

Calculator Use

- A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended. Although not recommended, any four-function calculator is permitted.
- You are strongly encouraged to bring a calculator with you when you take the PSAT/NMSQT, even if you don't think you will use it. Schools are not required to provide calculators.
- Bring a calculator you are comfortable using. Don't buy a sophisticated or new calculator just to take the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Don't try to use your calculator on every question. No question will require the use of a calculator. However, studies indicate that students who use calculators do slightly better than students who do not.
- Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- Practice sample questions with a calculator at hand under conditions similar to those on the test day.
- You will not be permitted to use a pocket organizer, handheld computer, electronic writing pad or pen-input/stylus-driven device, a cell phone calculator, a calculator with a QWERTY (typewriter-type) keypad, a calculator with paper tap, a calculator that makes noises or "talks," or a calculator that requires an electrical outlet. If you use a calculator with a large (characters 1 inch or more high) or a raised display that might be visible to other test-takers, you will be seated at the discretion of the test supervisor. You will not be allowed to share calculators with other students.
- Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh. If your calculator fails during testing and you have no backup, you'll have to complete the test without it.