


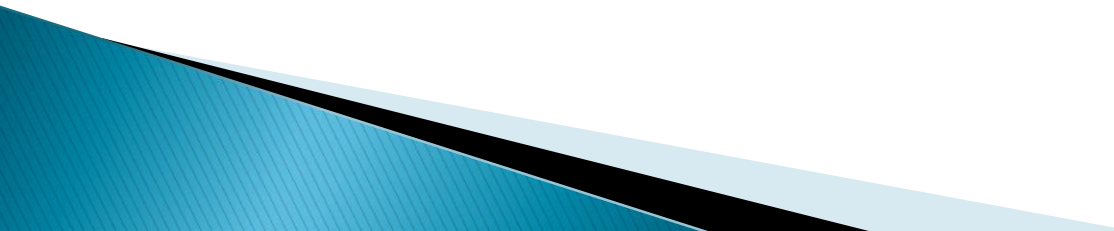
**EVERYTHING A  
STUDENT NEEDS  
TO KNOW ABOUT  
THE  
PSAT**



# WHAT IS THE PSAT?

- ▶ **The PSAT is a preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test**
- ▶ **Even though this is practice for the SAT, there are several reasons you should take the PSAT seriously:**
  - **Preparation for the SAT**
  - **Feedback about critical academic skills & early career planning**
  - **Getting reading for college (esp. admissions)**
  - **Enter scholarship competitions**

# WHO TAKES THE PSAT AND WHY?

- ▶ The PSAT is given to sophomores and offered to juniors.
  - ▶ It is used to measure your critical reading, math and writing skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. It measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills.
  - ▶ It is also used as a resource for *you*...
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# IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT THE PSAT!

- ▶ **Use the Student Guide to the PSAT!**
  - Take the practice tests
  - Review the rules and tips provided in the guide
- ▶ **Remember, the PSAT is good preparation for the SAT and a good predictor of your strengths and areas that need improvement**
- ▶ **Doing your best could mean \$\$\$\$\$**
- ▶ **Results from the PSAT will be used in college and career planning with your guidance counselor**

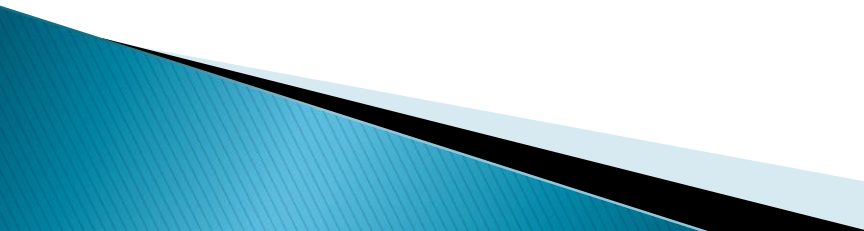
# WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PSAT GIVEN?

- ▶ **The PSAT is given at Ringgold High School in October each year.**
- ▶ **You will need:**
  - No. 2 pencils and eraser
  - Approved calculator

# HOW IS THE PSAT DESIGNED?

- ▶ **The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:**
  - Two 25-minute critical reading sections
  - Two 25-minute math sections
  - One 30-minute writing skills section
- ▶ **The test requires 2 hours and 10 minutes**
- ▶ **Check out [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information, practice questions, & test tips**

# CRITICAL READING

- ▶ **Two 25-minute critical reading sections**
  - ▶ **13 SENTENCE COMPLETIONS**
    - In sentences with two blanks, make sure the words for both blanks make sense in the sentence.
    - Start by working with one blank at a time.
    - Stay within the meaning of the sentence.
    - Before you mark your answer, read the complete sentence with your choice filled in.
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# CRITICAL READING

## ▶ 35 CRITICAL READING

- Don't skip introductions to passages.
- Read each passage carefully.
- Follow the author's reasoning and be aware of features such as assumptions, attitudes, and tone.
- You may mark the passages as you read, but don't spend too much time making notes.
- When a question asks you to compare an aspect of a pair of passages, don't be misled by choices that are correct for only one of the two passages.
- Select the choice that best answers the question asked. Don't select a choice just because it is a true statement.
- You may find it helpful to read the questions first to get an idea of what to look for.



# MATH

## ▶ Two 25-minute math sections

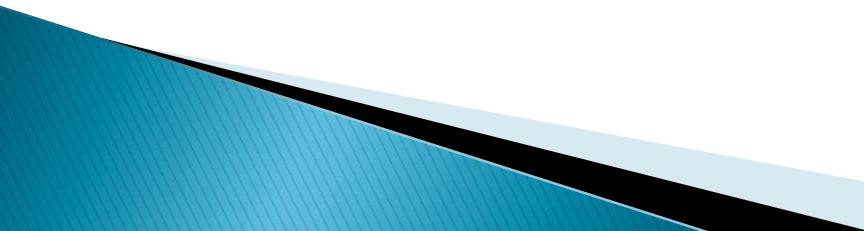
### ▶ 28 MULTIPLE-CHOICE

- Look at the answer choices before you begin to work on each question.
- Read each question carefully.
- Even if it looks like a question you don't think you can answer, try.
- Don't let the form of the question keep you from trying to answer it.
- If your answer isn't among the choices, try writing it in a different form. You may have the same answer in a different mathematical format.

# MATH

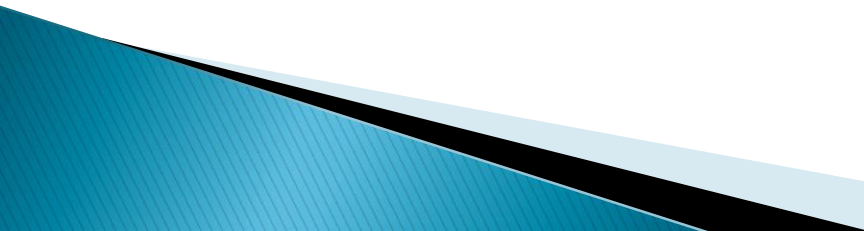
- ▶ **10 Student-produced responses or GRID-INS**
  - Answer choices aren't given, so a calculator may be helpful.
  - Suggestion – write your answer in the boxes above the grid to avoid gridding errors.
  - The grid only holds four places and only accommodates positive numbers and zero.
  - Do not worry about which column to begin gridding the answer. As long as the answer is gridded completely, you will receive credit.
  - An answer can be entered on the grid either as a decimal or as a fraction, unless stated otherwise.
  - You don't have to reduce fractions like  $3/24$  to their lowest terms.
  - Convert all mixed numbers to improper fractions before gridding.
  - If the answer is a repeating decimal, grid the most accurate value the grid will accommodate.
  - Some questions may have more than one right answer.

# Writing Skills

- ▶ **One 30-minute writing section = 39 questions**
  
  - ▶ **14 IDENTIFYING SENTENCE ERRORS**
    - Read the entire sentence carefully but quickly.
    - Look at choices (A) through (D) to see whether anything needs to be changed to make the sentence correct.
    - Don't waste time searching for errors. Mark (E) No error, on your answer sheet if you believe the sentence is correct as written.
    - Move quickly through questions about Identifying Sentence Errors. The other kinds of questions will take more time.
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# Writing Skills

## ▶ 20 IMPROVING SENTENCES

- Note the underlined portion because that is the portion that may have to be revised. The portion with no underline stays the same.
  - Think of how you would revise the underlined portion if it seems wrong. Look for your revision among the choices given.
  - Replace the underlined portion of the sentence with choices (B) through (E) if you don't find your revision. Concentrate on the choices that seem clear and exact when you read them.
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# Writing Skills

## ▶ 5 IMPROVING PARAGRAPH

- Read the entire essay quickly to determine its overall meaning. The essay is meant to be a draft, so don't be surprised if you notice errors. Don't linger over those errors.
- Make sure that your answer about a particular sentence or sentences makes sense in the context of the passage as a whole.
- Choose the best answer from among the choices given, even if you can imagine another correct response.