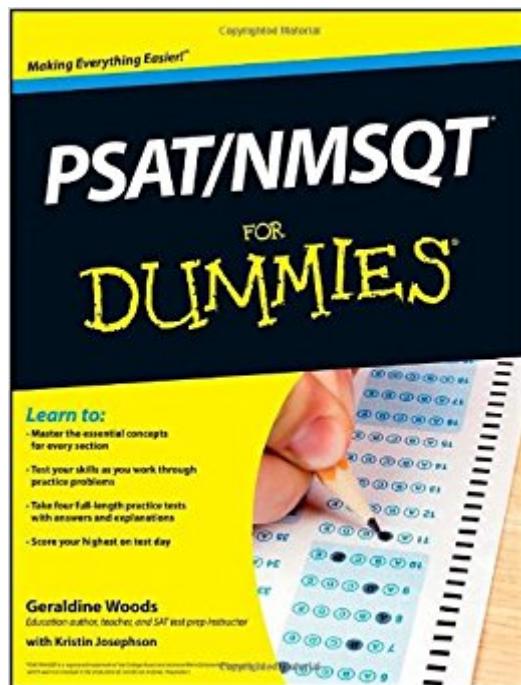


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PSAT/NMSQT For Dummies



Synopsis

The fast and easy way to ace the PSAT/NMSQT exam Similar to the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. The tips and plain-English information presented in PSAT/NMSQT For Dummies are designed to give readers of all skill levels the edge they need to perform their best on this important exam. Here, you'll find the easy-to-understand information you need to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT. You'll get a review of foundational concepts for every section, from identifying root words and correctly using commas, to solving math word problems and using the quadratic formula. Plus, four full-length practice tests with detailed answers and explanations help you assess your skills as you prep for exam day. So what are you waiting for? Includes a review of foundational concepts for every section Practice problems for each of the test's three sections allow you to test your comprehension as you study Includes four full-length practice tests with detailed answers and explanations If you're one of the 3.5 million students preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT exam, this hands-on guide has everything you need to score your highest!

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Customer Reviews

The fast and easy way to score higher on the PSAT/NMSQT In PSAT/NMSQT For Dummies, you'll get a review of foundational concepts for every section of the test, from identifying key words and matching subjects and verbs, to solving math word problems and using your calculator efficiently. Plus, four full-length practice tests with detailed answers and explanations help you assess your

skills as you prep for test day. Prep for the big day – find out when and where to go, what to bring (including the kind of calculator you're allowed), and what you're likely to see on the test Easy as ABC – get familiar with the critical reading and writing sections of the test: sentence completions, passage-based questions, and paragraph and sentence improvement and error recognition questions What's your number? – discover amazing techniques and get sample problems for every topic you'll discover in the math section: operations, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability Practice makes perfect – test your skills as you do four practice tests, complete with answers, explanations, and some additional tips Open the book and find: What to expect on test day How to create a winning test-taking strategy How to arrange for extra time, large print, fee waivers, and other special considerations When your scores will arrive Ten ways to improve your test-taking skills Mistakes to avoid on the PSAT/NMSQT Four practice tests (and guidance on how to calculate your score) Learn to: Master the essential concepts for every section Test your skills as you work through practice problems Take four full-length practice tests with answers and explanations Score your highest on test day

Geraldine Woods teaches English and directs the independent study program at a high school for gifted students. She has helped students prepare for the SAT for more than 30 years. She is the author of more than 40 books for students and educators including English Grammar For Dummies, SAT For Dummies, and several AP test prep books.

Positive Characteristics Having the vocabulary in context interspersed throughout the book, rather than as opposed to a single chapter, is a useful way for students to learn vocabulary. The conversational format of the book, typically of the Dummies series, might appeal to some students. The math content was fairly thorough, but was briskly reviewed. The information on the various qualifying scholarships that taking the PSAT enables you to be eligible for was interesting; that information may as just as easily obtained from the College Board, itself. Thorough explanations to answer choices are useful. **Negative Characteristics** This book, in my opinion, strikes an uneasy balance between "chatty" and dry. The tests are unrealistically easy. **Recommendation:** This book could be useful, as is better than no book at all, but other guides are better. Quite frankly, if you're taking the PSAT, you'll likely end up taking the SAT; you might as well get a SAT book at the same time. **Gruber's Complete SAT Guide 2014, 17E** **Barron's SAT, 26th Edition** **But if you want a PSAT book, I'd recommend these, as the tests are closer to those of the SAT (these books contain tests that are harder rather than easier, but I think that's preferable)** **Gruber's Complete PSAT/NMSQT**

