

Comparison of PSAT™ 8/9, Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, and Redesigned SAT: READING Test Content Specifications				
Element	PSAT 8/9	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT	Redesigned SAT	
Time Allotted	55 minutes	60 minutes	65 minutes	
Passage Word Count	2,800 words total from 4 single passages and 1 pair; 500–750 words per passage or paired set	3,000 words total from 4 single passages and 1 pair; 500–750 words per passage or paired set	3,250 words total from 4 single passages and 1 pair; 500–750 words per passage or paired set	
Questions	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Total	42	100%	47	100%
Words in Context (Across Reading and Writing and Language Tests)	10 questions	24%	10 questions	21%
Command of Evidence (Across Reading and Writing and Language Tests)	10 questions	24%	10 questions	21%
Analysis in History/Social Studies (Across Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests)	17 questions	40%	19 questions	40%
Analysis in Science (Across Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests)	17 questions	40%	19 questions	40%

Note: The question breakdown above illustrates how a question can assess multiple dimensions.

Element	PSAT 8/9	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT	Redesigned SAT			
Passage Contents	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
U.S. and World Literature	1 passage; 8 questions	20%	1 passage; 9 questions	20%	1 passage; 10 questions	20%
	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%
History/Social Studies	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%	2 passages, or 1 passage and 1 pair	40%
	1 graphic in 1 History/Social Studies passage and 1 in 1 Science passage	1–2 graphics in 1 History/Social Studies and 1 Science passage	1–2 graphics in 1 History/Social Studies and 1 Science passage	1–2 graphics in 1 History/Social Studies and 1 Science passage	1–2 graphics in 1 History/Social Studies and 1 Science passage	1–2 graphics in 1 History/Social Studies and 1 Science passage
Text and Graphical Complexity						
Text Complexity	A range from grades 6–10 across 4 passages and 1 pair	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages and 1 pair	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages and 1 pair	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages and 1 pair	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages and 1 pair	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages and 1 pair
	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)
Graphical Data Representations						
(tables, graphs, charts, etc.)	Somewhat challenging	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)	Somewhat challenging to challenging (moderate to moderately high data density, few to several variables, moderately challenging to moderately complex interactions)

Comparison of PSAT™ 8/9, Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT, and Redesigned SAT: WRITING and LANGUAGE Test Content Specifications

Element	PSAT 8/9	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT	Redesigned SAT
Time Allotted	30 minutes	35 minutes	35 minutes
Passage Word Count	1,500 words total from 4 passages; 350–400 words per passage	1,700 words total from 4 passages; 400–450 words per passage	1,700 words total from 4 passages; 400–450 words per passage
Questions	Number	% of Test	% of Test
Total	40	100%	44
Expressions of Ideas	24 questions	60%	24 questions
Standard English Conventions	16 questions	40%	20 questions
Words in Context (Across Reading and Writing and Language Tests)	8 questions	20%	8 questions
Command of Evidence (Across Reading and Writing and Language Tests)	8 questions	20%	8 questions
Analysis in History/Social Studies (Across Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests)	6 questions	15%	6 questions
Analysis in Science (Across Math, Reading, and Writing and Language Tests)	6 questions	15%	6 questions

Note: The question breakdown above illustrates how a question can assess multiple dimensions.

Element	PSAT 8/9	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT	Redesigned SAT			
Passage Contents	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Careers	10 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%
History/Social Studies	10 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%
Humanities	10 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%
Science	10 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%	1 passage; 11 questions	25%
Graphics	Number					
	1 or more graphics in 1 or more passages and/or questions					
Text Types	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test	Number	% of Test
Argument	1 passage	25%	1 – 2 passage	25% - 50%	1 – 2 passage	25% - 50%
Informative/Explanatory Text	2 passage	50%	1 – 2 passage	25% - 50%	1 – 2 passage	25% - 50%
Nonfiction Narrative	1 passage	25%	1 passage	25%	1 passage	25%
Text and Graphical Complexity						
Text Complexity	A range from grades 6–10 across 4 passages					
Graphical Data Representations	(tables, graphs, charts, etc.)					
	A range from grades 9–10 to postsecondary entry across 4 passages					
	Basic to somewhat challenging (low to moderate data density, few variables, simple to moderately challenging interactions)					