

# PSAT™ 8/9

## Understanding Scores

2021-22



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# Contact Us

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## CONTACTS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

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9 a.m.–6 p.m. ET, Mon.–Fri.

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+1-212-237-1335 (International)  
9 a.m.–6 p.m. ET, Mon.–Fri.

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# PSAT 8/9

## Score Report Resources

Thank you for administering the 2021-22 PSAT 8/9 at your school. Enclosed is information about student score reports for you, your students, and their parents.

### What's Included

This brochure delves deeper into the meaning of your students' scores, including what the assessment measures, how it is scored, and how you can use the data to monitor your students' progress.

The brochure also provides:

- Information about estimating score change from the PSAT™ 8/9 to the PSAT™ 10 and PSAT/NMSQT®
- A sample score report walkthrough so you can interpret your students' score reports.

### Related Resources

At [research.collegeboard.org/programs/sat/data/data-tables-technical-resources](https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/sat/data/data-tables-technical-resources) (**Understanding Scores: PSAT 8/9 Score Information**), you can find:

- Percentile and mean scores for eighth- and ninth-grade test takers.
- Answer keys and score conversion tables for the September 20, 2021–March 25, 2022 testing period only. For some test forms given in 2021-22, the actual questions, answers, and answer explanations will not be provided, and the score report will not include the correct answer column.

At [psat.org/8-9-resources](https://psat.org/8-9-resources), you can find:

- Student Score Report flyers in English and Spanish (**Share with Students and Families: Scores**)—hand them out to inform parents and students about students' score reports.

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# The **PSAT 8/9** and the **SAT Suite of Assessments**

## The SAT Suite of Assessments

The SAT Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT 8/9 (for grades 8 and 9).

The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in grade-appropriate ways. They work together to show college readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kind of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in the best middle school and high school courses taught today.

## What the PSAT 8/9 Measures

The PSAT 8/9 measures the skills and knowledge (at the level of content and skill appropriate for eighth and ninth grades) that research shows are the most important for success in college and career. The Reading Test measures comprehension and reasoning skills, and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. The Writing and Language Test measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation. The Math Test covers a range of math practices, with an emphasis on problem solving, modeling, using tools strategically, and using algebraic structure.

## How the PSAT 8/9 Is Scored

Students receive a total score that is the sum of their scores on the two sections (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math).

To calculate section scores, we first compute the student's raw score—the number of questions correctly answered—for each section. Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers or for unanswered questions.

Next we convert each of the raw Math scores to a scaled section score of 120 to 720. We also convert each of the raw Reading scores and the raw Writing and Language scores to scaled test scores of 8 to 38, and then combine these to produce Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section scores of 120 to 720. This conversion process adjusts for slight differences in difficulty among versions of the test and provides a score that is consistent across different versions. The scaled scores are the scores provided on score reports.

## How You Can Use the Student Score Report

The student score report clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps for academic progress. You can help students by going over their score reports and helping them understand what their scores mean. Here's how.

### TALK WITH STUDENTS ABOUT COLLEGE READINESS

For each section, the score report includes an indicator that shows whether the student's score meets the grade-level benchmark. These benchmarks allow students and educators to understand how students are progressing toward college readiness.

- If a student is meeting the benchmark for a section, remind them to continue to take rigorous courses and work hard to stay on track for college success.
- If a student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, connect them to classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement.

## USE STUDENT SCORES TO IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- Use test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores, to evaluate a student's relative strengths and weaknesses and determine which skills need practice.
- Use the red/yellow/green coding on section scores to evaluate how your student is performing relative to other students who are meeting or exceeding the benchmark.
  - ◆ Highlight the areas in green as the student's strengths.
  - ◆ Prioritize areas in the red range for additional work and practice.

## HELP STUDENTS DECIDE ON NEXT STEPS

- Work with your students to think of ways to develop each of the skills you have identified for focus and improvement.
- Encourage students age 13 or over to go online for more details.

For further guidance on interpreting score reports, see the Professional Development modules for K–12 educators at [sat.org/educators](https://sat.org/educators).

## Score-Reporting Features

On pages 8 and 9 of this booklet, you'll find an annotated sample score report that includes detailed explanations of the information that students receive about their college readiness skills. Students age 13 or over can access their online reports to obtain more information and guidance.

