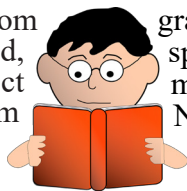


• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from grades 5 and 6 separately and grades 7/8 combined, may be entered in the VOCABULARY District Contest from each school. Two students from grades 5 and 6 each and two students from combined grades 7 and 8 advance to State.



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-minutes 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

GRADERS: Write scores and initial.

Meet: _____

Score 1: _____

Score 3: _____

Score 2: _____

FINAL: _____

Contestant Answer Sheet

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. _____

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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. **abase** (v.) lower; humiliate
2. **absolve** (v.) pardon an offense
3. **acrimonious** (adj.) stinging; caustic
4. **acuity** (n.) keenness of perception
5. **adduce** (v.) present as evidence
6. **adherent** (n.) follower of a leader, party, or profession
7. **agape** (adj.) openmouthed
8. **aghast** (adj.) horrified
9. **alacrity** (n.) cheerful promptness
10. **amble** (v.) move at an easy pace
11. **anarchy** (n.) absence of government; disorder
12. **anathema** (n.) solemn curse
13. **animus** (n.) hostile feeling or intent
14. **annul** (v.) make void
15. **anonymous** (adj.) having no name
16. **antecedent** (n.) prior or preceding event, condition, etc.
17. **ape** (v.) imitate, mimic
18. **apprehend** (v.) arrest (a criminal); dread; perceive
19. **apropos** (prep.) with reference to; regarding
20. **ardor** (n.) heat; passion; zeal
21. **arroyo** (n.) gully
22. **assay** (v.) analyze; evaluate
23. **assiduous** (adj.) diligent
24. **astral** (adj.) relating to the stars
25. **audit** (v.) examination of accounts
26. **austerity** (n.) sternness; severity; lack of luxuries
27. **averse** (adj.) reluctant
28. **avid** (adj.) characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit
29. **badger** (v.) pester; annoy
30. **bane** (n.) cause of ruin
31. **bastion** (n.) fortress; defense
32. **beguile** (v.) amuse; delude; cheat
33. **behemoth** (n.) something of tremendous size or power
34. **belligerent** (adj.) quarrelsome; eager to fight
35. **berth** (n.) accommodation, esp. for sleeping; job
36. **beset** (v.) harass; trouble
37. **bifurcated** (adj.) divided into two branches; forked
38. **blasphemous** (adj.) profane; impious
39. **boisterous** (adj.) violent; rough; noisy
40. **bravado** (n.) swagger; assumed air of defiance
41. **brazier** (n.) open pan in which live coals are burned
42. **broach** (v.) open up a subject for discussion; pierce
43. **cacophony** (n.) discord; harsh, jarring sound
44. **calumniate** (v.) slander
45. **camaraderie** (n.) good-fellowship
46. **cantankerous** (adj.) ill humored; irritable
47. **carafe** (n.) glass water bottle; decanter
48. **carnivorous** (adj.) meat-eating
49. **castigate** (v.) punish
50. **cavil** (v.) make frivolous objections
51. **ceremonious** (adj.) marked by formality
52. **chasm** (n.) abyss
53. **chastise** (v.) censure severely
54. **churlish** (adj.) boorish; rude
55. **circumstances** (n.) situation; state of affairs
56. **clangor** (n.) loud, resounding noise
57. **coalesce** (v.) combine; fuse
58. **coincident** (adj.) occurring at the same time
59. **colorfully** (adv.) brightly, brilliantly
60. **comestible** (n.) something fit to be eaten



