



IXL Skill Plan for the PSAT[®]

Writing and Language



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Score range: less than 400

Standard

IXL skills

Grammar and mechanics

Sentence structure

1. Is it a complete sentence or a fragment? DQC
2. Is it a complete sentence or a run-on? 6XL
3. Is it a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on? NJT

Punctuation

4. Commas with a series WCN
5. Commas with compound and complex sentences QM9

Verbs

6. Use the correct subject or verb F5Q
7. Use the correct subject or verb – with compound subjects XGL
8. Use the progressive verb tenses RY6
9. Choose between the past tense and past participle AV6
10. Use the perfect verb tenses YLV

Possessives

11. Form the singular or plural possessive BME
12. Identify and correct errors with plural and possessive nouns ME2

Organization and development

Introductions

1. Choose the best topic sentence PBS

Transitions

2. Choose the best transition X9M

Organizing information

3. Order items from most general to most specific VRX
4. Organize information by main idea XL8
5. Remove the sentence that does not belong 6PZ

Developing and supporting arguments

6. Distinguish facts from opinions 7GS
 7. Identify an author's statement of opinion RAE
 8. Choose reasons to support an opinion AQK
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Language and word choice**Commonly confused words**

1. Use the correct frequently confused word L2X

Word nuance

2. Describe the difference between related words KV6
 3. Positive and negative connotation BPJ
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Score range: 400-490

Standard

IXL skills

Grammar and mechanics

Sentence structure

1. Is it a complete sentence or a fragment? 7SV
2. Is it a complete sentence or a run-on? 2YN

Punctuation

3. Commas with series, dates, and places SSV
4. Commas with compound and complex sentences 2AC

Verbs

5. Use the correct verb – with compound subjects 8XP
6. Correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense B2Q

Pronouns

7. Use relative pronouns: who and whom CSF
8. Use relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, and that R6F
9. Identify vague pronoun references MGF

Adverbs

10. Use relative adverbs BVJ

Possessives

11. Identify and correct errors with plural and possessive nouns PMQ

Organization and development

Organizing information

1. Order topics from broadest to narrowest GBJ
2. Organize information by main idea 7BE

Developing and supporting arguments

3. Choose evidence to support a claim T7W

Language and word choice

Commonly confused words

1. Correct errors with frequently confused words QGB

Word nuance

2. Describe the difference between related words RBH
 3. Positive and negative connotation CMA
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Score range: 500-590

Standard	IXL skills
<p>Grammar and mechanics</p>	<p>Sentence structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on? HPN <p>Punctuation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Commas with nonrestrictive elements 5X8 3. Commas: review 8CY <p>Verbs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Identify and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense 8BV 5. Form the progressive verb tenses QNR 6. Correct errors with subject-verb agreement TB5 <p>Pronouns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Use relative pronouns: who and whom 2FU 8. Use relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, and that KHK 9. Identify all of the possible antecedents 8EC 10. Correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person 5DX <p>Modifiers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Misplaced modifiers with pictures KAV <p>Adjectives and adverbs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives URE 13. Form and use comparative and superlative adverbs 96C <p>Possessives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Identify and correct errors with plural and possessive nouns PMQ
<p>Organization and development</p>	<p>Redundancy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove redundant words or phrases JHX

Transitions

2. Transitions with conjunctive adverbs 6VK
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Language and word choice

Word nuance

1. Describe the difference between related words V9F
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Score range: 600-690

Standard

IXL skills

Grammar and mechanics

Sentence structure

1. Identify sentence fragments FVY
2. Identify run-on sentences KM8
3. Choose punctuation to avoid fragments and run-ons 6RK
4. Combine sentences using relative clauses CHJ
5. Identify sentences with parallel structure CGB

Punctuation

6. Commas with nonrestrictive elements XMG
7. Commas with direct addresses, introductory words, interjections, interrupters, and antithetical phrases MQG
8. Commas with series, dates, and places 2PN
9. Commas with compound and complex sentences JXR
10. Use dashes TRM

Verbs

11. Identify and correct errors with subject-verb agreement F96
12. Identify and correct errors with indefinite pronoun-verb agreement QGF
13. Identify and correct verb agreement with compound subjects HRZ

Pronouns

14. Identify and correct errors with subject and object pronouns 7AJ
15. Identify vague pronoun references X2V
16. Correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person V5Z

Modifiers

17. Select the misplaced or dangling modifier 7MQ

Adjectives and adverbs

18. Choose between adjectives and adverbs MSJ

19. Good, better, best, bad, worse, and worst 6R5
20. Well, better, best, badly, worse, and worst RFA

Possessives

21. Identify and correct errors with plural and possessive nouns 7YA

Organization and development**Introductions**

1. Identify thesis statements WBW

Organizing information

2. Organize information by main idea EGR

Developing and supporting arguments

3. Identify stronger and weaker evidence to support a claim YN8

Revisions

4. Suggest appropriate revisions GLW

Language and word choice**Commonly confused words**

1. Use the correct frequently confused word 2GL

Word usage

2. Use words accurately and precisely FD6
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Score range: 700+

Standard

IXL skills

Grammar and mechanics

Sentence structure

1. Use parallel structure JMJ

Punctuation

2. Commas: review U8Y
3. Join sentences with semicolons, colons, and commas 9QF
4. Use colons and commas to introduce lists, quotations, and appositives QGR
5. Use semicolons and commas to separate items in a series JBY
6. Semicolons, colons, and commas review G98

Verbs

7. Form the perfect verb tenses AGQ
8. Identify and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense R2G

Pronouns

9. Subject and object pronouns review TGH
10. Pronouns after "than" and "as" LWR
11. Identify and correct pronoun errors with "who" 5YE
12. Use relative pronouns: who and whom C6D
13. Use relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, and that DYY
14. Identify all of the possible antecedents 68A

Modifiers

15. Are the modifiers used correctly? R5N

Comparisons

16. Avoid double, illogical, and unclear comparisons 7L7

Possessives

17. Identify and correct errors with compound and joint possession BLR

Organization and development

Introductions

1. Choose the topic sentence that best captures the main idea HE6

Transitions

2. Transitions with conjunctive adverbs HRP
3. Transition logically between claims, evidence, analysis, and counterclaims UVF

Organizing information

4. Order topics from broadest to narrowest VE5

Developing and supporting arguments

5. Choose the best evidence to support a claim GVQ

Revision

6. Suggest appropriate revisions X8S

Language and word choice

Commonly confused words

1. Identify and correct errors with frequently confused words PSE
2. Identify and correct errors with frequently confused pronouns and contractions 9LY
3. Correct errors with commonly misspelled words BM9

Word nuance

4. Describe the difference between related words EGN
 5. Choose the word whose connotation and denotation best match the sentence GFU
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