**NOTE:** Score reports for schools participating in the test administration research group or study won't include question-level details.

**NOTE:** Answer keys and score conversion tables for the PSAT 8/9 administration assessments will be posted to [research.collegeboard.org/programs/sat/data/data-tables-technical-resources](https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/sat/data/data-tables-technical-resources) (**Understanding Scores: PSAT 8/9 Score Information**) once the first test administration ends on March 25, 2022. No answer keys or score conversion tables will be posted for the second test administration ending on April 29, 2022.

The online reporting portal at [k12reports.collegeboard.org](https://k12reports.collegeboard.org) offers you an array of powerful tools to assess your students' progress and plan instruction that delivers what they need. These tools include:

- Flexible reports that can be sorted and filtered by key demographics.
- Instructional planning support using test subscores in specific content areas, benchmarks, information for cross-subject tasks, and data for prescribing interventions when students are behind or ahead.
- The Question Analysis Report that helps educators connect subscores to state standards, analyze students' strengths and weaknesses, learn which mistakes were the most common, and look for opportunities to reinforce skills. (The Question Analysis Report won't be available to schools participating in the test administration study or research group.)
- Access to the AP Potential™ tool to pinpoint students who are likely to succeed in more challenging courses.
- Ability to print a paper copy of the student score report. Paper reports include total, sections, and test scores, as well as questions answered correctly/incorrectly, and question difficulty.

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# PSAT 8/9

## Scores

### Total Scores

The total score is the sum of the two section scores; its range is 240–1440.

### Section Scores

Your students receive scores in the range of 120–720 for each of two sections. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score combines the scores for the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test. The Math section score is derived from the Math Test score, including the calculator and no-calculator portions.

### Test Scores

The range for the following test scores is 6–36:

- Reading
- Writing and Language
- Math

### Cross-Test Scores

The range for cross-test scores is also 6–36. These scores represent student performance on select questions across the three tests and show a student's strengths in the following domains:

- Analysis in History/Social Studies
- Analysis in Science

### Subscores

Subscores in the range of 1–15 offer feedback on student performance in the following skill areas:

- Command of Evidence
- Words in Context
- Expression of Ideas
- Standard English Conventions
- Heart of Algebra
- Problem Solving and Data Analysis

### Score Ranges

A student's ability is better represented by score ranges than points. Score ranges are derived from the standard error of measurement and show how much a student's scores would likely vary if they took a different administration of the test under identical conditions.

From recent administrations of the PSAT 8/9, these ranges are approximately:

- Total:  $\pm 40$  points
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing:  $\pm 20$  points
- Math:  $\pm 30$  points
- Test scores, subscores, and cross-test scores:  $\pm 2$  points

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# Score Scales and Score Changes

## Using PSAT 8/9 Scores to Project PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 Scores

The SAT Suite—from the PSAT 8/9 through the SAT—uses a common score scale for the total, section, test, and cross-test scores. The ranges reported for each assessment reflect grade-level appropriateness within the common scale. Thus, while the total range for the SAT is 400–1600, the total range for the PSAT 8/9 is 240–1440.

This common score scale means that a student who took the PSAT 8/9 and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, or the PSAT 10 if they had taken any of those tests on that same day; a score of 500 represents the same level of academic achievement on all four assessments.

This also means that student growth across the SAT Suite is easy to determine. If a student takes the PSAT 8/9 this year and receives a 500 Math section score, then takes the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 next year and earns a 550 Math section score, that student has shown a growth of 50 points, which likely resulted from hard work both in and out of school.

The total, section, test, and cross-test scores have been vertically scaled to allow the accurate measurement of growth from test to test. Encourage students to focus on the section scores if they are curious about the growth they can expect to see in their scores over the next year. They should look at the set of projected score ranges we have provided for students that reflect typical growth. Of course, a student's individual growth will be shaped by the courses taken and by the practice the student undertakes between assessments.

Subscores aren't on a vertical scale, and therefore comparing performance year after year should be based on relative performance rather than by calculating student growth across tests.

Students who wish to improve their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 should follow these guidelines:

- Develop academic skills through challenging coursework.
- Read extensively and develop strong writing skills.
- Engage in deliberate practice in the three math areas that are emphasized the most in the assessments.