*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.*

61. **compensatory** (*adj.*) making up for; repaying
62. **compute** (*v.*) reckon; calculate
63. **concur** (*v.*) agree
64. **congeal** (*v.*) freeze; coagulate
65. **consecrate** (*v.*) dedicate; sanctify
66. **contend** (*v.*) struggle; compete; assert earnestly
67. **conviction** (*n.*) act or process of finding a person guilty, esp. of a crime; strong persuasion or belief
68. **couple** (*v.*) join; unite
69. **covenant** (*n.*) agreement
70. **credulity** (*n.*) readiness or willingness to believe on slight evidence
71. **crestfallen** (*adj.*) dejected; dispirited
72. **cynosure** (*n.*) center of attention
73. **dearth** (*n.*) scarcity
74. **decipher** (*v.*) decode
75. **defile** (*v.*) pollute; profane
76. **deify** (*v.*) idolize
77. **demean** (*v.*) degrade; humiliate
78. **democracy** (*n.*) government by the people; rule of the majority
79. **deplete** (*v.*) reduce; exhaust
80. **deride** (*v.*) scoff at
81. **despicable** (*adj.*) contemptible
82. **destitution** (*n.*) poverty
83. **determination** (*n.*) decision; firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end
84. **devious** (*adj.*) going astray; erratic
85. **digression** (*n.*) wandering away from the subject
86. **disclose** (*v.*) reveal
87. **discomfit** (*v.*) defeat; disconcert; thwart
88. **dismantle** (*v.*) take apart
89. **dissension** (*n.*) disagreement
90. **dissipate** (*v.*) squander; break up and drive off
91. **divest** (*v.*) deprive; rid; remove ornamentation or equipment from
92. **docile** (*adj.*) obedient; gentle, soft
93. **dotage** (*n.*) senility
94. **dubious** (*adj.*) doubtful; questionable or suspect in quality
95. **duress** (*n.*) forcible restraint, esp. unlawfully; compulsion by threat
96. **effectual** (*adj.*) efficient
97. **elated** (*adj.*) overjoyed; in high spirits
98. **elder** (*n.*) of earlier birth or greater age
99. **embroil** (*v.*) throw into confusion; involve in strife; entangle
100. **encumber** (*v.*) burden
101. **endeavor** (*n.*) serious determined effort
102. **ensconce** (*v.*) settle comfortably
103. **epigram** (*n.*) witty thought or saying, usu. short
104. **equity** (*n.*) fairness; justice
105. **espouse** (*v.*) adopt; support
106. **estimation** (*n.*) judgment, opinion
107. **exacerbate** (*v.*) worsen; to make more violent, bitter, or severe
108. **exodus** (*n.*) departure
109. **expostulate** (*v.*) protest, object, take exception
110. **expound** (*v.*) set forth; explain
111. **extirpate** (*v.*) destroy completely; pull up by the root; cut out by surgery
112. **fabricate** (*v.*) build; lie
113. **fanciful** (*adj.*) whimsical; visionary
114. **federate** (*v.*) unite in an alliance
115. **ferocious** (*adj.*) extremely intense
116. **fetid** (*adj.*) bad smelling
117. **figment** (*n.*) something made up or contrived
118. **flair** (*n.*) talent; style
119. **flora** (*n.*) plants of a region or era
120. **flourish** (*v.*) prosper; decorate with ornaments

*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.*

121. **foreboding** (*n.*) premonition of evil
 122. **frenetic** (*adj.*) frenzied; frantic
 123. **fumigate** (*v.*) subject to smoke or fumes, esp. for disinfection or eradication
 124. **furtive** (*adj.*) done in quiet; surreptitious; sly; stolen
 125. **galleon** (*n.*) large sailing ship
 126. **gaunt** (*adj.*) lean and angular; barren
 127. **gist** (*n.*) main idea
 128. **glutinous** (*adj.*) sticky; viscous
 129. **gouge** (*v.*) tear out
 130. **grandeur** (*n.*) magnificence
 131. **gratification** (*n.*) act or state of being pleased
 132. **grovel** (*v.*) crawl or creep on ground; remain prostrate
 133. **grudge** (*v.*) unwilling to give or admit; give or admit reluctantly or resentfully
 134. **hallowed** (*adj.*) blessed, consecrated
 135. **heed** (*v.*) pay attention to; consider
 136. **hegira** (*n.*) journey, esp. when undertaken to escape a dangerous situation
 137. **hoard** (*v.*) collect and often hide away a supply of
 138. **homage** (*n.*) expression of high regard
 139. **hummock** (*n.*) small hill
 140. **idiom** (*n.*) special usage in language
 141. **illustration** (*n.*) picture, diagram, or example that helps make s.t. clear
 142. **impervious** (*adj.*) not allowing entrance or passage; not capable of being damaged or harmed
 143. **impolitic** (*adj.*) not wise
 144. **impotent** (*adj.*) weak; ineffective
 145. **inculcate** (*v.*) teach
 146. **indefatigable** (*adj.*) untiring; relentless
 147. **indulgent** (*adj.*) humoring; yielding; lenient
 148. **inflated** (*adj.*) exaggerated; pompous; enlarged with air or gas
 149. **ingenious** (*adj.*) clever
 150. **insidious** (*adj.*) treacherous; stealthy; sly
 151. **instinctive** (*adj.*) coming naturally or automatically without deliberate thought
 152. **intrepid** (*adj.*) fearless
 153. **inured** (*adj.*) accustomed; hardened
 154. **irrelevant** (*adj.*) not applicable; unrelated
 155. **iterate** (*v.*) utter a second time; repeat
 156. **jeer** (*v.*) speak or cry out with derision; taunt
 157. **jejune** (*adj.*) lacking interest; barren; meager
 158. **jocund** (*adj.*) merry
 159. **kismet** (*n.*) fate
 160. **kleptocracy** (*n.*) government by those who seek chiefly status and personal gain at the expense of the governed
 161. **lackluster** (*adj.*) dull
 162. **larceny** (*n.*) theft
 163. **lax** (*adj.*) careless
 164. **legislator** (*n.*) lawmaker
 165. **lexicon** (*n.*) dictionary
 166. **listless** (*adj.*) lacking in spirit or energy
 167. **lustrous** (*adj.*) shining
 168. **malodorous** (*adj.*) foul-smelling
 169. **maverick** (*n.*) rebel; nonconformist
 170. **meek** (*adj.*) deficient in spirit or courage; submissive
 171. **mendacious** (*adj.*) lying; false
 172. **meritocracy** (*n.*) a system in which people are chosen and moved into positions of success and power on the basis of their demonstrated abilities
 173. **mesmerize** (*v.*) hypnotize
 174. **mettle** (*n.*) courage; spirit



