raise your hand. I'll come over to assist you. If you do not have a backup, continue the test and do the best you can.
- If you finish before I call time, you may check your work in this module, but you may not go to any other module of the test. If you are ready to move on, please put your pencil down and look up, but do not move on until I tell you.
- Now, open your test book to the first module in the Math section. Read the directions and begin work.

To begin the test, your proctor will say:

Time starts now.

During the Module

When there are 5 minutes remaining, your proctor will say:

You have 5 minutes remaining in Module 1.

When time expires, your proctor will say:

Stop work and put your pencil down.

8.1 Math Module 1 Directions

The following is a translation of the directions in your test book for Math Module 1.

27 QUESTIONS (STANDARD TIME)

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important math skills.

Use of a calculator is permitted for all questions.

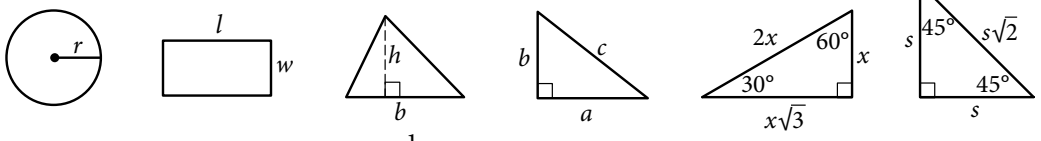
NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated:

- All variables and expressions represent real numbers.

- Figures provided are drawn to scale.
- All figures lie in a plane.
- The domain of a given function f is the set of all real numbers x for which $f(x)$ is a real number.

REFERENCE



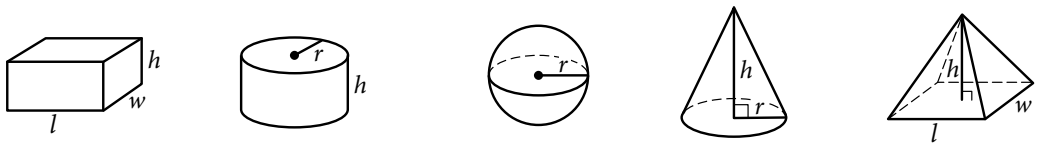
$A = \pi r^2$
$C = 2\pi r$

$A = l\,w$

$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$

$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

Special Right Triangles



$V = l\,wh$

$V = \pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{1}{3}l\,wh$

The number of degrees of arc in a circle is 360.
The number of radians of arc in a circle is 2π.
The sum of the measures in degrees of the angles of a triangle is 180.

For multiple-choice questions, solve each problem, choose the correct answer from the choices provided, and then circle your answer in this book. Circle only one answer for each question. If you change your mind, completely erase the circle. You will not get credit for questions with more than one answer circled, or for questions with no answers circled.

For student-produced response questions, solve each problem and write your answer next to or under the question in the test book as described below.

- Once you've written your answer, circle it clearly. You will not receive credit for anything written outside the circle, or for any questions with more than one circled answer.
- If you find **more than one correct answer**, write and circle only one answer.
- Your answer can be up to 5 characters for a **positive** answer and up to 6 characters (including the negative sign) for a **negative** answer, but no more.
- If your answer is a **fraction** that is too long (over 5 characters for positive, 6 characters for negative), write the decimal equivalent.
- If your answer is a **decimal** that is too long (over 5 characters for positive, 6 characters for negative), truncate it or round at the fourth digit.
- If your answer is a **mixed number** (such as 3½), write it as an improper fraction (7/2) or its decimal equivalent (3.5).
- Don't include **symbols** such as a percent sign, comma, or dollar sign in your circled answer.

8.2 For Students Testing with Extra Breaks or Extended Time

This section applies **only** to students testing with extra breaks or extended time. Your proctor will only read instructions that apply to your testing room. If these instructions do not apply to your testing room, your proctor will continue on to Module 2.

To students testing with extra breaks or extended time, your proctor will say:

Close your test book and leave it on your desk. We'll stop now for a break before the next module. Please listen carefully to these rules:

- Don't discuss the test questions with anyone or access any kind of electronic device during this break or any other break during the test.
- If you need to leave the room, only go to designated areas, the hallway, or the restroom.
- Snacks and drinks are only allowed in designated areas.
- Please be considerate of students working in other rooms and don't talk in the hallway.

To students testing with extra breaks OR extended time (but not extended breaks), your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 5 minutes.

To students testing with extended time AND extended breaks, your proctor will say:

We'll start testing again in exactly 10 minutes.

Testing Break

At the end of the break, your proctor will say:

Please take your seat. Don't open any section of the test until I tell you to.

