

# Ima B. Student's Score Report *Plus* Case Study

## 1 What Were Ima's Scores?

Ima's critical reading score is 50, mathematics is 52, and writing skills is 44. The average 11th-grader's scores are between 47 and 49. Unless students earn scores that are much lower than average, they're probably developing the kinds of critical reading, math reasoning, and writing skills needed for academic success in college.

## 2 What Are Her Score Ranges?

No test measures precisely what someone knows, and many factors can affect results. That is why test makers think of each score as a range that extends from a few points below to a few points above the score earned. Her critical reading and mathematics scores have similar ranges; her writing skills range is lower.

## 3 What Are Her Score Percentiles?

Since Ima is in 11th grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all 11th-graders taking the test. (If she were in 10th grade or younger, she would be compared to all 10th-graders.) Ima earned a critical reading score higher than 55 out of every 100 juniors tested. In math, she scored higher than 57 percent of juniors. Compared with peers who are college bound, Ima's critical reading and math percentiles are somewhat higher than average. She did not do as well on writing skills; she scored higher than 33 percent of juniors on that portion of the test.

## 4 How Will Ima Do on the SAT?

Ima is able to go online at [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) to access her personalized SAT study plan, which includes her projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles, a complete SAT practice test and resources to help her prepare for the essay that appears on the SAT. Using these free resources and taking rigorous courses will help Ima do her best on the SAT.

## 5 Will Ima Be Able to Enter NMSC Competitions?

Add Ima's critical reading (50), mathematics (52) and writing skills (44) scores; the total of 146 is her Selection Index. This index is used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation to designate groups to be recognized in its scholarship programs. If an asterisk had appeared next to Ima's score, it would mean she does not meet entry requirements for the programs. In this case, Ima meets entry requirements, but her score is not likely to take her further in the competition for awards. For entry requirements and information on how the competitions work, see the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* or visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

## 6 What About Educational Plans?

Under Educational Plans on Score Report *Plus*, we see that Ima's self-reported grade average is B, and that she is interested in computer engineering as a college major. The score report gives Ima helpful counseling information, including a description of the type of study and work that complement her interests, along with associated skills and recommended high school courses. Ima can then use MyRoad in My College QuickStart to explore majors, colleges and careers that interest her.

## 7 What Can We Learn from Ima's Answers?

The score report is designed to be used with the student's PSAT/NMSQT test booklet. It lists all of Ima's answers with a summary of how well she did on easy, medium and hard questions. Ima can use My Online Score Report in My College QuickStart to review the questions she answered incorrectly or omitted, and complete practice questions of the same type to learn from her results.

## 8 How Can Ima Improve Her Academic Skills?

The Improve Your Skills section provides personalized critical reading, mathematics and writing skills feedback based on Ima's pattern of responses across test questions. The skills listed are those that Ima has the best chance of improving. For example, in writing skills, she needs improvement in being precise and clear and in recognizing logical connections within sentences and passages. The How to Improve tips, keyed to pertinent test questions, are provided to help students strengthen skills.

**Your Scores**

**1** Critical Reading **50**

Mathematics **52**

Writing Skills **44**

**PSAT/NMSQT**

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Programs

Selection Index **146**

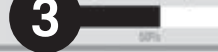
Percentile **47**  
compares your performance with college-bound seniors

The Selection Index (S.I.) is the sum of your critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills scores. NMSC uses the S.I. as an initial screen of over 1.5 million students who enter its scholarship programs (see reverse).

Ranges



Percentiles



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**Review Your Answers**

Ask for your test book back so you can see the questions.

Key

- ✓ Correct
- Omitted
- u Unscorable
- E Easy
- M Medium
- H Hard
- Alg Algebra & Functions
- Data Data Analysis, Statistics & Probability
- Geom Geometry & Measurement
- Num Number & Quantity

Scoring

- Correct answers = PLUS 1 POINT.
  - Omitted answers = NO POINTS.
  - Wrong answers to multiple-choice questions = MINUS 1/4 POINT.
  - Wrong answers to math questions 25-28 = NO LOST POINTS.
- Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the 20-80 scale.

