**PSAT Preparation**

**Time Required:** 48 minutes (2 half day class periods)

**Objectives (Students Will...):**
- Acquire an understanding of the importance of the PSAT as a tool to assess their academic skills and prepare them for the SAT
- Review the PSAT exam format.
- Practice questions from each section of the exam.

**GOAL:** Students will be prepared for the upcoming PSAT exam.

**Activity Statement:**
Students will participate in an advisory session where they will review the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT, learn about the format of the exam, and go through sample practice questions. The format you use to work through the sample questions is at the discretion of the adviser. Some ideas might be to work through the questions as a group on the board, have the students work in small groups with each other, or have them play some type of game.

**Materials:**
1. *What’s on the PSAT*
2. *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT*

**Procedures and Discussion:**
1. Students will report to their designated advisory locations.
2. Advisors will hand out the handout, *What’s on the PSAT*, and discuss it with the group.
3. Advisors will hand out the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* and review the following pages.
   a. Page 4 – Taking the PSAT
      i. Emphasis – Test Date: October 15th, LMHS students **do not** pay a fee, What should I bring on test day?
   b. Page 10-18 – Critical Reading Section
      i. Page 11 – Approaches to the Critical Reading Section
      ii. Page 12 – Have the students work through the 2 sample Sentence Completion questions
      iii. Page 13 – Have the students work through some of the Passage-Based Reading questions
   c. Page 19-30 – Mathematics Section
      i. Page 19-24 – Give students a few minutes to review the math content and concept review sections
      ii. Page 24-30 – Have students work through sample some sample Multiple Choice and Student Produce Response questions
   d. Page 31-35 – Writing Section
      i. Page 31 – Give students a few minutes to review Characteristics of Effective Writing
      ii. Page 32-35 – Have students work through some sample Improving Sentences, Identifying Sentence Errors, and Improving Paragraphs questions
4. Inform student that there is a full length practice PSAT/NMSQT with an answer key included in their booklet.
5. Inform juniors that their score on the PSAT could make them eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program, and refer them to the other side of the booklet if they would like further information.
What’s on the PSAT/NMSQT

Students who know what the PSAT/NMSQT is like do better on test day.

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections in three skill areas. Testing time totals 2 hours and 10 minutes. That doesn’t include the time it takes to complete personal information on the answer sheet and listen to instructions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSAT/NMSQT Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparation/whats-on-the-test