

# 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

#### Week 1

Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 1:</b> Inside the PSAT</li><li>❑ Acquaint yourself with the format of the test by looking through the <b>Practice Tests</b> at the end of your book</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 10:</b> The Method for PSAT Reading Questions</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 14:</b> The Method for PSAT Writing and Language</li></ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 3:</b> The Method for PSAT Math Questions</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 4:</b> Linear Equations and Graphs</li></ul>
<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> Introduction to the PSAT</li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for PSAT Reading Questions</li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for PSAT Writing and Language Questions</li></ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> The Method for PSAT Math Questions</li></ul>



## 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

#### Week 2

Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 11:</b> PSAT Reading Passage Strategies</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 15:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Do You Know?</li></ul></li><li>Sentence Structure:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> The Basics</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Commas, Dashes, and Colons</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 5:</b> Systems of Linear Equations</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 1 (online):</b> Inequalities</li></ul>



### Week 3

Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 12:</b> PSAT Reading Question Types	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 15:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors Agreement: <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Pronouns	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 6:</b> Ratios, Proportions, and Percents  <u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 2 (online):</b> 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



## Week 4

Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 13:</b> Answering PSAT Reading Questions	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 15:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors Agreement: <input type="checkbox"/> Modifiers <input type="checkbox"/> Idioms <input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 7:</b> Tables, Statistics, and Probability <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 8:</b> Functions <hr/> <u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 3 (online):</b> Exponents, Radicals, Polynomials, and Rational Expressions

## Week 5

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



## Week 6

Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 8 (online):</b> Paired Passages and Primary Source Passages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 9 (online):</b> Literature Passages</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 11 (online):</b> Spotting and Fixing Issues</li></ul> <p>Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Precision</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Relevance</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Revising Text</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductions and Conclusions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Graphs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on Practice Test results</li></ul> <hr/> <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 4 (online):</b> Geometry</li></ul>



## 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

### Week 7

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





**Week 8**

Overall Study	Reading	Writing and Language	Math
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practice Test 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Review <b>Practice Test 2</b>	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online:</b> Reading Practice Set	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on Practice Test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Appendix 7 (online):</b> PSAT Math: Section Management, Timing, and Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on Practice Test results
		<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online:</b> Writing and Language Practice Set	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online:</b> Math (Calculator) Practice Set <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online:</b> 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!

