# STRATEGIC SOLVER

Committed, Persistent, Strategic

The substantial amount of time you can **commit** to PSAT prep each week will give you a decided advantage in being well-prepared for your test day. Through **persistent** effort, you can reach far beyond your already strong foundational Math skills and grasp more advanced concepts. Your study plan will help you **strategically** target the most frequently tested Verbal concepts to maximize your score potential.

**How to Use Your Study Plan:** The study plan below is based on your results, with your areas of opportunity on the left side of each week's plan and your areas of strength toward the right. Each week, the Recommended chapters cover the topics that are worth the most points on the PSAT, so be sure to prioritize those items. To make your prep as efficient as possible, choose Optional items that best fit your study needs and schedule. If you fall behind or don't have 8 full weeks to study, be sure to prioritize the Recommended items. Happy prepping!



## **WEEK 1**

## Format of the PSAT

Knowing what to expect on each section of the PSAT will give you confidence on test day—you'll have no surprises about what types of questions you'll be asked.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Become comfortable with the structure of the PSAT
- Learn the Kaplan Methods for each test section

Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Chapter 1: Inside the PSAT  Acquaint yourself with the format of the test by looking through the Practice Tests at the end of your book	Recommended:  Chapter 10: The Method for PSAT Reading Questions	Recommended:  Chapter 14: The Method for PSAT Writing and Language	Recommended:  Chapter 3: The Method for PSAT Math Questions Chapter 4: Linear Equations and Graphs
Optional:  Online Video: Introduction to the PSAT	Optional:     Online Video: The     Method for PSAT     Reading Questions	Optional:     Online Video: The     Method for PSAT     Writing and Language     Questions	Optional:     Online Video: The     Method for PSAT Math     Questions



## **WEEKS 2-3**

# **Highest-Yield Topics**

Let's cut right to the chase: some topics are tested on the PSAT more heavily than others. That means that mastering those topics has the potential to earn you a ton of points on test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Study the highest point yield topics in Math and Writing and Language
- Master the foundations of strategic Reading

Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Chapter 11: PSAT Reading Passage Strategies	Recommended:  Chapter 15: Spotting and Fixing Errors How Much Do You Know? Sentence Structure: The Basics Commas, Dashes, and Colons	Recommended:  Chapter 5: Systems of Linear Equations Appendix 1 (online): Inequalities



Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Chapter 12: PSAT Reading Question Types	Recommended:  Chapter 15: Spotting and Fixing Errors	Recommended:  Chapter 6: Ratios, Proportions, and Percents
	Agreement: ☐ Verbs ☐ Pronouns	Optional:  Appendix 2 (online): Scatterplots

### **WEEKS 4-6**

## **Areas of Opportunity and Practice Test**

Now it's time to dig into some challenging topics. You can do this! Your goal is not to learn everything about, say, geometry or punctuation, but rather to learn the most commonly-tested PSAT concepts and to familiarize yourself with questions in that category.

It's also time for some authentic practice. Taking a Practice Test under real test-like conditions is the best way to solidify what you've learned and to practice test-taking strategies. Plus, your results will help you make a plan for your remaining weeks until test day.

### **Tips for Taking Practice Tests:**

Make the Practice Test count! Time yourself, eliminate distractions, and use your test-taking strategies (see Chapter 1), just as you would for the real test. Practice using the Methods for each test section (Math, Reading, and Writing and Language) on every question—even if doing so takes more time now, practicing will improve your speed so the Methods are second nature on the real test day.

After finishing the Practice Test, it is vital that you *review your results*. Dig into each question—think not only about why you got a question correct or incorrect but also about whether you approached the question strategically. For each question, ask yourself: What can I learn about this type of question? After reviewing, use your test results to help you plan what to study until test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Take a Practice Test
- Review the Practice Test
- Improve your performance on your areas of opportunity on each section of the test



Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Chapter 13: Answering PSAT Reading Questions	Recommended:  Chapter 15: Spotting and Fixing Errors Agreement:  Modifiers Idioms How Much Have You Learned?	Recommended:  Chapter 7: Tables, Statistics, and Probability Chapter 8: Functions  Optional: Appendix 3 (online): Exponents, Radicals, Polynomials, and Rational Expressions

Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Practice Test 1  Review Practice Test 1	Recommended:  Review chapter(s) based on Practice Test results	Recommended:  Appendix 11 (online): Spotting and Fixing Issues How Much Do You Know? Organization: Conciseness Transitions Sentence Placement	Recommended:  Chapter 9: Quadratics

<sup>2</sup> Month Study Plan, More Confident in Math, More than 5 Hours a Week



Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Appendix 8 (online): Paired Passages and Primary Source Passages  Appendix 9 (online): Literature Passages	Recommended:  Appendix 11 (online): Spotting and Fixing Issues Development: Precision Relevance Revising Text Introductions and Conclusions Graphs How Much Have You Learned?	Recommended:     Review chapter(s)     based on Practice Test     results  Optional:     Appendix 4 (online):     Geometry



### **WEEKS 7-8**

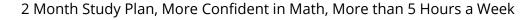
# **Strengths Focus**

You've worked so hard! A few weeks left, but you are well-situated for success. Now things get kind of fun: take those topics you're awesome at, and get more awesome at them before test day! Celebrate your successes and take this opportunity to get even better. You'll also learn section management strategies for each section of the PSAT and take one last Practice Test about a week before your test date. As usual, take the time to dig into your results. Finally, do some light practice leading up to the big day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Focus on your strongest topics to build confidence for test day
- Learn section management strategies for each section of the PSAT
- Take a Practice Test, about a week before your scheduled test day
- Do light practice until test day

Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:  Chapter 16: Countdown to Test Day	Recommended:  Appendix 10 (online):  PSAT Reading: Timing and Section  Management Strategies	Recommended:  Appendix 12 (online):  PSAT Writing and Language: Section Management, Timing, and Efficiency	Recommended:  Review strengths chapter(s) based on Practice Test results  Optional: Appendix 5 (online): Trigonometry Appendix 6 (online): Imaginary Numbers





Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
Recommended:     Practice Test 2     Review Practice Test 2	Recommended:  Online: Reading Practice Set	Recommended:  Review strengths chapter(s) based on Practice Test results	Recommended:  Appendix 7 (online):  PSAT Math: Section  Management, Timing,  and Efficiency  Review strengths  chapter(s) based on  Practice Test results
		Optional:     Online: Writing and     Language Practice Set	Optional:  Online: Math (Calculator) Practice Set Online: Math (No-Calculator) Practice Set

Congratulations! You've put in the **committed**, **persistent** effort to complete your **strategic** review of the PSAT, following the way of the **Strategic Solver**. Feel confident in your expert preparation!

