The logo for Next Step TEST PREP is centered in a blue square. The words "Next" and "Step" are stacked vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below them, the words "TEST PREP" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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Planning for the Pharmacy Cycle

March 5, 2018

Today's Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome to this Info Session!**
- ▶ **Introduction**
- ▶ **Revised PCAT**
- ▶ **2018-19 Testing Cycle**
- ▶ **Lessons Learned from Next Step PCAT Course**

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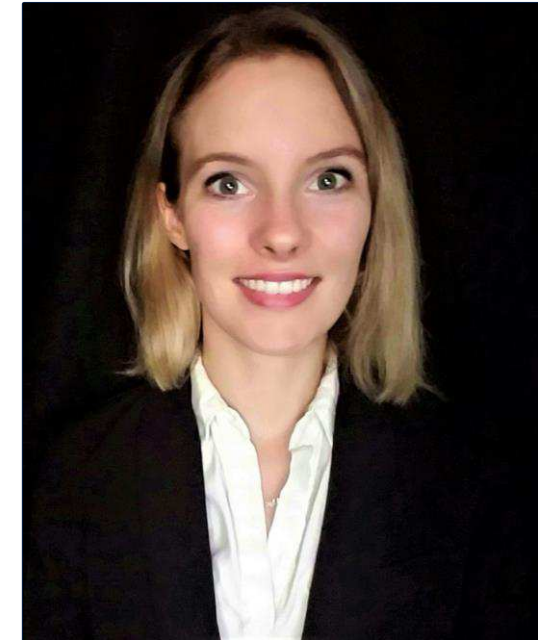
Introduction

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Sophia Stone

PCAT Content Director

- ▶ **Tutored and taught for 8+ years**
- ▶ **99th percentile on PCAT and MCAT**



Who Is Next Step?

- Began in 2009 as a tutoring company
 - Focus on graduate admissions tests only
 - Team of educational experts
 - Helped over 50,000 students in Pre-Health admissions preparation
- ✓ We never stop improving our materials!

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PCAT STUDENTS HAVE A CHOICE

PCAT Overview

▶ Scoring

- ▶ Scaled score: 200–600
- ▶ Percentile rank: 1–99th

▶ PCAT Sections

- ▶ Writing: 0–6
- ▶ All other sections: 200–600
- ▶ Composite: 200–600

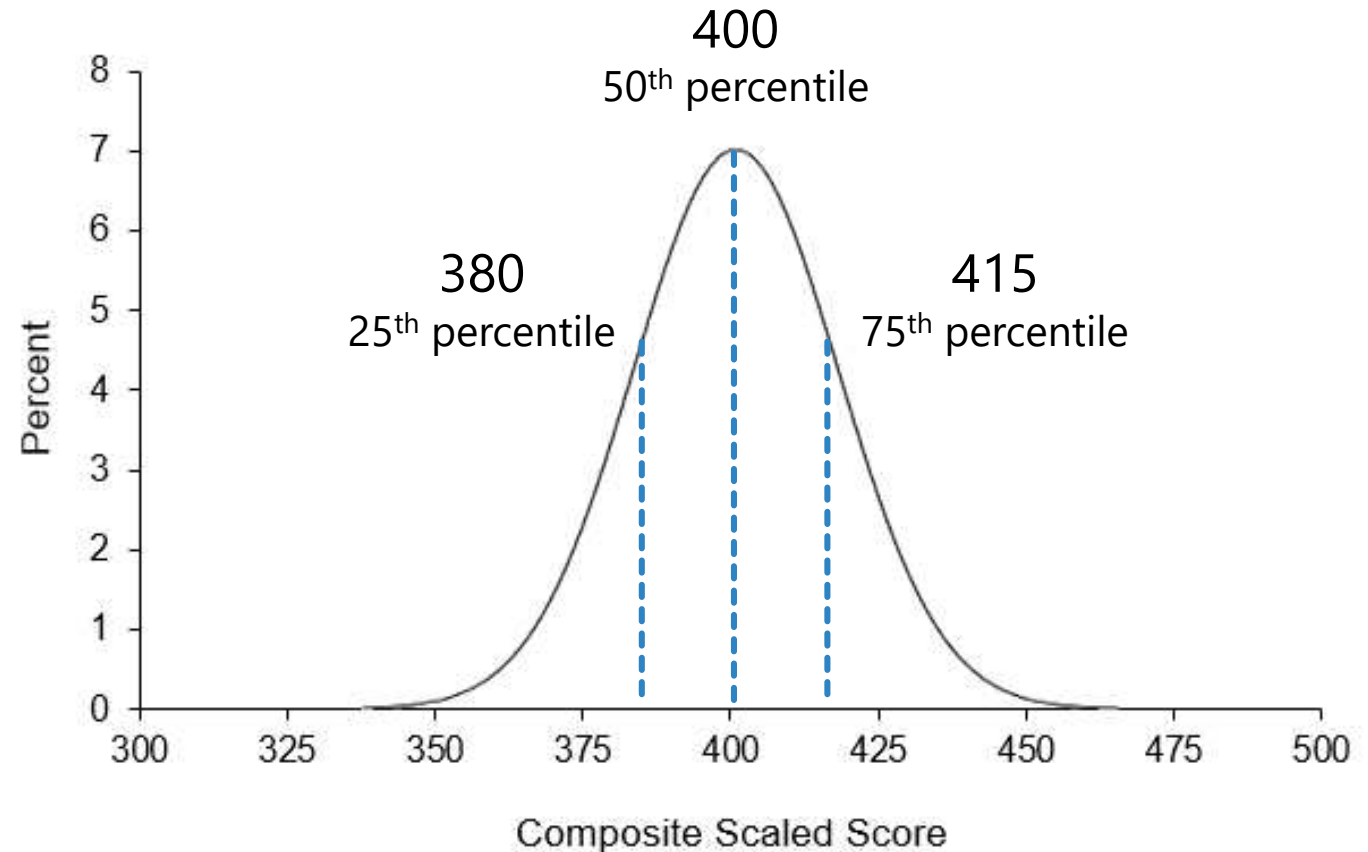
Section	Time	Questions
Writing	30 min	1 essay
Biological Processes	40 min	48 (5 passages)
Chemical Processes	40 min	48 (5 passages)
Critical Reading	50 min	48 (6 passages)
Quantitative Reasoning	45 min	48 (50% word problems)

PCAT Overview

▶ Score Distribution

- ▶ Most score between 350–450
- ▶ Competitive applicants will score in the 70–80th percentile

✓ Points can come from *any* multiple-choice section!



What's New?

▶ Passages and Strategy

- **Biology and Chemistry – 50% of questions on experiment-based passages**
 - **Critical Reading – 100% of questions on passages**
 - **Quantitative Reasoning – 50% of questions on word problems with greater basic math and algebra focus**
- ✓ **EVEN MORE passages and critical reading emphasis**

What Matters?

- ▶ **Well...**
 - ▶ Pharmacy admissions place more weight on *science* section scores...
...but high Reading and Math scores can boost the composite score
 - ▶ The vast majority score between 2–4.5 on Writing (~2% fall outside this range)
 - ▶ Timing on the Quantitative Reasoning section is **CHALLENGING**
- ✓ **Minimum threshold score ≠ competitive applicant score**

2018-19 Admissions Cycle

- ▶ **Take prerequisite classes and maintain GPA**
- ▶ **Gain pharmacy experience**
- ▶ **Take PCAT exam**
- ▶ **Submit PharmCAS application** (includes transcripts and LoRs)
- ▶ **Submit supplemental applications**
- ▶ **Interview**
- ▶ **Make acceptance decision**