**SECTION 1**

Sentence Completions	1	A	✓	e
	2	B	✓	e
	3	A	C	m
	4	C	A	h
	5	B	E	h
	6	D	✓	e
	7	B	✓	m
	8	D	E	e
Passage-Based Reading	9	B	✓	m
	10	E	B	h
	11	D	✓	h
	12	C	✓	m
	13	A	✓	m
	14	B	A	m
	15	A	✓	e
	16	C	✓	m
	17	A	✓	e
	18	E	✓	h
	19	B	✓	m
	20	B	E	m
	21	E	✓	m
	22	D	B	h
	23	E	✓	m
	24	A	✓	m
	25	D	✓	m
Sentence Completions	26	D	✓	e
	27	D	✓	e
	28	A	✓	e
	29	C	✓	e
Passage-Based Reading	30	D	E	m
	31	A	B	h
	32	E	✓	h
	33	B	A	h
	34	D	✓	e
	35	A	✓	e
	36	E	A	e
	37	C	✓	m
	38	B	✓	m
	39	B	C	h
	40	C	A	h
	41	B	✓	h
	42	C	E	m
	43	E	✓	m
	44	C	✓	m
	45	D	B	m
	46	A	B	m
	47	C	E	e
	48	E	A	m

You answered correctly **29** of **48** critical reading questions and earned **29** points.  
**11** of **14** easy questions  
**15** of **23** medium questions  
**3** of **11** hard questions

You omitted **1** question(s).  
 You answered incorrectly **18** question(s) and lost **6** point(s).

**SECTION 2**

Multiple Choice	D	✓	e	Alg
	E	✓	e	Data
	C	✓	e	Geom
	E	✓	e	Alg
	B	✓	e	Geom
	B	✓	e	Alg
	C	E	u	Num
	A	✓	m	Geom
	B	✓	m	Data
	D	✓	m	Alg
	B	o	m	Geom
	D	✓	m	Alg
	B	D	m	Alg
	A	D	h	Data
	E	D	m	Alg
	E	✓	m	Num
	A	C	h	Num
	E	✓	h	Geom
	D	A	h	Alg
	D	C	h	Geom
Multiple Choice	B	✓	e	Num
	C	✓	e	Alg
	A	✓	m	Geom
	D	✓	m	Num
	B	✓	m	Geom
	D	✓	e	Alg
	C	A	m	Alg
	A	B	m	Num

**SECTION 4**

Student-Produced Responses	29	7	✓	m	Alg
	30	3	o	m	Num
	31	4.5 or 9/2	o	m	Alg
	32	1000	✓	m	Data
	33	10, 12, 14, or 16	✓	h	Alg
	34	8/5 or 1.6	o	h	Geom
	35	29	✓	h	Data
	36	100	o	h	Num
	37	42	o	m	Alg
	38	8	o	h	Geom

You answered correctly **21** of **38** math questions and earned **21** points.  
**9** of **10** easy questions  
**10** of **18** medium questions  
**2** of **10** hard questions

You omitted **6** question(s).  
 You answered incorrectly **11** question(s) and lost **2** point(s).

You answered correctly **21** of **38** math questions and earned **21** points.  
**9** of **10** easy questions  
**10** of **18** medium questions  
**2** of **10** hard questions

You omitted **6** question(s).  
 You answered incorrectly **11** question(s) and lost **2** point(s).