9 Module 2: Math

We'll continue testing with the second module of the Math section. Once we begin, you'll have ___ minutes to work on Module 2. I'll post the start and stop times, and I'll let you know when 5 minutes are left.

Keep your test book and calculator flat on your desk. You may use your test book for scratch work, but be sure you have clearly circled only one answer.

If you finish before I call time, you may check your work in this module, but you may not go to any other module of the test. If you are ready to move on, please put your pencil down and look up, but do not move on until I tell you.

Now, open your test book to the second module in the Math section. Read the directions and begin work.

To begin the test, your proctor will say:

Time starts now.

During the Module

When there are 5 minutes remaining, your proctor will say:

You have 5 minutes remaining in Module 2.

When time expires, your proctor will say:

Stop work and put your pencil down. Now, please close your test book and leave it on your desk.

9.1 Math Module 2 Directions

The following is a translation of the directions in your test book for Math Module 2.

27 QUESTIONS (STANDARD TIME)

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important math skills.

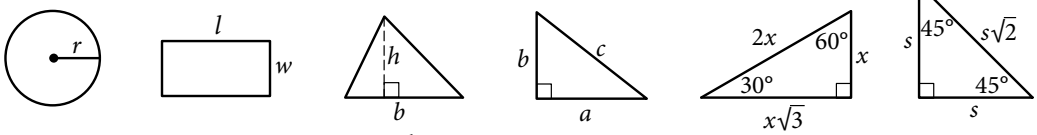
Use of a calculator is permitted for all questions.

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated:

- All variables and expressions represent real numbers.
- Figures provided are drawn to scale.
- All figures lie in a plane.
- The domain of a given function f is the set of all real numbers x for which $f(x)$ is a real number.

REFERENCE



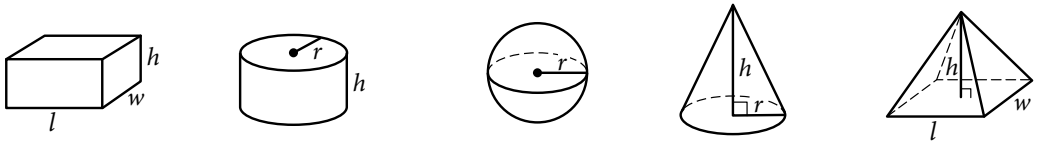
$A = \pi r^2$
$C = 2\pi r$

$A = l\,w$

$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$

$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

Special Right Triangles



$V = l\,wh$

$V = \pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{1}{3}l\,wh$

The number of degrees of arc in a circle is 360.

The number of radians of arc in a circle is 2π.

The sum of the measures in degrees of the angles of a triangle is 180.

For multiple-choice questions, solve each problem, choose the correct answer from the choices provided, and then circle your answer in this book. Circle only one answer for each question. If you change your mind, completely erase the circle. You will not get credit for questions with more than one answer circled, or for questions with no answers circled.

For student-produced response questions, solve each problem and write your answer next to or under the question in the test book as described below.

- Once you've written your answer, circle it clearly. You will not receive credit for anything written outside the circle, or for any questions with more than one circled answer.
- If you find **more than one correct answer**, write and circle only one answer.
- Your answer can be up to 5 characters for a **positive** answer and up to 6 characters (including the negative sign) for a **negative** answer, but no more.
- If your answer is a **fraction** that is too long (over 5 characters for positive, 6 characters for negative), write the decimal equivalent.
- If your answer is a **decimal** that is too long (over 5 characters for positive, 6 characters for negative), truncate it or round at the fourth digit.
- If your answer is a **mixed number** (such as 3½), write it as an improper fraction (7/2) or its decimal equivalent (3.5).
- Don't include **symbols** such as a percent sign, comma, or dollar sign in your circled answer.

10 Dismissal

Before dismissal, your proctor will say:

Congratulations! You've completed the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or PSAT/NMSQT. Just being here today and finishing the test is a significant accomplishment. Please sit quietly while I collect and count your test materials.

After all materials are accounted for, your proctor will say:

Remember, by submitting your answers, you agree that you won't take any test questions from the testing room, give them to anyone, or discuss them with anyone over email, text messages, online, or any other way. This helps make sure all students have a fair and equal test experience. If you saw anything today that concerns you, come and talk to me before you leave.

As I said at the beginning of the test, if a person violates any of the policies related to test security, their scores will be canceled, and they may be prevented from taking other College Board tests in the future.

Please wait in your seat until I dismiss you. At that point, you may gather your belongings and come up to collect anything you turned in before the test. As you leave, please be considerate of people still working in other rooms. If you want to know how to cancel your score, I can help you before you leave.

Again, congratulations on your hard work today.

Your proctor will collect this booklet from you before you leave.