...and I only wish I had ever had such amusing -- and helpful -- test prep material of any sort, ever. Of course, back in my day, nobody did any 'prep' for the PSAT. But I know that is the norm now, so I was interested in taking a look at this book. I love it. The sense of humor is just perfect for teens, in both my opinion and that of my 16 year old. He told me that he knows he has to work through something like this, but the wry humor makes it a lot less of a chore. I like how it is organized. From the start of the book, the student is told to work in the sections that apply to him and that it isn't necessary to work through the book from front to back. I definitely like that. It is too soon to tell how effective this will be, but my take is that a decent prep program that engages the student (and humor is a great way to engage teens!) has to have a bigger impact than something that the student has to plod through. We like this. A lot.

PSAT/NMSQT for Dummies is a book which is intended to help students to prepare for the PSAT. It's set up pretty much like all prep books of this kind. There is an introduction to the basics of what the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) are as well as a guided practice through the different types of test questions followed by four full practice exams. I view it through the lens of a teacher rather than a student, but I have to say that I didn't see anything remarkable about this book. In fact, as I was going through it, I kept waiting to figure out what the big deal was that might distinguish this book from the "Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT" students can pick up from their school counselors. That guide is published by the College Board, which administers the test, and includes information about the test and the National Merit Scholarship competitions as well as a full-length practice test. So anyone thinking they're getting extra information from this test prep book really isn't. In fact, the first 26 pages spend more time talking about how the guide is set up than about the test itself. I think one thing that it should mention, but I didn't see, was the fact that students can go online to the College Board website and register for the SAT question of the day and see more practice questions online (for free!). Where this book is useful is in the fact that the author attempts to make sure that students are familiar with all of the terminology that might be used on the test. By this, I mean the "academic" language that the test is written in. However, students shouldn't think they can rush through this book in an attempt to cram for the PSAT or that they'll learn something they didn't learn in the classroom. There are no secret tips to getting a better score, and this book doesn't pretend there is. Instead, the author pretty much tries to explain in a few hundred pages everything that middle school and high school teachers teach over the course of

several years. My feeling is that if you didn't pay attention in class, this book isn't going to help. If you were paying attention, however, this book is a good refresher. In that regard, the four practice tests in the book are also good, not because they provide anything remarkably different from other test prep books, but simply because they allow students multiple exposures to the format of the test. This book does NOT contain a separate vocabulary section as I've seen in many other test prep books. At first, I was a little bothered by this, but then I decided that I liked that it teaches the vocabulary that it does in context rather than supposing students should simply memorize definitions. In order for this book to be useful, a student really has to be willing to take the time to go through it thoroughly, take the tests (don't worry about the timing during practice, work on understanding the information!), and carefully examine the correct answers in order to understand them. Students won't see any of these actual questions on the PSAT, but just like in the classroom, if they can understand the concepts, they will be better able to answer any of the questions that apply to them. So, in the end, I wouldn't necessarily recommend this test prep book over any others, but I'd say it's at least on par with what else is out there. Don't buy it thinking it's going to teach your student anything new, but use it to familiarize yourself with the test format.

These exams are given fairly early and are often the first experience of teens with organized testing. Doing well in them will give the student a good experience and inspire them to do well later in life on later tests. This book gives a helpful overview of the test and 4 sample tests they can take. One really useful part is the explanations section, given with the sample tests, where the book teaches how each question should be answered and gives actual instruction in how to do it - not just the answer. This is particularly useful in the mathematics section. It teaches the concept and how to do similar questions in a very well written way. In the English section it teaches the meanings of all the words given - not just the right one for that question. In that way the vocabulary of the student is increased and they learn more with every part. The tone of the instruction is friendly and interesting and encouraging, not dry and uninteresting. I was pleasantly surprised by this study guide. I expect it to be useful and to help my granddaughters as they come to this test. I fully expect to use the mathematics instruction section even earlier as it will help my 12 year old to study and understand a particular point in math in this prep year coming.

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