**SECTION 5**

Improving Sentences	1	A	✓	e
	2	C	✓	e
	3	A	✓	m
	4	B	E	m
	5	E	B	h
	6	B	D	e
	7	A	C	m
	8	C	E	h
	9	C	D	m
	10	A	C	h
	11	B	E	h
	12	B	E	m
	13	D	E	m
	14	D	E	m
	15	E	C	e
	16	B	✓	m
	17	D	✓	e
	18	A	B	e
	19	C	E	m
	20	E	✓	m
Identifying Sentence Errors	21	C	✓	h
	22	B	✓	h
	23	E	✓	m
	24	C	✓	m
	25	D	A	m
	26	A	✓	e
	27	A	B	e
	28	C	A	e
	29	C	A	m
	30	D	✓	m
	31	B	A	h
	32	A	A	h
	33	D	C	h
	34	D	✓	e
Improving Paragraphs	35	E	A	e
	36	A	D	e
	37	B	✓	m
	38	C	✓	m
	39	C	✓	h

You answered correctly **16** of **39** writing skills questions and earned **16** points.  
**4** of **11** easy questions  
**9** of **19** medium questions  
**3** of **9** hard questions

You omitted **0** question(s).  
 You answered incorrectly **23** question(s) and lost **6** point(s).

**5**

**Entry Requirements**  
 Below is information you provided on your answer sheet.

High school student: **Yes**

Year to complete high school and enroll full time in college: **2011**

Years to be spent in grades 9-12: **4**

U.S. citizenship: **Yes**

If your Selection Index places you among the 55,000 high scorers who qualify for program recognition, you will be notified next September.

**Your Educational Plans**

Grade Average **B**  
 College Major **Computer Engineering**

Information above is self-reported.

**Description:** In the computer engineering major, students learn to design and develop computer and computer-related systems. These systems include software systems, hardware systems, and combined hardware/software systems. Students take courses in basic sciences, mathematics, and engineering science and design.

**Associated Skills:** Computing, basic sciences, mathematics.

**Recommended High School Courses:** English 4, precollege mathematics 4, biology 1, chemistry 1, physics 1, social studies 3-4, history 2-3, foreign language 2-4, music 0.5, visual arts 5, and computer science 0.5-1.



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**Improve Your Skills**

The skills listed are based on your individual performance on the test and represent those that you have the best chance to improve with extra work.

Follow the suggestions to improve in each area.

- **Determining an author's purpose or perspective**  
**How to improve:** Authors write for a variety of purposes, such as to inform, to explain, or to convince. When you read, try to determine why the author wrote what he or she wrote.  
 See questions 20, 42, 48.
- **Understanding complex sentences**  
**How to improve:** Ask your English teacher to recommend books that are a bit more challenging than those you're used to reading. Practice breaking the sentences down into their component parts to improve your comprehension. Learn how dependent clauses and verb phrases function in sentences.  
 See questions 5, 33.
- **Understanding sentences that deal with scientific ideas**  
**How to improve:** Read magazine articles about scientific subjects to improve your comfort level in this area.  
 See questions 8, 36.

- **Dealing with probability, basic statistics, charts, and graphs**  
**How to improve:** Practice solving problems that involve basic probability, basic counting, and finding the average (arithmetic mean), median, and mode. Look for charts and graphs in newspapers and magazines, and practice interpreting the data in them.  
 See questions 7, 11, 13.
- **Understanding geometry and coordinate geometry**  
**How to improve:** Review geometry units in your textbook involving perimeter, area, volume, circumference, angles, lines, slope. Familiarize yourself with the formulas given at the beginning of math sections of the test.  
 See questions 7, 11, 13.
- **Making connections among mathematical topics**  
**How to improve:** Practice problems that require combining skills acquired in different math courses, such as problems that use combinations of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.  
 See questions 7, 11, 15.

- **Being precise and clear**  
**How to improve:** Learn to recognize sentence elements that are ambiguous and confusing. In your writing, choose words carefully and connect them for clear meaning.  
 See questions 4, 6, 8.
- **Recognizing logical connections within sentences and passages**  
**How to improve:** Use the writing process to help you revise your draft essays. Work with classmates and teachers to clarify meaning in your writing.  
 See questions 8, 28, 29.

**6**

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