

# A PARENT TUTORIAL » UNDERSTANDING 2015 PSAT/NMSQT® RESULTS

## A Case Study: Ima B. Student's PSAT/NMSQT® 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/NMSQT Score Report.

### What Are Ima's Scores?

Ima's Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score is 380 and Math is 480. In Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Ima's score is approaching the benchmark (explained on the report), but she is not quite on track for college readiness. In Math, however, Ima is exceeding the benchmark and is on track. Test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores can give Ima a better understanding of areas to work on.

### What Are Her Score Percentiles?

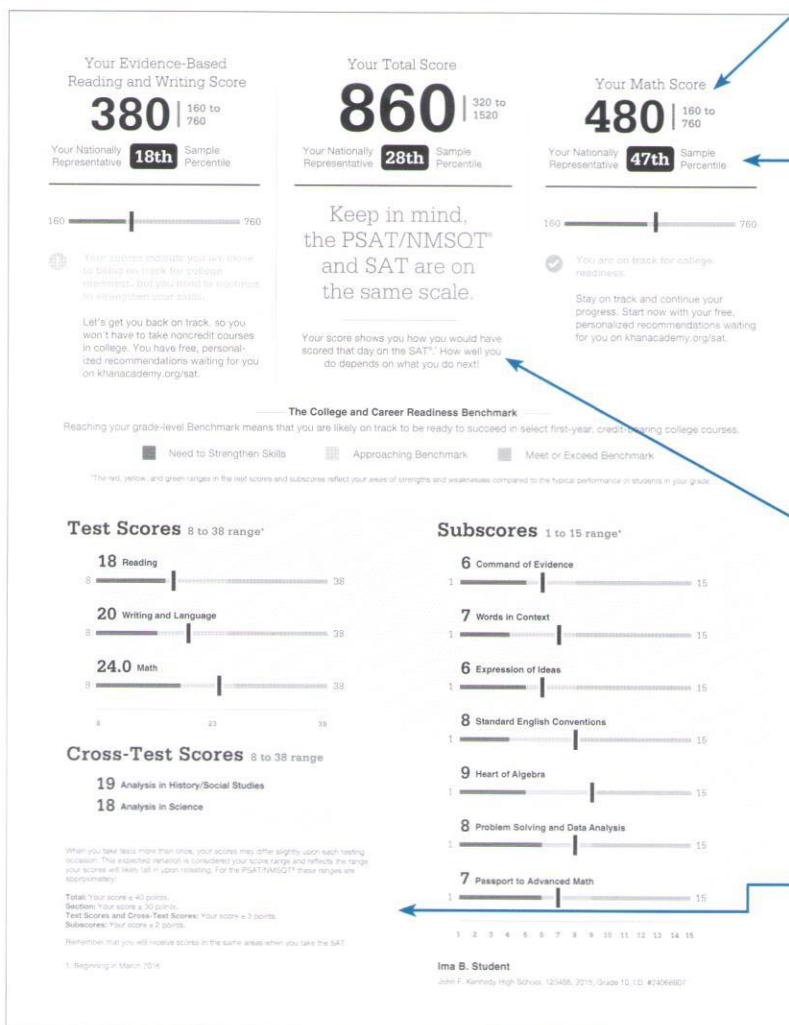
Since Ima is in the 10th grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all 10th-graders in the nation. Ima scored as well as or better in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing than 18 percent of a nationally representative group of sophomores. In Math, she scored as well as or better than 47 percent of a nationally representative group of sophomores. Additional percentiles are available in Ima's online score report.

### How Will Ima Do on the SAT®?

The PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT are scored on a common scale; therefore if Ima had taken the SAT instead of the PSAT/NMSQT on the same test date, she would have received the same score. When Ima takes the SAT, she will likely have had additional learning from school and practice. Her PSAT/NMSQT results can help Ima focus her efforts in high school to be better prepared for the SAT.

### What Are Her Score Ranges?

No test measures precisely what someone knows, and many factors can affect results. That is why test makers think of each score as a range that extends from a few points below to a few points above the score earned.



Score Report

## National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college assistance. To designate students who qualify for recognition in the 2015 competition, NMSC will consider the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT® test scores of some 13 million high-achieving, quality high school seniors who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions (see right-hand column) are inaccurate or there has been a change in status that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation  
Attn: Scholarship Administration  
1400 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200  
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Include your name and home address, along with your high school name, address, and a digit code number.

### Your NMSC Selection Index 124

NMSC uses a Selection Index based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate your Selection Index, double the sum of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

### Eligibility Information

You do not have a Selection Index because you lack a Reading, Writing and Language, and/or Math Test score.

