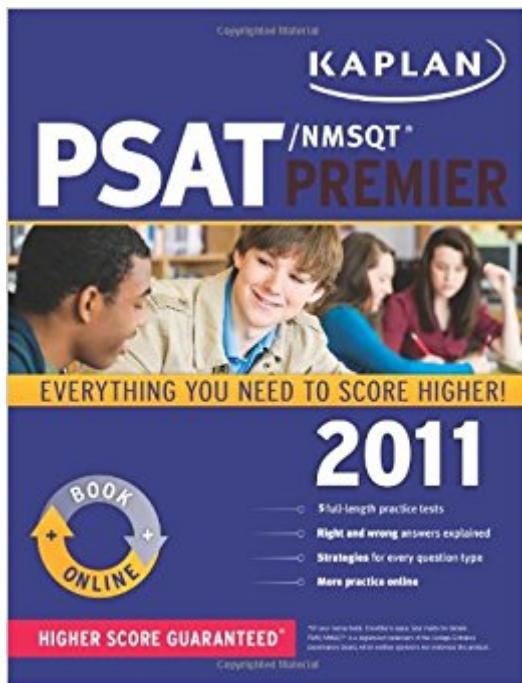


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Kaplan PSAT/NMSQT 2011 Premier



Synopsis

Each October, more than 1 million high school sophomores and juniors take the PSAT/NMSQT exam. The scores from this test are used to determine eligibility for National Merit Scholarships and as an early indicator of SAT proficiency. As college admissions become more competitive, a high score on the PSAT can set the tone for the entire college application process. With proper preparation, students can score higher on this test and know what to expect on the SAT. Kaplan PSAT/NMSQT 2011 Premier features all the test preparation, tips and strategies that make Kaplans courses so effective. This guide is geared toward younger and first time standardized test takers it can help get them ready, and give them a positive testing experience that will provide the edge theyll need for the future. Kaplan PSAT/NMSQT 2011 Premier also includes: Two full-length practice tests with detailed explanations for each answer Writing skills review, 100 top math concepts, and more than 1,000 vocabulary words Exclusive free access to Kaplans Live Online events, interactive state-of-the-art online events in real time, complete with audio, video, instant chat, whiteboards, and screen sharing A handy parents guide explaining how they can help their students use the book and prepare for the exam PSAT Study Group Guide Fresh content review and Kaplan PSAT Expert tips and strategies Fast Fact Videos with Kaplans best tutors to review the most important concepts, strategy, and content from each chapter Format: 516 pages, paperback Publisher: Kaplan Publishing ISBN: 9781419549946

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Customer Reviews

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I bought this book solely for the practice tests. Upon taking the diagnostic test, I've decided to instead prep from the Barrons and McGraw-Hill PSAT prep books. My first reason for this is because of its lack of difficulty. For reference, I'll tell you that my PSAT math plus critical reading (M+CR) score last year was 132. My SAT practice test M+CR hover around 1350. The diagnostic tells me that I should score near 156 M+CR. I know I haven't magically gotten that much smarter -- this book is obviously too easy. The passage-based questions in the CR section don't go into enough depth and require very little analysis to the point that a large majority of the questions could be easily solved by nearly anyone in high school. (Actually, there is more analysis in the math section than in the CR section.) Basically, the only way to get a question wrong is to misread the question, answer, or passage. The vocabulary questions are also mediocre and can almost all be solved by the process of elimination. As far as math goes, the difficulty itself wasn't too bad, although I feel that it lacked in Algebra II content and focused too much on basic number theory. Despite the correct

difficulty of the math section, it did have large, apparent flaws and inaccuracies that really irked me. First and foremost, the amount of questions were incorrect. In Section 2 (the first math section), the real PSAT contains 20 multiple choice questions. The first section of Kaplan's book had just 18. Section 2, which contains 8 multiple choice and 10 bubble-in answer on the real PSAT, had a total of 20 questions (10 of each type). Although the section is labelled "18 Questions", I guess they couldn't resist adding in two more. It is later labelled "20 Questions" in the practice tests, but is nonetheless still incorrect in providing 20 questions in section 4. Under normal circumstances, I wouldn't mind this too much. But this is not normal. In the real test, the first math section begins with easy questions, and steadily becomes more difficult. The second math section does the same, with the first couple multiple-choice and bubble-in questions being easily solvable. This book shoves the easiest of problems to the first math section (which contains 18 instead of 20 questions). I was able to finish this section in about 12 minutes. The second math section (AKA section 4) starts out with paper-and-pencil or calculator work. To answer all 20 questions, it took me over 20 minutes. The same also applies for CR, to a slightly lesser extent. Furthermore, many math questions are badly worded. Take these two as examples—"Lanas Linoleum luxuries makes rectangular kitchen tiles with an area of (t) square inches. Lana's new line, The Tile, is $3/4$ as long and three times as wide as her kitchen tiles. What is the area in square inches of the Tile?" The answer is $9t/4$, an answer that isn't hard to derive. But the wording is terrible and leaves you wondering what it is you're looking for. (Apparently $9/4$ is the equal to the area of "The Tile" over the area of Lana's original floor.)- "In the second round of the local Coin Draw competition, Shelly drew 7 quarters, 11 dimes, and 6 nickels out of a pouch. If she needs to draw 15 more coins and there are no dimes left in the pouch, what is the greatest number of quarters Shelly can draw this round without going over \$5?" This one isn't too bad, but it fails to answer one crucial question -- are there pennies in the bag? All in all, I'm disappointed with this book and with Kaplan. I've used the Kaplan prep book for the AP World test, and found it to be the most comprehensible and straightforward (in relation to Princeton Review and Barron's). Overall, the book is very lousy and completely off in the accuracy department. Then why does it get an entire two stars? Because of its root list and math concept reviews near the end -- they'd work well for day-before prepping. The word list seems fine (Although I prefer Direct Hits to word lists)