# Benchmarks and Red/Yellow/Green Performance

## The PSAT 8/9 Grade-Level Benchmarks

The SAT Suite offers grade-level benchmarks that can be used to gauge whether students are on track for becoming college ready each year in grades 8–12. Grade-level benchmarks represent the section scores on each assessment that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready.

The PSAT 8/9 reports separate benchmarks for eighth and ninth graders to help them understand their level of readiness for college and career training programs. The benchmarks help educators better understand how many students and also which students are on track to have the skills necessary for college-entry, credit-bearing courses. Equipped with this information, educators can support students who need extra help while there is still time for improvement. Teachers can also accelerate the progress of students who meet or exceed the benchmarks.

### RECOMMENDED USES

Grade-level benchmarks can help educators:

- Identify students who are on track for success in college and career readiness.
- Identify students who may need extra support while there is still time for improvement.
- Find students who may be ready for more challenging coursework.

Grade-level benchmarks shouldn't be used to assign academic tracks, to discourage students from pursuing college, or to keep students from participating in challenging courses. Rather, the benchmarks are intended to help **all** students better prepare for life after high school.

## What the Benchmarks Mean

The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the current SAT predict a 75% likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first-semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math.

Score reports for the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 include grade-level benchmarks based on how students grow from year to year toward the SAT benchmarks.

PSAT 8/9 Grade-Level Benchmarks		
	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math
<b>8th Grade PSAT 8/9</b>	390	430
<b>9th Grade PSAT 8/9</b>	410	450

## Additional Information Provided to Help You Understand Progress Toward College Readiness

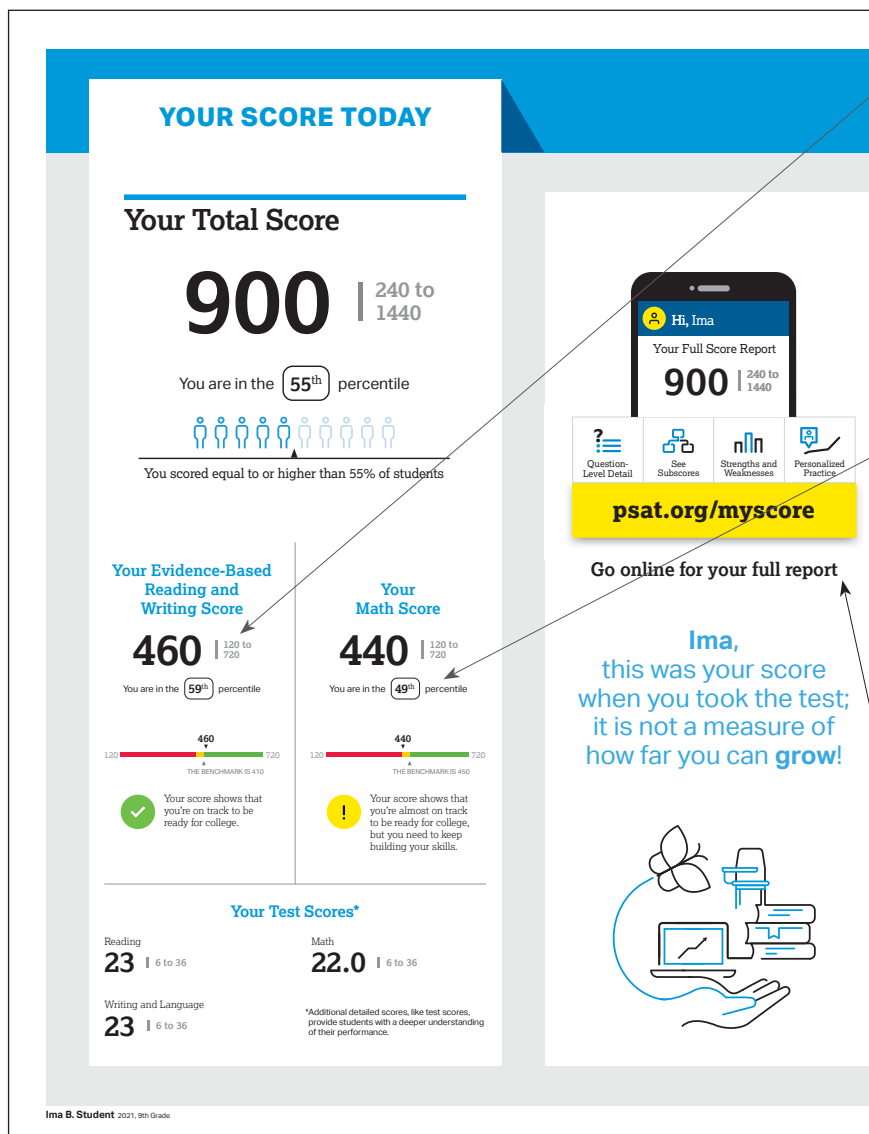
The student score report provides further context for understanding scores by showing a color-coded bar chart for the section scores. Students who met or exceeded the benchmark will be in the green portion of the score band. If students didn't meet the benchmark but were close (within one year's growth), their scores will be in the yellow portion. Students who have a score indicating more than a year's growth below the grade-level benchmark will have a score in the red portion of the score band. Additionally, for each of the test scores and subscores, we have provided a color-coded guide to a student's relative strengths (green) and weaknesses (red).