Freshman Year

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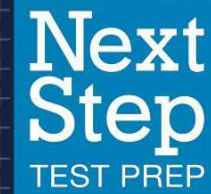
- ▶ **Decide on major**
- ▶ **Take prerequisite classes**
 - ▶ 2 semesters **general biology** (with lab)
 - ▶ 2 semesters **general chemistry** (with lab)
 - ▶ 2 semesters **organic chemistry** (with lab)
 - ▶ 1–2 semesters **biochemistry**
 - ▶ 1 semester **anatomy and physiology** (recommended)
 - ▶ 1 semester **microbiology**
 - ▶ 1–2 semesters **calculus**
 - ▶ 1–2 semesters **statistics**
 - ▶ 2 semesters **English**
- ▶ **Maintain GPA**
- ▶ **Decide on when to apply to pharmacy school**



Sophomore & Junior Years

- ▶ Continue to take prerequisite classes
 - ▶ Maintain GPA
 - ▶ Decide on when to apply to pharmacy school
 - ▶ Gain pharmacy or volunteer experience
- ✓ Pharmacy tech certification requirements differ state by state

End of Junior Year



- ▶ Register for and schedule PCAT with Pearson
- ▶ Study for PCAT (typically 2–3 months part-time)
- ▶ Take PCAT in July – January after junior year

Testing Windows	Registration Opens
July 11, 18	April 2, 2018
September 6-7	April 2, 2018
October 22 - November 2	September 5, 2018
January 3-4	April 2, 2018
February 1-14	December 20, 2018

- ✓ **July is the best time to take the PCAT: students can study during the summer, apply early for rolling admissions, and have an opportunity to re-take if needed.**

Senior Year

- ▶ **Select pharmacy programs**
 - ▶ **In-state vs. out-of-state**
 - ▶ **3- vs. 4-year**
 - ▶ **ACPE accreditation status**
- ▶ **Submit PharmCAS application**



PharmCAS Application

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- ▶ **Transcripts**
- ▶ **Letters of recommendation (1–4)**
- ▶ **Coursework**
- ▶ **Personal statement**
- ▶ **Application fees**
 - ▶ **\$120 + \$55 per school**
 - ▶ **Apply for financial assistance early**

PharmCAS Deadlines

1 st Deadline	November 1
2 nd Deadline	December 1
3 rd Deadline	January 1
4 th Deadline	February 1
5 th Deadline	March 1

- ✓ **Early decision applicants can apply to one program by early September to improve their chances – but it is a binding decision.**

www.pharmcas.org

Final Steps?

- ▶ **Submit supplemental applications**
- ▶ **Interview in winter/spring**
- ▶ **Make acceptance decision**



- ✓ **Students may be required to submit a deposit to reserve their seat once they have been accepted. Students may also be placed on a waitlist and later extended an acceptance.**

Lessons Learned from the Next Step PCAT Course

1. Students want structure.

- ▶ Pre-pharm students balance **busy schedules** while trying to study **broad & difficult content areas** they might not be very familiar with.
- ▶ Pre-pharm students want to be held **accountable** and feel motivated by a personalized **study schedule** made just for them.

Lessons Learned from the Next Step PCAT Course

2. Students want individualized support.

- ▶ Applying to pharmacy school is not easy and can feel **overwhelming**.
- ▶ It's easy to start off strong and **lose momentum** while studying for the PCAT.
- ▶ Pre-pharm students have **lots of questions** – and want answers from experts they trust.

Lessons Learned from the Next Step PCAT Course

3. Students want to know HOW to prep.

- ▶ There's a lot to cover on the PCAT, and students **don't always know where to start.**
- ▶ The PCAT may have changed dramatically, but **PCAT test prep hasn't really kept up.**
- ▶ **Passage-based critical reasoning** is a skill that students *can* develop but is infrequently tested in undergraduate courses.
- ▶ Students receive conflicting advice from different sources and think they need to mix and match prep resources to cover all their bases, but ultimately they want content that is **current** and **yields results.**

Next Step: Core Values

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Educate Daily



Approachability



Authenticity



Professionalism



Ownership

We are dedicated to providing personalized support, advice and prep options that match each student's individual needs.

Personalized Options

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✓ No matter the study style, subject expertise, or PCAT goal, Next Step has an option for each student's personal needs and lifestyle.

- Free Practice Bundle Materials
- Self-Prep Materials and Planning
- Guided Online Study with Free Extra Help
- One-on-One Tutoring



SHARE THIS LINK WITH STUDENTS FOR FREE PCAT PRACTICE

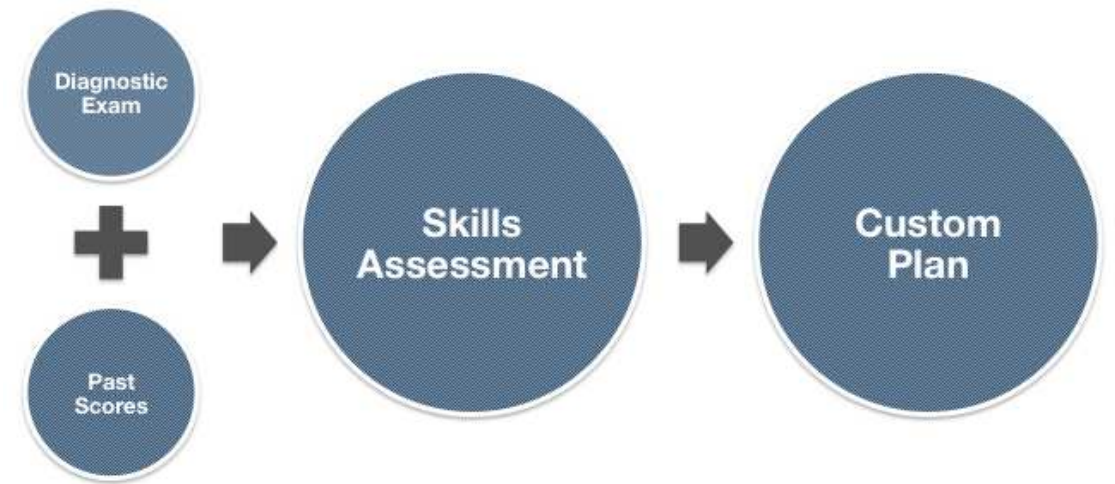
<https://nextsteptestprep.com/free-pcat-practice-bundle/>

One-On-One Tutoring

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✓ No matter the study style, subject expertise, or PCAT goal, Next Step's Tutoring is personalized for each student

- Tailored Study Plan
- Flexible Online Tutor Sessions
- Top-Scoring, Expert PCAT Tutors

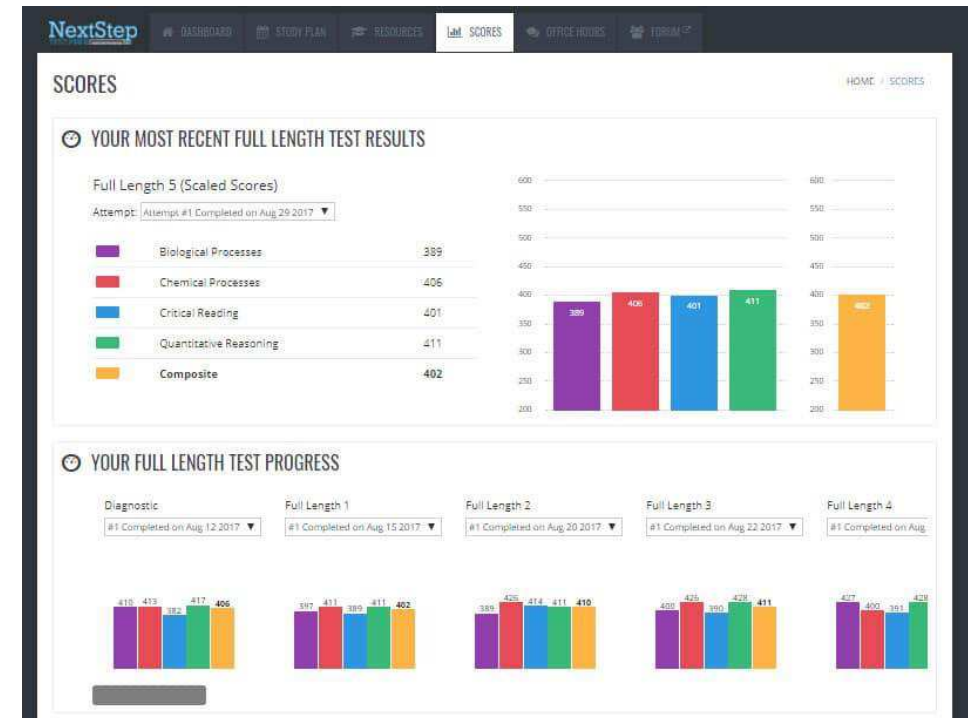


Unmatched Online Course

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✓ **Finally, a high-quality PCAT prep choice delivering personalization, flexibility, and affordability in an easy-to-understand platform and a score guarantee.**

- **One-On-One Orientation**
- **Exclusive Study Plan Generator**
- **Ongoing Live-Online Office Hours (2x/week)**
- **5 Full Length PCAT Practice**
- **1 Full Length PCAT Diagnostic**
- **Extra focus on high-yield and difficult subjects**
- **Review Book: 500+ pages**
- **Content Book: 200+ pages**
- **Lesson Videos: over 30 hours**
- **Content Videos: 50 videos with interactive quizzes**
- **11 Qbanks with over 450 questions**
- **Expertise Built & Supported by 99th percentile instructors**



Why Students Should Prep Now

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✓ Prepping early ensures students are ready for exam day!

**PCAT COURSE SALE: NOW \$150
OFF**

Students receive \$150 off if enrolled by 3/28/18

~~nextstep~~testprep.com/pcat-course

\$599 now only \$449

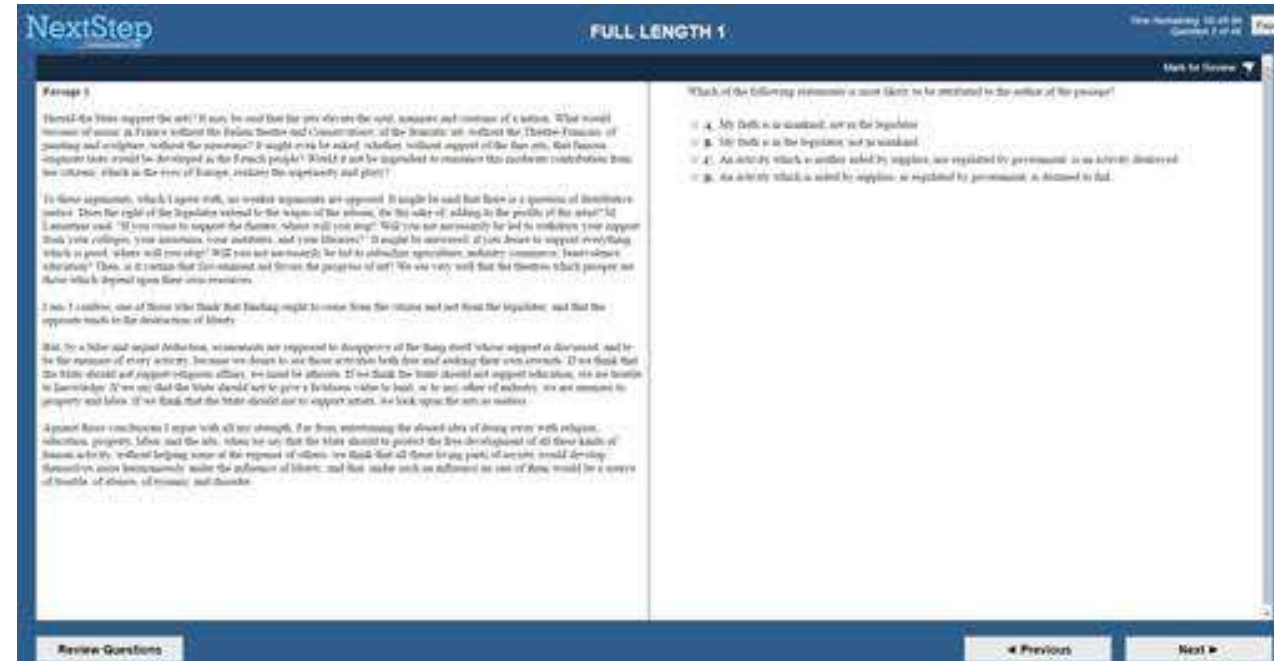
PROMO CODE: PCAT150

Most Realistic Practice Exams

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✓ **Students' testing experience matters.**
We offer the most representative PCAT exam platform available.

- **Free Full-Length Diagnostic**
- **5 Full-Length PCAT Exams**
- **Exclusive Study Plan Generator**
- **Lesson Book (print + online PDF)**
- **Review Book (print + online PDF)**
- **All 17 Lesson Videos**
- **All 50 Content Review Videos**
- **All Test Review Videos**
- **All Sections Exams**
- **Live Online Q&A Office Hours (2x/week)**
- **Online Forum Access**
- **Full Exam Bundle— only \$99**



Next Step: Educate Every Day

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✓ The ONLY FREE PCAT Practice Bundle

- Full-Length PCAT Diagnostic Test
- Diagnostic Test Review Video (4 segments)
- Lesson 1 from PCAT Online Course
- PDF Sample: Lesson Book for Lesson 1
- PDF Sample: Review Book for Chapters 1-3
- Content Review Videos
 - Scientific Method and Data Interpretation
 - Quantitative Reasoning: Math Skills I
 - Chemistry: Substitution and Elimination Reactions
 - Biology: Kidney Structure and Function
- Exclusive Study Plan Generator
- Free Public Q&A Office Hours & Webinars

**FREE PCAT Practice
Bundle:**

[nextsteptestprep.com/
free-pcat-practice-bundle](https://nextsteptestprep.com/free-pcat-practice-bundle)

Take the Best Next Step

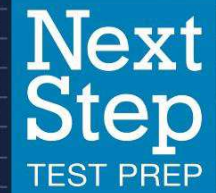
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- **Meet with an Academic Manager and build a strategy**
 - **Discuss what works for you: from self-study to tutoring**
 - **Personalize A Study Plan for YOU**
 - **Plan around your study style and class/work schedule**
 - **Speak with educational pros, not a call center**
- **Attend our webinars**
 - **Download the FREE PCAT BUNDLE and take the Diagnostic**
 - **Take advantage of the free webinars and open Office Hours with a focus on PCAT subject reviews and strategy sessions**
- **Let's Get Social**
 - **Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube**

**Students may contact an
Academic Manager
for a PCAT Consultation
to plan their prep today!**

[nextsteptestprep.com/
pcat-tutoring](https://nextsteptestprep.com/pcat-tutoring)

Resources Summary

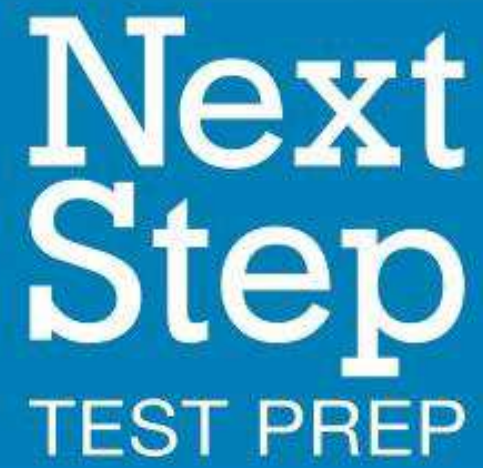


- **Free PCAT Practice Bundle for Students**
 - nextsteptestprep.com/free-pcat-practice-bundle
- **PCAT Course on Sale: \$150 OFF**
 - nextsteptestprep.com/pcat-course
 - **Promo Code: PCAT150**
- **Free PCAT Consultation with Academic Manager**
 - nextsteptestprep.com/pcat-tutoring

**Looking for discounted
PCAT prep resources for
all your students?**

Email us at:

pcat@nextsteptestprep.com

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Q&A