The asterisk (\*) means you do not meet entry requirements for the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. See your responses to entry requirements to the right.

NOTE: Students leaving high school and entering college at 2016 or later must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in their 7<sup>th</sup> year (senior year) of grades 10-12 to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.

### Entry Requirements

Information you provided on your answer sheet:

High school student:

YES

Year to complete high school and send full test to college:

2016

Years to be spent in grades 10-12:

4

U.S. Citizenship:

NO, but I am a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and I intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

### Your Scores: Next Steps

Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:

- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts.
- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in somewhat challenging text.
- Revise somewhat challenging text to ensure that information is presented in the most logical order.

Reading Test  
18  
8 to 28

Improve your skills by focusing on your ability to:

- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in challenging text.
- Use a variety of evidence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience.
- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within challenging texts.

- Draw reasonable conclusions from somewhat challenging texts.
- Describe the overall structure of a somewhat challenging text.
- Identify claims and counterclaims explicitly stated in a somewhat challenging passage.

Writing and Language Test  
20  
8 to 38

- Draw reasonable inferences and logical conclusions from challenging texts.
- Analyze information presented quantitatively in such forms as graphs, tables, and charts and relate that information to information presented in somewhat challenging text.
- Determine how the selection of specific words shapes meaning and tone in a challenging passage.

- Interpret a linear inequality in one variable with rational coefficients that represents a context. Select the equation of a line of best fit and interpret the slope and intercept of the line in the context of the situation (when a linear model is appropriate).
- Interpret sample statistics understanding and using margin of error.
- Solve and interpret a quadratic function or equation that represents a context and require multiple steps.
- Calculate and interpret frequency distributions using tables and other representational methods.

Math Test  
24.0  
8 to 38

- Determine how a graph may be affected by a change to its equation.
- Determine the value of a constant or coefficient for an equation with no solution or infinitely many solutions.
- Using a specified model, make a prediction and compare the predicted values with the actual values in the data set.
- Within a context, compare the centers of two separate data sets with different spreads.
- Determine whether two events are independent given their probabilities.

### Get more next steps online

[studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org)



### Score Report

## What Are the Next Steps for Ima?

Under *Get more next steps online*, Ima is directed to [studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org) to learn how to prepare for the SAT and see her potential for challenging AP® course work.

## When Should Ima Take the SAT?

As a sophomore, Ima should begin planning when she will take the SAT. Most students take the SAT for the first time in their junior year. By planning now, Ima can ensure she has adequate time to practice for the SAT. She can take advantage of practice resources by visiting [studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org).

## How Can Ima Learn from Her Answers?

The score report is designed to be used with the student's PSAT/NMSQT test booklet. It lists all of Ima's answers and allows her to see the correct answer and difficulty level for each question. Ima can use her online score report to review the questions she answered incorrectly or omitted, and see detailed answer explanations explaining why her responses were correct or incorrect.

## Will Ima Be Able to Enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program?

Ima has an NMSC Selection Index of 124, which is double the sum of her Reading (18), Writing and Language (20), and Math (24) Test scores. This index is used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation to designate students to be recognized in its National Merit Scholarship Program. Since an asterisk appears next to Ima's score, it means she does not meet entry requirements for the program. However, even if Ima met entry requirements, her score is not likely to take her further in the competition for awards. For entry requirements and information on how the competition works, see the *2015 Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* or visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

## How Can Ima Improve Her Academic Skills?

Your Scores: Next Steps are based on her test scores, and what general skills similarly performing students understand. Ima can see which skills she performed well on and which she needs to improve. When she goes online and logs in to the full report online, she can see additional skills and improvement steps. Ima can also link her account to Khan Academy® for personalized practice recommendations.

### Your Question-Level Feedback

Writing and Language					Math Test – Calculator					Math Test – No Calculator				
Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore	Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Subscore
1	A	✓	✓	✓	1	A	✓	✓	✓	1	A	✓	✓	✓
2	B	✓	✓	✓	2	B	✓	✓	✓	2	B	✓	✓	✓
3	A	✓	✓	✓	3	A	✓	✓	✓	3	A	✓	✓	✓
4	C	✓	✓	✓	4	C	✓	✓	✓	4	C	✓	✓	✓
5	D	✓	✓	✓	5	D	✓	✓	✓	5	D	✓	✓	✓
6	B	✓	✓	✓	6	B	✓	✓	✓	6	B	✓	✓	✓
7	C	✓	✓	✓	7	C	✓	✓	✓	7	C	✓	✓	✓
8	C	✓	✓	✓	8	C	✓	✓	✓	8	C	✓	✓	✓
9	B	✓	✓	✓	9	B	✓	✓	✓	9	B	✓	✓	✓
10	B	✓	✓	✓	10	B	✓	✓	✓	10	B	✓	✓	✓
11	A	✓	✓	✓	11	A	✓	✓	✓	11	A	✓	✓	✓
12	A	✓	✓	✓	12	A	✓	✓	✓	12	A	✓	✓	✓
13	D	✓	✓	✓	13	D	✓	✓	✓	13	D	✓	✓	✓
14	D	✓	✓	✓	14	D	✓	✓	✓	14	D	✓	✓	✓
15	A	✓	✓	✓	15	A	✓	✓	✓	15	A	✓	✓	✓
16	C	✓	✓	✓	16	C	✓	✓	✓	16	C	✓	✓	✓
17	A	✓	✓	✓	17	A	✓	✓	✓	17	A	✓	✓	✓
18	C	✓	✓	✓	18	C	✓	✓	✓	18	C	✓	✓	✓
19	D	✓	✓	✓	19	D	✓	✓	✓	19	D	✓	✓	✓
20	B	✓	✓	✓	20	B	✓	✓	✓	20	B	✓	✓	✓
21	A	✓	✓	✓	21	A	✓	✓	✓	21	A	✓	✓	✓
22	B	✓	✓	✓	22	B	✓	✓	✓	22	B	✓	✓	✓
23	A	✓	✓	✓	23	A	✓	✓	✓	23	A	✓	✓	✓
24	A	✓	✓	✓	24	A	✓	✓	✓	24	A	✓	✓	✓
25	C	✓	✓	✓	25	C	✓	✓	✓	25	C	✓	✓	✓
26	D	✓	✓	✓	26	D	✓	✓	✓	26	D	✓	✓	✓
27	C	✓	✓	✓	27	C	✓	✓	✓	27	C	✓	✓	✓
28	C	✓	✓	✓	28	C	✓	✓	✓	28	C	✓	✓	✓
29	A	✓	✓	✓	29	A	✓	✓	✓	29	A	✓	✓	✓
30	B	✓	✓	✓	30	B	✓	✓	✓	30	B	✓	✓	✓
31	B	✓	✓	✓	31	B	✓	✓	✓	31	B	✓	✓	✓
32	A	✓	✓	✓	32	A	✓	✓	✓	32	A	✓	✓	✓
33	D	✓	✓	✓	33	D	✓	✓	✓	33	D	✓	✓	✓
34	C	✓	✓	✓	34	C	✓	✓	✓	34	C	✓	✓	✓
35	D	✓	✓	✓	35	D	✓	✓	✓	35	D	✓	✓	✓
36	A	✓	✓	✓	36	A	✓	✓	✓	36	A	✓	✓	✓
37	B	✓	✓	✓	37	B	✓	✓	✓	37	B	✓	✓	✓
38	A	✓	✓	✓	38	A	✓	✓	✓	38	A	✓	✓	✓
39	D	✓	✓	✓	39	D	✓	✓	✓	39	D	✓	✓	✓
40	B	✓	✓	✓	40	B	✓	✓	✓	40	B	✓	✓	✓
41	A	✓	✓	✓	41	A	✓	✓	✓	41	A	✓	✓	✓
42	D	✓	✓	✓	42	D	✓	✓	✓	42	D	✓	✓	✓
43	A	✓	✓	✓	43	A	✓	✓	✓	43	A	✓	✓	✓
44	B	✓	✓	✓	44	B	✓	✓	✓	44	B	✓	✓	✓
45	D	✓	✓	✓	45	D	✓	✓	✓	45	D	✓	✓	✓
46	C	✓	✓	✓	46	C	✓	✓	✓	46	C	✓	✓	✓
47	D	✓	✓	✓	47	D	✓	✓	✓	47	D	✓	✓	✓

access code: A02670146P

**See the questions and answer explanations online**  
[studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org)

**Key:**  
✓ Correct  
✗ Omitted  
U Unscorable  
# # # Easy  
# # # # Hard

**Subscore:**  
CDE Comment or Diagnostic  
WC Words in Context  
ED Expression of Ideas  
SEC Standard English Conventions  
HQA Heart of Algebra  
PSD Problem Solving and Data Analysis  
PAM Passport to Advanced Math

**Cross-Test Score:**  
HSS Analysis in History/Social Studies  
SCI Analysis in Science

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### Score Report