1. What is the PSAT 8/9?

2. What are the benefits of taking the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

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1. The PSAT 8/9 is an assessment given to eighth and ninth-graders that is closely aligned to the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and the PSAT 10. It consists of questions in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and in Math.

2. The PSAT 8/9 assessment will help your child prepare for the future. It helps establish a baseline for students as they enter high school and begin preparing for college and career readiness. By taking the PSAT 8/9, your child will learn which skills he or she needs to work on for continued success when preparing for high school and ultimately college. In addition, the PSAT 8/9 will identify areas where your child excels (and may want to consider taking higher-level courses), as well as areas he or she should focus to improve academically. It also provides students with better access to data and personalized study through the online College Board and Khan Academy, and offers a readiness baseline for the SAT. It allows online access to explore careers, majors, and schools which may align with your child’s personal interests, and provides planning tips and financial aid information. Historically, students who take the PSAT score higher on the SAT, on average, than those who don’t take the test. Please note that PSAT 8/9 scores are not sent to colleges.

3. The best preparation is to deeply engage in classroom learning and practice skills over time. On test day, your child should answer all the questions to the best of his or her ability. It will also help if he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before the test day.

4. Actual testing time is 2 hours and 25 minutes. There are 42 reading questions, 40 Writing and Language questions, and 38 Math questions.

5. Your child will get a paper score report with a unique code giving him or her access to an online score report. The scores reported will grow to include every test your child takes that is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments (see collegeboard.org/sat-suite for more information).

6. Link your child’s College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get automatic personalized recommendations based on your child’s PSAT performance.

7. CollegeBoard.org is a not-for-profit organization founded as the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) in 1900 to expand access to higher education. It has a membership association of educational institutions that includes over 6,000 universities, colleges, and other educational organizations. It is probably best known for the standardized tests it administers including the SAT. However, it offers other services that include scholarship applications, research, advocacy, college planning, and college and career search tools. CollegeBoard.org helps over seven million students each year prepare for college through its testing and other programs.