

# **PSAT 8/9 & SAT: Reading Test**

Part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test (ERW)

## **Quick Facts**

- All Reading Test questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages.
- Informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts, accompany some passages—but no math is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- The Reading Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

**What the Reading Test Is Like** Students will read passages and interpret informational graphics. The Reading Test always includes:

- One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature.
- One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the Great Global Conversation they inspired. The U.S. Constitution or a speech by Nelson Mandela, for example.
- A selection about economics, psychology, sociology, or some other social science.
- Two science passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

## **What the Reading Test Measures**

**Command of Evidence:** Some questions ask students to:

- Find evidence in a passage (or pair of passages) that best supports the answer to a previous question or serves as the basis for a reasonable conclusion.
- Identify how authors use evidence to support their claims.
- Find a relationship between an informational graphic and the passage it's paired with.

**Words in Context:** Many questions focus on important, widely used words and phrases that students find in texts in many different subjects. Students' will be asked to:

- Use context clues in a passage to figure out which meaning of a word or phrase is being used.
- Decide how an author's word choice shapes meaning, style, and tone.

**Analysis in History/Social Studies and in Science** The Reading Test includes passages in the fields of history, social studies, and science. Students will be asked questions that require them to draw on the reading skills needed most to succeed in those subjects. For instance, they might read about an experiment then see questions that ask them to:

- Examine hypotheses.
  - Interpret data.
  - Consider implications.
- Answers are based only on the information in the passage.