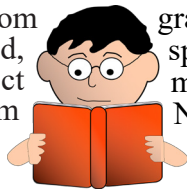


• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from grades 5 and 6 separately and grades 7/8 combined, may be entered in the VOCABULARY District Contest from each school. Two students from grades 5 and 6 each and two students from combined grades 7 and 8 advance to State.



grade levels and their contestant ID numbers in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. Contestants must not open the test until the start signal is given. No alarm watches or other devices that emit sound are allowed in the contest room. Disqualification will result if such device makes any sound while placed in any portion of the room.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** First and second place winners from each of the three contests (5, 6, & 7/8 combined) will advance to State. The third place winners will be alternates. See page 8 for complete rules. See page 109 for an abbreviated chart for contest administration.

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** The Vocabulary Contest is similar to a SAT preparation course. Test items are very similar in construction and content to those that might be found on a SAT verbal test. The vocabulary list for the current year consists of 300 words, and is found on the following pages of the *Academic Handbook*. Although each test item will be composed using at least one of these words, a well-read student who has a broad, cumulative vocabulary will perform best in this contest, for many of the words used within the tests are not used in everyday middle school language. The contest contains 30 items—approximately 13 sentence completion, 13 analogies, and 9 questions over a reading passage that is from 400 to 700 words in length. Test time is 30 minutes.

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. (Substitutes taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time at roll call.) Answer sheets will be distributed to contestants first, followed by contestant ID-labeled tests distributed by student name. Contestants will be instructed to write their

• **TIME ALLOTTED.** Contestants will have 30 minutes beginning at the start signal. A 5-minute left time warning **may** be given, but contestants should be responsible for their own time management. Contestants will remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.

• **MARKING ANSWERS.** Contestants will use a dark ink pen or pencil to **print CAPITAL** letter answers in the blanks provided on the test. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt.

• **SCORING.** Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items. • Mark-outs are acceptable, as long as a correct answer is written beside the mark-out. If an answer is marked out and no correct answer is written in the answer space, 2 points deducted. Erasures are permitted. Any erased correct answer that can still be seen is counted correct. An erased answer that is not correct and does not have a correct answer written over or beside it constitutes an incorrect answer, whereby 2 points are deducted.

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** See page 14.

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the “Rules for ALL Participants” section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the “Instructions to the Contestant” and in the “Checklist for Contest Directors” and the “Checklist for Graders.” Preparation for the Vocabulary Contest should include researching definitions in the *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition*. Provide students with multiple opportunities to take practice tests from SAT preparation books, such as Barron’s and Gruber’s. Test taking strategies for SAT and PSAT type tests are also beneficial. Practice tests from previous

year’s contests are available on the PSIA Study Materials Order Forms.

• **PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR CONTEST.**

1. **Contest Director.** *May be a knowledgeable coach of contestants in the contest.*
2. **Assistant Directors.** *Two knowledgeable coaches from different schools other than director’s.*
3. **Graders.** *Director and assistant directors also serve as graders. To expedite the grading process, provide at least two graders for every 15 papers.*



Vocabulary

District Contest

Contestant Answer Sheet

GRADERS: Write scores and initial.

Score 1: _____

Score 3: _____

Score 2: _____

FINAL: _____

Contestant ID: _____ Grade Level: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the PRINTED CAPITAL letter of each answer choice (A, B, C, D or T or F for true/false questions) in the blank corresponding to the test item number. SCORING: +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

1. _____

16. _____

2. _____

17. _____

3. _____

18. _____

4. _____

19. _____

5. _____

20. _____

6. _____

21. _____

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22. _____

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12. _____

27. _____

13. _____

28. _____

14. _____

29. _____

15. _____

30. _____

Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

1. **acerbic** (*adj.*) bitter in tone or taste
2. **adage** (*n.*) wise saying; proverb
3. **adulterate** (*v.*) make impure by mixing with baser substances
4. **allocate** (*v.*) distribute, set aside
5. **altruistic** (*adj.*) unselfishly generous
6. **amicable** (*adj.*) friendly
7. **amorphous** (*adj.*) without definite shape or type
8. **analogous** (*adj.*) comparable
9. **anemic** (*adj.*) lacking force, vitality, spirit, interest, taste, or substance
10. **Anglo-** (*prefix*) of England or Britain
11. **annotate** (*v.*) comment; make explanatory notes
12. **anticlimax** (*n.*) letdown in thought or emotion
13. **apothegm** (*n.*) pith, compact saying
14. **arbiter** (*n.*) a person with power to decide a dispute
15. **arraign** (*v.*) charge in court; indict
16. **array** (*v.*) dress or decorate in splendid attire
17. **ashen** (*adj.*) ash-colored
18. **astronomical** (*adj.*) enormously large or extensive
19. **augury** (*n.*) omen; prophecy
20. **avert** (*v.*) prevent; turn away
21. **ballast** (*n.*) heavy substance used to add stability or weight
22. **battlement** (*n.*) parapet with open spaces that surmounts a wall and is used for defense or decoration
23. **bauble** (*n.*) trinket; trifle
24. **beholder** (*n.*) person who sees or observes something
25. **benediction** (*n.*) blessing
26. **bicker** (*v.*) quarrel
27. **blasé** (*n.*) attitude of indifference or nonchalance
28. **blunder** (*v.*) make a mistake
29. **bungle** (*v.*) spoil by clumsy behavior
30. **calumniate** (*v.*) slander
31. **caprice** (*n.*) sudden impulse
32. **carillon** (*n.*) set of bells capable of being played
33. **carte blanche** (*n.*) unlimited authority or freedom
34. **caustic** (*adj.*) capable of destroying by chemical; marked by sharp sarcasm
35. **cauterize** (*v.*) burn with hot iron or caustic
36. **chafe** (*v.*) warm by rubbing; make sore by rubbing
37. **charlatan** (*n.*) quack; pretender of knowledge
38. **clientele** (*n.*) body of customers
39. **communal** (*adj.*) held in common; of a group of people
40. **commute** (*v.*) exchange; convert; alter
41. **comport** (*v.*) bear one's self; behave
42. **composure** (*n.*) mental calmness
43. **concise** (*adj.*) brief and compact
44. **confidant** (*n.*) trusted friend
45. **conjure** (*v.*) invent; imagine
46. **connivance** (*n.*) pretense of ignorance of something wrong; permission to offend
47. **conscientiously** (*adv.*) carefully
48. **construe** (*v.*) explain; interpret
49. **contrive** (*v.*) create or form in an artistic or ingenious manner
50. **convex** (*adj.*) curving outward
51. **convoluted** (*adj.*) coiled around; involved; intricate
52. **cordons** (*v.*) form a protective or restrictive line



Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

53. **coruscate** (*v.*) sparkle; be brilliant or showy in technique or style
54. **crass** (*adj.*) very unrefined; grossly insensible
55. **crimson** (*n.*) deep purplish red
56. **critical** (*adj.*) careful judgment, esp. severely and unfavorably
57. **culpable** (*adj.*) deserving blame
58. **cursory** (*adj.*) rapidly and superficially performed or produced
59. **deadpan** (*adj.*) marked by impassive matter-of-fact manner, style, or expression
60. **decrepit** (*adj.*) worn out by age
61. **deign** (*v.*) deem worthy of notice or account; stoop
62. **deliberation** (*n.*) discussion or consideration by a group of persons of the reasons for or against a measure
63. **denounce** (*v.*) condemn; criticize
64. **deprive** (*v.*) take something away from; withhold something from
65. **derby** (*n.*) stiff felt hat with dome-shaped crown and narrow brim
66. **desecrate** (*v.*) violate the sanctity of
67. **despair** (*n.*) utter hopelessness and despondency
68. **detraction** (*n.*) slandering; aspersion
69. **devotee** (*n.*) enthusiastic follower
70. **dilapidated** (*adj.*) deteriorated or partially ruined through neglect or misuse
71. **dirge** (*n.*) slow, solemn, mournful piece of music, esp. one intended to accompany a funeral
72. **disarray** (*n.*) disorderly or untidy state
73. **disdain** (*v.*) treat with scorn or contempt
74. **disinter** (*v.*) dig up, unearth
75. **dispel** (*v.*) scatter; drive away; cause to vanish
76. **disseminate** (*v.*) spread or distribute information or ideas widely
77. **distinguish** (*v.*) mark or perceive as separate or different
78. **distraught** (*adj.*) upset; distracted by anxiety
79. **dolt** (*n.*) stupid person
80. **drench** (*v.*) wet thoroughly; fill or cover completely
81. **drift** (*v.*) go with the flow
82. **duplex** (*adj.*) having two parts
83. **effeminate** (*adj.*) having womanly traits
84. **egregious** (*adj.*) noticeably bad
85. **elucidate** (*v.*) explain; enlighten
86. **emblazon** (*v.*) deck in brilliant colors
87. **embroidered** (*adj.*) ornamented with or formed by decorative needlework
88. **eminence** (*n.*) position of prominence or superiority
89. **emphatic** (*adj.*) spoken with special emphasis
90. **engross** (*v.*) occupy fully
91. **ennui** (*n.*) [ahn-WEE] boredom
92. **entreat** (*v.*) plead; ask earnestly
93. **epoch** (*n.*) memorable event or date; time period
94. **espy** (*v.*) keep close watch
95. **etymology** (*n.*) study of word parts
96. **exclude** (*v.*) shut out purposely or forcibly
97. **expedite** (*v.*) hasten; accelerate the process or progress of; execute promptly
98. **extricate** (*v.*) free; disentangle
99. **facetious** (*adj.*) humorous; jocular; joking



Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

100. **falter** (*v.*) walk unsteadily; totter; stammer; hesitate
101. **ferment** (*n.*) agitation; commotion
102. **ferret** (*v.*) drive or hunt out of hiding
103. **fetter** (*v.*) shackle
104. **filch** (*v.*) steal
105. **foresee** (*v.*) discern beforehand
106. **forte** (*n.*) strong point or special talent
107. **fractious** (*adj.*) unruly
108. **Franco-** (*prefix*) of France
109. **fringed** (*adj.*) having a border with short straight or twisted threads
110. **frisk** (*v.*) search a person for something; leap, skip, or dance in a lively or playful way
111. **frizzle** (*v.*) scorch; fry until crisp and curled
112. **fruition** (*n.*) fulfillment; realization
113. **fustian** (*adj.*) pompous; bombastic
114. **gall** (*v.*) annoy; chafe
115. **gamut** (*n.*) entire range
116. **garb** (*n.*) clothing
117. **gazette** (*n.*) official periodical publication
118. **gibber** (*v.*) speak foolishly
119. **glib** (*adj.*) without forethought; lacking depth or substance
120. **glut** (*v.*) fill to excess
121. **gossamer** (*adj.*) extremely light, delicate, or tenuous
122. **Greco-** (*prefix*) of Greece
123. **grueling** (*adj.*) exhausting
124. **gruff** (*adj.*) rough-mannered
125. **haphazard** (*adj.*) random; by chance
126. **hilarity** (*n.*) boisterous mirth
127. **hubbub** (*n.*) confused uproar
128. **hurtle** (*v.*) move rapidly or forcefully
129. **imminent** (*adj.*) impending; near
130. **imperious** (*adj.*) marked by arrogant assurance
131. **imperturbable** (*adj.*) calm; placid
132. **imposition** (*n.*) uncalled for requirement or burden
133. **inadvertently** (*adv.*) carelessly; unintentionally; by oversight
134. **inanimate** (*adj.*) lifeless
135. **incur** (*v.*) bring upon oneself
136. **inept** (*adj.*) not fit or suitable
137. **inevitable** (*adj.*) impossible to avoid
138. **infirmity** (*n.*) weakness, frailty
139. **inkling** (*n.*) hint
140. **insinuate** (*v.*) hint; imply
141. **interloper** (*n.*) intruder in a place
142. **intrinsic** (*adj.*) inherent; essential
143. **invalidate** (*v.*) weaken; destroy
144. **invert** (*v.*) turn upside down or inside out
145. **invidious** (*adj.*) designed to create ill will
146. **iridescent** (*adj.*) exhibiting changing rainbow-colors due to the interference of light
147. **irresolute** (*adj.*) uncertain how to act; weak
148. **irresistible** (*adj.*) impossible to resist
149. **jostle** (*v.*) shove; bump
150. **jugular** (*adj.*) pertaining to the throat
151. **laden** (*adj.*) carrying a load or burden
152. **latitude** (*n.*) freedom from narrow limitations
153. **lave** (*v.*) wash
154. **libelous** (*adj.*) defamatory; injurious to the good name of a person
155. **livid** (*adj.*) enraged
156. **loathe** (*v.*) detest; dislike greatly
157. **lode** (*n.*) metal-bearing vein
158. **loll** (*v.*) lounge about
159. **ludicrous** (*adj.*) laughable through obvious absurdity, exaggeration, or eccentricity



Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

160. **luxuriant** (*adj.*) abundant, rich, and lush
161. **magistracy** (*n.*) office entrusted with administration of laws
162. **malingerer** (*n.*) one who feigns illness to escape duty
163. **marauder** (*n.*) raider; intruder
164. **martial** (*adj.*) warlike; of or related to war
165. **melee** (*n.*) fight
166. **mentor** (*n.*) teacher
167. **metropolis** (*n.*) large city
168. **migratory** (*adj.*) wandering
169. **minion** (*n.*) servile dependent
170. **minutiae** (*n.*) petty details
171. **misconstrue** (*v.*) interpret incorrectly; misjudge
172. **mitigate** (*v.*) appease
173. **monolith** (*n.*) any structure or sculpture in stone formed of a single piece
174. **moratorium** (*n.*) legal delay of payment
175. **morn** (*n.*) dawn; sunrise
176. **mundane** (*adj.*) worldly as opposed to spiritual; commonplace
177. **nadir** (*n.*) lowest point
178. **nebulous** (*adj.*) vaguely defined; cloudy
179. **negation** (*n.*) denial
180. **Nippo-** (*prefix*) of Japan
181. **nominal** (*adj.*) in name only; trivial
182. **objective** (*adj.*) not influenced by emotions
183. **obliterate** (*v.*) destroy completely
184. **obtrude** (*v.*) push into prominence
185. **obviate** (*v.*) remove a need or difficulty; prevent
186. **omnivorous** (*adj.*) eating both plant and animal food; devouring everything
187. **oratorio** (*n.*) dramatic poem set to music
188. **ossify** (*v.*) change or harden into bone
189. **paddock** (*n.*) saddling enclosure at a race track
190. **pallet** (*n.*) small, poor bed
191. **pallid** (*adj.*) deficient in color; dull
192. **pandemonium** (*n.*) wild tumult
193. **parapet** (*n.*) low wall at edge of roof or balcony
194. **paraphernalia** (*n.*) equipment; odds and ends
195. **parvenu** (*n.*) upstart; newly rich person
196. **pendulous** (*adj.*) hanging; suspended
197. **penetrable** (*adj.*) capable of being entered or pierced
198. **persiflage** (*n.*) flippant conversation; banter
199. **pinion** (*v.*) restrain
200. **podium** (*n.*) pedestal; raised platform
201. **precipitate** (*v.*) cause to happen suddenly, unexpectedly, or prematurely
202. **preclude** (*v.*) make impossible; eliminate
203. **precursor** (*n.*) one that precedes or indicates the approach of another
204. **prestige** (*n.*) impression produced by achievements or reputation
205. **prevalent** (*adj.*) widespread
206. **pristine** (*adj.*) pure; fresh; clean
207. **prod** (*v.*) poke; stir up
208. **proscenium** (*n.*) part of the stage between the curtain and the orchestra
209. **prune** (*v.*) cut away; trim
210. **pundit** (*n.*) authority on a subject
211. **putative** (*adj.*) commonly accepted or supposed; reputed; assumed to exist or have existed
212. **quay** (*n.*) wharf or artificial landing-place on the shore of a harbor
213. **quibble** (*v.*) evade the point of an argument by raising trivial objections
214. **rankle** (*v.*) irritate; fester



Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

215. **rapine** (*n.*) act of seizing property by superior force; pillage
216. **reconcile** (*v.*) restore friendly relationship between; make one account consistent with another
217. **rectify** (*v.*) correct
218. **relish** (*v.*) savor; enjoy
219. **repine** (*v.*) fret; complain
220. **resigned** (*adj.*) feeling or showing acceptance that something unwanted or unpleasant will happen or cannot be changed
221. **resurgent** (*adj.*) rising again after defeat
222. **reticence** (*n.*) reserve; uncommunicativeness; inclination to be silent
223. **retreat** (*v.*) withdraw, esp. from what is difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable
224. **retrench** (*v.*) cut down; economize
225. **retrograde** (*v.*) cause to deteriorate or move backward
226. **rickety** (*adj.*) unstable
227. **rigid** (*adj.*) strictly observed; inflexible
228. **risqué** (*adj.*) verging on improper; offcolor
229. **ruse** (*n.*) trick; stratagem
230. **Russo-** (*prefix*) of Russia
231. **sacrosanct** (*adj.*) most sacred; inviolable
232. **sally** (*v.*) leap out or burst forth suddenly
233. **salvation** (*n.*) deliverance from the power and effects of sin
234. **sapient** (*adj.*) wise; shrewd
235. **saturate** (*v.*) soak
236. **saunter** (*v.*) walk about in an idle or leisurely manner
237. **savoir faire** (*n.*) capacity for appropriate action, esp. a polished sureness in social behavior
238. **scanty** (*adj.*) meager; insufficient
239. **scrutinize** (*v.*) examine closely
240. **scuttle** (*v.*) sink
241. **seine** (*n.*) net for catching fish
242. **selectman** (*n.*) one of a board of officials elected in towns in New England
243. **seminal** (*adj.*) original; important
244. **sententious** (*adj.*) terse; concise
245. **shoal** (*n.*) shallow place
246. **shod** (*adj.*) equipped with shoes
247. **singular** (*adj.*) odd; peculiar
248. **Sino-** (*prefix*) of China
249. **skulk** (*v.*) move furtively and secretly
250. **slattern** (*n.*) untidy or slovenly person
251. **snivel** (*v.*) run at the nose; whine
252. **solitary** (*adj.*) single and isolated; saddened by isolation
253. **solvent** (*adj.*) able to pay all debts
254. **soporific** (*adj.*) sleep producer
255. **spurn** (*v.*) reject; scorn
256. **stoic** (*n.*) person who is indifferent to pleasure or pain
257. **stymie** (*v.*) present an obstacle
258. **sublime** (*adj.*) exalted; noble; uplifting
259. **sunder** (*v.*) separate; part
260. **supposition** (*n.*) hypothesis; assumption
261. **surly** (*adj.*) rude; cross
262. **sward** (*n.*) portion of ground covered in grass
263. **symmetry** (*n.*) arrangement of parts so that balance is obtained
264. **taper** (*v.*) diminish gradually; become progressively smaller toward one end



Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
 Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.

265. **tapestry** (*n.*) heavy handwoven textile used for curtains and upholstery with complicated designs
266. **tarn** (*n.*) small mountain lake
267. **tenacious** (*adj.*) holding fast
268. **tessellated** (*adj.*) inlaid; mosaic
269. **testator** (*n.*) maker of a will
270. **theocracy** (*n.*) government of a community by religious leaders
271. **throng** (*n.*) large number of people
272. **timbre** (*n.*) quality of a musical tone produced by an instrument
273. **traduce** (*v.*) expose to slander
274. **transcribe** (*v.*) copy
275. **transient** (*adj.*) passing especially quickly into and out of existence
276. **trek** (*n.*) travel; journey
277. **trenchant** (*adj.*) caustic; keen; penetrating
278. **tunic** (*n.*) simple, loose-fitting garment, worn from the shoulders down to between the hips and the knees
279. **ultimate** (*adj.*) final; last in a series
280. **unfeigned** (*adj.*) genuine; real
281. **vague** (*adj.*) without precise meaning; not clearly felt, sensed, or understood
282. **validate** (*v.*) confirm; ratify
283. **venal** (*adj.*) capable of being bribed; corruptible
284. **vendetta** (*n.*) blood feud
285. **venue** (*n.*) location
286. **verbalize** (*v.*) put into words
287. **vernal** (*adj.*) pertaining to spring
288. **viable** (*adj.*) capable of maintaining life
289. **vilify** (*v.*) speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner
290. **virile** (*adj.*) masculine; energetic or vigorous
291. **vitreous** (*adj.*) pertaining to or resembling glass
292. **vociferous** (*adj.*) making a loud outcry
293. **volition** (*n.*) act of making a conscious choice
294. **wan** (*adj.*) sickly; dim or faint
295. **wane** (*v.*) decrease; diminish
296. **wax** (*v.*) increase; grow
297. **wheddle** (*v.*) deceive by flattery; cajole
298. **wizened** (*adj.*) withered; shriveled
299. **wraith** (*n.*) ghost; phantom of a living person
300. **yen** (*n.*) longing; urge