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.

175. **misanthrope** (*n.*) one who hates mankind
176. **misdemeanor** (*n.*) minor crime
177. **mogul** (*n.*) powerful person
178. **mollify** (*v.*) soothe
179. **monarchy** (*n.*) absolute sovereignty by a single person
180. **mortify** (*v.*) humiliate
181. **muster** (*v.*) gather; assemble
182. **naïve** (*adj.*) lacking worldly wisdom or informed judgment; simple, unsophisticated
183. **nascent** (*adj.*) incipient; coming into being
184. **nefarious** (*adj.*) very wicked
185. **noncommittal** (*adj.*) neutral; unpledged; undecided
186. **obfuscate** (*v.*) confuse; muddle
187. **obligate** (*v.*) hold to the fulfillment of duty
188. **obloquy** (*n.*) slander; disgrace; infamy
189. **obstreperous** (*adj.*) boisterous; noisy
190. **officious** (*adj.*) volunteering one's services where they are neither asked nor needed
191. **oligarchy** (*n.*) government in which a small group exercises control, esp. for corrupt or selfish purposes
192. **omniscient** (*adj.*) all-knowing
193. **oracular** (*adj.*) foretelling; mysterious
194. **ostensible** (*adj.*) apparent; professed; pretended
195. **palatable** (*adj.*) agreeable; pleasing to the taste
196. **panegyric** (*n.*) eulogistic oration or writing
197. **parable** (*n.*) short, simple story teaching a moral
198. **pariah** (*n.*) social outcast
199. **pastoral** (*adj.*) rural

200. **pedantic** (*adj.*) showing off learning; bookish
201. **peevish** (*adj.*) easily irritated or annoyed
202. **penitent** (*adj.*) repentant
203. **peregrinate** (*v.*) travel, esp. on foot
204. **permeate** (*v.*) pass through; spread
205. **perpetrate** (*v.*) commit an offense
206. **pervade** (*v.*) spread throughout
207. **petrify** (*v.*) turn to stone
208. **placate** (*v.*) pacify; conciliate
209. **plenitude** (*n.*) abundance; completeness
210. **plutocracy** (*n.*) government by the wealthy
211. **portentous** (*adj.*) ominous; serious
212. **potential** (*adj.*) expressing possibility; latent
213. **preamble** (*n.*) introductory statement



214. **prerogative** (*n.*) privilege; unquestionable right
215. **prevaricator** (*n.*) liar
216. **privy** (*adj.*) secret; hidden; not public
217. **proboscis** (*n.*) long snout; nose
218. **procrastinate** (*v.*) put off for later
219. **progeny** (*n.*) children
220. **propinquity** (*n.*) nearness in position or kinship
221. **protégé** (*n.*) one who is protected or trained or whose career is furthered by a person of experience, prominence, or influence

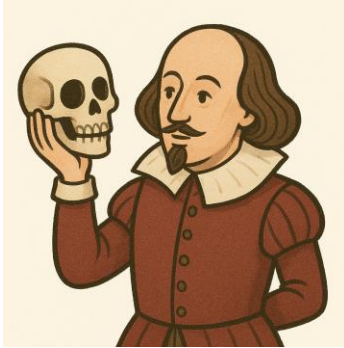
*Words are listed with a sample part of speech and definition or possible synonym.
Note that denotative and connotative usages of words may be used on tests.*

222. **provender** (*n.*) dry food; fodder
 223. **province** (*n.*) area, realm; district or division of a country
 224. **proximity** (*n.*) nearness
 225. **puerile** (*adj.*) childish
 226. **pulsate** (*v.*) throb; move in a rhythmic manner
 227. **quadruped** (*n.*) four-footed animal
 228. **quandary** (*n.*) dilemma
 229. **quiescent** (*adj.*) at rest; dominant
 230. **rakish** (*adj.*) stylish; sporty
 231. **ramify** (*v.*) split into two or more branches
 232. **rancor** (*n.*) bitter, deep ill will; hostility
 233. **raze** (*v.*) destroy completely
 234. **reek** (*v.*) emit an odor
 235. **reimburse** (*v.*) repay
 236. **relegate** (*v.*) banish; consign to inferior position
 237. **renegade** (*n.*) deserter; apostate
 238. **reprisal** (*n.*) retaliation
 239. **repudiate** (*v.*) deny; declare untrue
 240. **rescission** (*n.*) abrogation; annulment
 241. **resign** (*v.*) give oneself over without resistance; give up deliberately
 242. **resolute** (*adj.*) marked by firm determination; resolved; bold and steady
 243. **restitution** (*n.*) reparation; indemnification
 244. **revile** (*v.*) slander; vilify
 245. **roseate** (*adj.*) rosy; optimistic
 246. **salient** (*adj.*) prominent
 247. **sebaceous** (*adj.*) oily; fatty
 248. **senescence** (*n.*) the state of being old
 249. **sequester** (*v.*) retire from public life; segregate; seclude
 250. **serpentine** (*adj.*) winding; twisting
 251. **shrewd** (*adj.*) clever; astute
 252. **sirocco** (*n.*) hot winds from Africa
 253. **skeptic** (*n.*) person who doubts a certain belief
 254. **slander** (*n.*) defamation; utterance of false or malicious statements (also *v.*)
 255. **smattering** (*n.*) small in number or amount
 256. **sodden** (*adj.*) soaked
 257. **soliloquy** (*n.*) talking to oneself
 258. **sophomoric** (*adj.*) immature; shallow
 259. **sporadic** (*adj.*) occurring irregularly
 260. **statute** (*n.*) law enacted by the legislative branch of government
 261. **stilted** (*adj.*) bombastic; inflated
 262. **stingy** (*adj.*) not generous; sparing or scant in giving
 263. **strive** (*v.*) devote serious effort or energy
 264. **subversive** (*adj.*) tending to overthrow or ruin
 265. **supersede** (*v.*) display in favor of another; force out of use as inferior
 266. **supplant** (*v.*) replace; usurp
 267. **swarthy** (*adj.*) dark; dusky
 268. **tantalize** (*v.*) tease; torture with disappointment
 269. **temerity** (*n.*) boldness; rashness
 270. **temper** (*v.*) dilute, soften



*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.*

271. **tenuous** (*adj.*) thin; rare; slim
 272. **thematic** (*adj.*) related to a central point
 273. **theocracy** (*n.*) government by immediate divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided
 274. **thespian** (*adj.*) pertaining to drama



275. **tirade** (*n.*) extended scolding; denunciation
 276. **torpid** (*adj.*) dormant; dull; lethargic
 277. **translucent** (*adj.*) partly transparent
 278. **travail** (*n.*) painful labor
 279. **truculent** (*adj.*) aggressive; savage
 280. **turgid** (*adj.*) swollen; distended
 281. **tyrant** (*n.*) absolute ruler
 282. **umbrage** (*n.*) sense of injury

283. **unanimity** (*n.*) complete agreement
 284. **unconscious** (*adj.*) without awareness
 285. **undulate** (*v.*) move with a wavelike motion
 286. **unscathed** (*adj.*) unharmed
 287. **vagary** (*n.*) caprice; whim
 288. **vegetate** (*v.*) live in a monotonous way
 289. **vendible** (*adj.*) marketable
 290. **venerate** (*v.*) revere
 291. **verdant** (*adj.*) green; fresh
 292. **vindictive** (*adj.*) revengeful
 293. **vivify** (*v.*) endue with life
 294. **volatile** (*adj.*) characterized by rapid or expected change; explosive; lighthearted
 295. **wince** (*v.*) shrink back; flinch
 296. **winnow** (*v.*) sift; separate good parts from bad
 297. **worthwhile** (*adj.*) being worth the time or effort spent; worthy
 298. **wreak** (*v.*) inflict; bring about or cause
 299. **wretched** (*adj.*) deplorably bad or distressing; very poor in quality; inferior
 300. **zephyr** (*n.*) gentle breeze