



## What is the PSAT?

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) is a standardized test administered once a year, in October, to grade 10 and 11 students who are considering a college or university education in the United States. Designed by College Board, an American private nonprofit organization, the PSAT measures an individual's ability to do post-secondary schoolwork by evaluating her skills in evidence-based reading, writing and language, and mathematical problem solving. More importantly, it provides the student with firsthand practice for the SAT, the admissions test that remains a standard-bearer of the U.S. college application process. Upon writing the PSAT, BSS students will receive a comprehensive diagnostic report outlining their performance on each section of the test. This feedback will point out their test-taking patterns and identify areas of strength and weakness, information which can be used to establish a study plan in preparation for the SAT. Because PSAT scores are NOT reported to *any* American colleges, writing the test is considered a smart, if not essential, risk-free first step in applying to post-secondary schools in the U.S.

## Test details

The PSAT allows students to practise writing a standardized test under strict time constraints in an environment similar to that of the SAT. This year's test is being written at **The Bishop Strachan School** the morning of **Wednesday, October 16**. Results are expected to be available online by Wednesday, December 9.

## PSAT prep course

The Bishop Strachan School has made arrangements for **The Learning Curve Tutoring and Educational Services (TLC)** to provide a series of PSAT training sessions to interested grade 10 and 11 students. The course will take place at BSS on three consecutive Saturdays, starting September 21, and will be offered at two different levels:

### LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (2 Saturday morning classes)

This course will involve six hours of interactive classroom instruction in September and a personal performance analysis session in December to review each student's results. The first of these three-hour classes will focus on the two English sections of the PSAT (the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test), while the second will prepare students for the two math sections. The syllabus is designed to demystify the test and reduce the element of surprise by introducing participants to its language and format, and helping them develop strategies for each section. Simply put, the purpose of the course is to teach students how to use their existing knowledge of English and math concepts to answer standardized test questions, most of which are in multiple-choice format. Among other skills, TLC will help students improve their deductive reasoning, shore up their grammar and sentence structure, embrace "reasonableness" as a means of dismissing math answers that don't make sense, manage their pacing, maximize efficient use of time when reading sight passages, and explore context as a way of intuiting the meanings of more difficult words.

### LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction (2 Saturday morning classes) + Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (1 Saturday workshop)

At this level, a full-length practice test will be administered on the first Saturday of October, followed by a feedback session during which the results will be tabulated and the scoring system fully explained. Each participant will receive a complete set of scores and an in-depth evaluation of her performance, including results related to level of difficulty and educated guessing. The workshop also gives students a chance to ask targeted questions about the PSAT and standardized testing, generally. This level includes the December performance analysis session, the aim of which is to analyze the actual test results and plot a course of action for SAT prep.

## IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT REGISTRATION:

*Registration for the test and the prep course are done separately:*

- To sign up for the October 16 test, contact Student Services at The Bishop Strachan School;
- To sign up for the course, please refer to page 2 of this document.

***Just because a student has been registered for one of the above doesn't mean she is automatically signed up for the other!***

## 2019 PSAT Prep Course Registration Form

Course Dates:		
Saturday, September 21	9am - noon	Reading Test, Writing and Language Test
Saturday, September 28	9am - noon	Math Test (no-calculator and calculator-allowed sections)
Saturday, October 5	9am - 2pm	<i>Full-length Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (level 2 course only)</i>
December (TBA)	by appointment	PSAT Performance Analysis and SAT Planning

### Scheduling Conflicts:

Every year, there are several BSS students who wish to take The Learning Curve's prep course but who are unable to do so because of conflicts with extra-curricular activities - leadership camp, competitive sports, volunteer obligations, etc. If your daughter cannot attend one or more of the above classes for such a reason, please note the date(s) on the registration slip, where indicated, and every effort will be made to coordinate alternate arrangements - anything is possible!!!

### Course Information:

- 1) **LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (\$275)** - 2 Saturday morning classes, 1 post-test private session  
**LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction + Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (\$395)** - 2 Saturday morning classes, 1 Saturday workshop, 1 post-test private session
- 2) Payments are **non-refundable** and **non-transferable**.
- 3) All sessions will take place at The Bishop Strachan School (specific classroom to be confirmed after Labour Day).
- 4) The PSAT is a pencil-and-paper test, so **absolutely no laptops** will be permitted in the classroom. Graphing calculators, however, will be allowed for the math session and practice test. Students will be provided with study guides and related materials.
- 5) For more information, please contact The Learning Curve directly by either of the following means:  
**Colin McMahon, Director: 416.422.5988 OR colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca**

### Registration Options:

- 1) online - visit [www.learningcurvetutoring.ca](http://www.learningcurvetutoring.ca) and select "PSAT Prep Course Registration Form" from the "Registration Forms" drop-down menu.
- 2) by e-mail - scan/photo and send this page to: [colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca](mailto:colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca)
- 3) by Canada Post - mail the bottom portion of this form to: **The Learning Curve  
35 Wyndfield Crescent  
Whitby ON L1N 8L3**

***NOTE:** Once registration has been processed, a confirmation e-mail will be sent along with payment instructions. However, if registering by Canada Post, please feel free to include a cheque payable to "The Learning Curve."*

#### Student Information:

Name:  E-mail address:   
 Grade:  Boarder:  Yes/ No Tel.#s: (home)  (cell)

#### Parent Information:

Name:  E-mail address:   
 Mailing address:   
 Tel.#s: (work)  (cell)  (other)

#### Course Selection:

- LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (\$275) - 2 Saturday morning classes, 1 post-test private session
- LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction + Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (\$395) - 2 Saturday morning classes, 1 Saturday workshop, 1 post-test private session

#### Scheduling Conflicts:

Please note any course dates the student will not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts: