

# PSAT/NMSQT

## Contextual Reading Skills

### Determining the Meaning of Words

Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.

### Author's Craft

Understand how authors use tone, style and writing devices such as metaphor or symbolism.

### Reasoning and Inference

Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.

### Organization and Ideas

Understand the organization of a reading passage, and identify the main and supporting ideas.

### Understanding Literary Elements

Understand literary elements such as plot, setting and characterization.

## Mathematics

### Number and Operations

Understand types of numbers (integers, fractions, decimals), their properties and the correct order of operations (addition, multiplication, division). Perform computations correctly.

### Algebra and Functions

Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.

### Geometry and Measurement

Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.

### Data, Statistics and Probability

Analyze data, understand descriptive statistics, make inferences and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.

### Problem Solving

Solve abstract and practical problems by applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.

### Representation

Use and translate among representations including verbal, numerical, symbolic and graphical to communicate mathematical ideas and solve problems.

### Reasoning

Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.

### Connections

Connect ideas from different areas of mathematics (particularly geometry and algebra) to state or solve abstract or applied problems.

### Communication

Express mathematical ideas precisely and communicate them coherently and clearly in the language and notation of mathematics.

## Writing Skills

### Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words

Understand relationships between and among words, including subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and verb form and tense.

### Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare

Understand correct use of adjectives or adverbs, comparative structures (such as neither and nor) and phrases used to modify or compare.

### Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence

Use well-formed sentence structures (e.g., parallelism, connectives, and relative clauses) to indicate relationships between and among sentence elements.

### Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences

Recognize correct sentence structure.

### Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs

Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.