# The PSAT 8/9 Score Report

## A Case Study: Ima B. Student's PSAT 8/9 Score Report

Take a look at Ima B. Student's sample score report below and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret your student's PSAT 8/9 Score Report.



### What are Ima's scores?

Ima's Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score is 460, and her Math score is 440. In Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Ima's score exceeds the benchmark, and she is on track for college readiness. In Math, Ima is close to meeting the benchmark. Test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores can give Ima a better understanding of areas to work on.

### What are Ima's score percentiles?

Since Ima is in the ninth grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all ninth graders in the nation. Ima scored as well as or better in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing than 59% of a nationally representative group of ninth-grade students. In Math, she scored as well as or better than 49% of a nationally representative group of freshmen. Additional percentiles are available in Ima's online score report.

### How can Ima learn more about her scores?

If Ima is age 13 or older, she can visit [psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore) to see her full score report, learn how to prepare for the SAT, and see her potential for AP® coursework. If she's under age 13, she can talk to her school counselor to find out this information.

Score Report

## YOUR PATH TOMORROW

### Here's what else is waiting for you online:

- 1

**Course Recommendations**  
 Congrats! Your scores show you're ready to succeed in AP® courses. Talk to your counselor about signing up.
- 2

**Career Finder™**  
 Explore careers and majors that align with your interests, hear from people with different jobs and backgrounds, and create and share a personalized action plan.
- 3

**College and Scholarship Search**  
 Use your preferences, interests, and PSAT 8/9 scores to explore colleges and scholarships that are a good fit for you.

### You're On Your Way


Congrats! You made a smart move when you took the PSAT 8/9.

Now invite your parents along for the ride—point them to a website where they can:

- Get college planning tips.
- Sign up for email and text reminders.
- Browse FAQs.

Topics include scholarships, financial aid, high school coursework, and more.

Tell your parents about [collegeboard.org/parents](http://collegeboard.org/parents).



**Sign Up Today**  
A PARENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE

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Ima B. Student 2021, 9th Grade

## What are Ima's next steps?

If Ima is age 13 or over, when she visits [psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore) she can see her potential for AP coursework, learn more about careers and majors that align with her interests with Career Finder™, and search for more information about colleges.

## How can Ima measure her progress?

When she becomes a sophomore, Ima can take the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 to measure the progress she's made since she took the PSAT 8/9. She can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org).

Score Report

## How can Ima learn from her answers?

The score report is designed to help Ima see how she performed by showing whether the answer was correct, incorrect, or omitted.

**NOTE:** For students at schools participating in the test administration study, the actual questions, answers, and answer explanations won't be provided, and the score report won't include the correct answer column.

## Your Question-Level Feedback

### QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

The questions in your score report may not be in the same order as you see on test day.

Section	Total Questions	Correct Answers	Omitted Answers
READING	42	24	2
WRITING AND LANGUAGE	40	24	2
MATH - CALCULATOR	25	11	4
MATH - NO CALCULATOR	13	5	1

**KEY**

- ✓ Correct
- Omitted
- U Unscorable
- X Multi-Grid/Incorrect
- Easy Question
- Medium Question
- Hard Question
- Easy Question Missed\*

\*Tip: A great way to start improving, check out the easy questions you missed first.