The book arrived on time and in perfect condition. It is a very good study guide I would definitely recommend it to other parents.

Hey everyone, So i ordered the book and it came pretty much on time in about 2-3 days. The book is very informative but the answer key does not help you really understand how to do the problem. Like for beginner's who have no clue they don't give a good explanation of why the answer is what it is. I am not sure if the Princeton Book is better but I heard that it was. The format is pretty good on the Kaplan, it explains good on how to fill the answer in. I did find an error once in the book , lol. Most of the problems are very difficult but that it correct because that's how the material is on the real PSAT's. I just really wish the explanations were a lot better. And they broke down the steps more. Hope this review helped you. For more info. just email me at [...]:]

CONTENTS OF BOOK:
PART ONE: PSAT Basics (pages 4-12) pretty much just gives the basic information on the 5 sections of the PSAT (i.e. critical reading 25 minutes, math 25 minutes, critical reading 25 minutes, math 25 minutes, and writing 30 minutes). I did not find the section any more helpful than if I would have performed a simple Google search on the PSAT.
PART TWO: Diagnostic Test (pages 17-48) was also only somewhat helpful. I really could not tell how the section differed from the SAT Kaplan 2011 book. Of course, the explanations to the diagnostic test (pages 50-66) were helpful but again, I would recommend you purchase the SAT 2011 preparatory book from Kaplan, instead. It also contains explanations to the questions on the practice tests.
PART THREE: PSAT Strategies
Chapter 1: How to Attack the Critical Reading Sections (pages 69-110) contains very similar information to the SAT Kaplan 2011. Chapter 2: How to Attack the Math Sections (pages 111-161) actually appears less helpful than the Kaplan SAT math section explanations because it seems targeted toward more general math concepts rather than the particular questions that someone who already might score 70+ on the math section might have. Chapter 3: How to Attack the Writing Section (pages 163-193) again appears quite condensed in comparison with Kaplan's 2011 SAT preparation book. While I think the section is helpful for those who really have a problem understanding pronoun errors, it probably will not help you score an 80 as well as the SAT 2011 Kaplan preparation guide would.
PART FOUR: Practice Tests and Explanations
Practice Test One and explanations for each question (pages 205-258)
Practice Test Two and explanations for each question (pages 261-313)
Practice Test Three and explanations for each question (pages 317-371)
"SAT Essay Preview" is found on pages 381-393, and is similar to the section in Kaplan 2011's SAT preparation book.
"Root List" on pages 399-410 might be helpful if you have a considerable time to study, but otherwise, I doubt its usefulness.
"Writing Skills" on pages 411-424 should be able to assist students in using pronouns and tenses correctly, understanding parallel structure, and avoiding misusing words like accept/except, affect/effect, among/between,

amount/number, as/like, fewer/less, its/it's, etc. "Word List" on pages 426-466 might assist the student whose vocabulary knowledge could use some improvement, although I do not really believe that speed memorizing vocabulary words is very helpful. It is better just to read a number of books written at an advanced level. "100 Essential Math Concepts" on pages 468-486 appear quite helpful and pretty well-organized. [However, section appears to focus more upon weaker math students rather than those who already would score over 70.] **SUGGESTION:** Since I own both the Kaplan 2011 PSAT preparation book and the Kaplan 2011 SAT preparation book, my personal view (having reviewed both preparation books), is that you should save your money and purchase the Kaplan 2011 SAT preparation book. I did not find much at all the PSAT 2011 Kaplan book that is not found in the 2011 Kaplan SAT preparation book. Since you will probably take the SAT at some point in the near future, I would recommend you just start preparing for the SAT. Because the SAT and the PSAT are so similar, preparing for the SAT will almost certainly improve your PSAT score. Just remember that the PSAT contains no essay while the SAT does. [The type of questions on the PSAT and SAT are nearly identical.] In short, most of this PSAT test book is either explanatory material on how to attack a particular section of the test or actual practice tests. There is not a whole lot of material on how the PSAT differs from the SAT. Certainly, if you want to learn about how the two tests differ, a google search will be just as helpful as this preparation book.

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