READING				WRITING AND LANGUAGE				MATH - CALCULATOR				MATH - CALCULATOR			
Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	✓	■	1	A	✓	■	1	A	B	■	12	C	A	■
2	C	✓	■	2	A	✓	■	2	C	✓	■	13	A	✓	■
3	B	A	■	3	A	✓	■	3	C	B	■	14	B	B	■
4	C	✓	■	4	C	A	■	4	D	○	■	15	C	✓	■
5	C	✓	■	5	B	D	■	5	B	C	■	16	D	✓	■
6	A	B	■	6	B	A	■	6	C	✓	■	17	D	A	■
7	B	A	■	7	D	✓	■	7	D	X	■	18	C	○	■
8	D	✓	■	8	B	C	■	8	B	✓	■	19	C	✓	■
9	C	✓	■	9	D	X	■	9	B	✓	■	20	B	D	■
10	B	✓	■	10	C	✓	■	10	D	C	■	21	A	C	■
11	D	✓	■	11	B	D	■	11	C	○	■				
12	A	○	■	12	C	✓	■								
13	C	B	■	13	B	✓	■								
14	A	B	■	14	A	✓	■								
15	D	✓	■	15	C	D	■								
16	C	B	■	16	B	✓	■								
17	B	✓	■	17	A	D	■								
18	A	✓	■	18	C	D	■								
19	C	✓	■	19	D	✓	■								
20	D	B	■	20	B	✓	■								
21	C	✓	■	21	D	✓	■								
22	B	✓	■	22	C	✓	■								
23	D	✓	■	23	A	✓	■								
24	D	C	■	24	D	✓	■								
25	D	✓	■	25	D	A	■								
26	A	C	■	26	A	✓	■								
27	D	C	■	27	C	A	■								
28	A	✓	■	28	B	✓	■								
29	C	A	■	29	C	✓	■								
30	B	A	■	30	A	B	■								
31	C	✓	■	31	C	✓	■								
32	D	✓	■	32	C	B	■								
33	C	A	■	33	D	✓	■								
34	B	✓	■	34	A	✓	■								
35	A	✓	■	35	D	✓	■								
36	B	A	■	36	B	C	■								
37	B	✓	■	37	A	✓	■								
38	C	✓	■	38	D	○	■								
39	D	B	■	39	C	✓	■								
40	D	✓	■	40	C	B	■								
41	D	✓	■												
42	A	○	■												

**MATH - NO CALCULATOR**

Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	C	■	6	D	B	■
2	B	○	■	7	C	B	■
3	B	C	■	8	A	✓	■
4	A	✓	■	9	D	✓	■
5	C	B	■	10	A	B	■

**MATH - CALCULATOR**

Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Questions #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
22	5, 1/2	✓	■	11	7	6	■
23	100	✓	■	12	18	✓	■
24	27	✓	■	13	1.5, 3/2	✓	■
25	30	✓	■				



**psat.org/myscore**

Go online for your full report

Ima B. Student 2021, 9th Grade

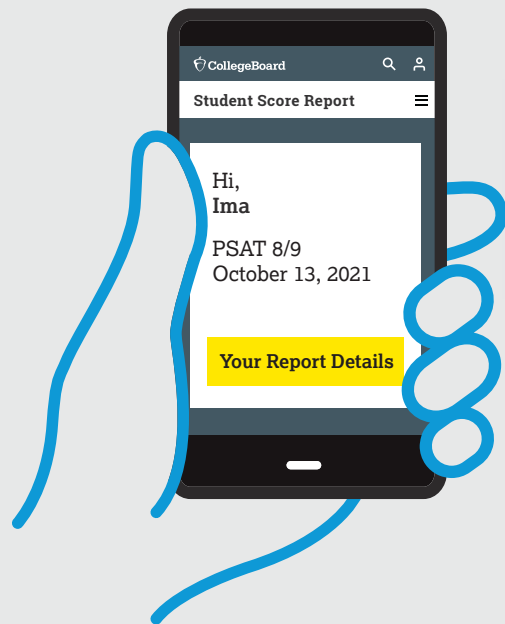
Score Report

**PSAT™ 8/9**

**PSAT™ 8/9**  CollegeBoard

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# Your Summary Score Report



**Get Your Full  
Score Report Online**

**[psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore)**

**Hi, Ima B. Student**

School Name: **John F. Kennedy High School**

School Code: **123456**

Grade: **9th Grade**

Student ID: **24068907**

Access Code: **A026700146P**

College Board ID: **12345678**

# The PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report (continued)

## YOUR SCORE TODAY

### Your Total Score

**900** | 240 to 1440

You are in the **55<sup>th</sup>** percentile

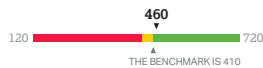



You scored equal to or higher than 55% of students

### Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score

**460** | 120 to 720

You are in the **59<sup>th</sup>** percentile

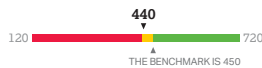



 Your score shows that you're on track to be ready for college.

### Your Math Score

**440** | 120 to 720

You are in the **49<sup>th</sup>** percentile



 Your score shows that you're almost on track to be ready for college, but you need to keep building your skills.

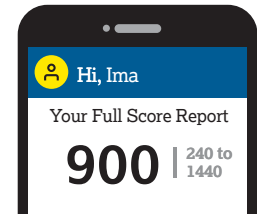
### Your Test Scores\*





Reading  
**23** | 6 to 36

Math  
**22.0** | 6 to 36

Writing and Language  
**23** | 6 to 36

\*Additional detailed scores, like test scores, provide students with a deeper understanding of their performance.



 Question-Level Detail	 See Subscores	 Strengths and Weaknesses	 Personalized Practice
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[psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore)

Go online for your full report

**Ima,**  
this was your score  
when you took the test;  
it is not a measure of  
how far you can **grow!**



## The PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report (continued)

### YOUR PATH TOMORROW

#### Here's what else is waiting for you online:

1

##### Course Recommendations

Congrats! Your scores show you're ready to succeed in AP® courses. Talk to your counselor about signing up.

2

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Explore careers and majors that align with your interests, hear from people with different jobs and backgrounds, and create and share a personalized action plan.

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Sign Up Today   
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# The PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report (continued)\*

## Your Question-Level Feedback

### QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

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#### READING

**42**  
Total Questions

**24**  
Correct Answers

**16**  
Incorrect Answers

**2**  
Omitted Answers

#### WRITING AND LANGUAGE

**40**  
Total Questions

**24**  
Correct Answers

**14**  
Incorrect Answers

**2**  
Omitted Answers

#### MATH – CALCULATOR

**25**  
Total Questions

**11**  
Correct Answers

**10**  
Incorrect Answers

**4**  
Omitted Answers

#### MATH – NO CALCULATOR

**13**  
Total Questions

**5**  
Correct Answers

**7**  
Incorrect Answers

**1**  
Omitted Answers

**\*Tip:** A great way to start improving: check out the easy questions you missed first.

#### KEY

- ✓ Correct
- Omitted
- U Unscorable
- X Multi-Grid/Incorrect
- Easy Question
- Medium Question
- Hard Question
- Easy Question Missed\*

#### READING

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

#### WRITING AND LANGUAGE

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

#### MATH – CALCULATOR

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	B	■
2	C	✓	■
3	C	B	■
4	D	○	■
5	B	C	■
6	C	✓	■
7	D	X	■
8	B	✓	■
9	B	✓	■
10	D	C	■
11	C	○	■

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
22	.5, 1/2	✓	■
23	100	✓	■
24	27	✓	■
25	30	○	■

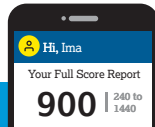
#### MATH – NO CALCULATOR

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	C	■
2	B	○	■
3	B	C	■
4	A	✓	■
5	C	B	■

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
11	7	✓	■
12	15	○	■
13	1.5, 3/2	✓	■


#### MATH – CALCULATOR

Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
12	C	A	■
13	A	✓	■
14	B	B	■
15	C	✓	■
16	D	✓	■
17	D	A	■
18	C	○	■
19	C	✓	■
20	B	D	■
21	A	C	■




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Question-Level Detail



See Subscores



Strengths and Weaknesses



Personalized Practice

Ima B. Student 2021, 9th Grade

\*For schools participating in the test administration study, students will see if they answered questions correctly. Actual questions, answers, and answer explanations will not be provided.