

# Information about the ISEE

The ISEE is an admissions test used by independent and magnet schools to evaluate potential students. The exam is designed for students in grades 5-12. The test has four levels which correspond to the students' grade levels: 1) Primary for grades 2-4; 2) Lower for grades 5-6; 3) Middle for grades 6-7; and 4) Upper for 9-12. The Primary level consists of three different tests: Primary 2 for incoming second-graders, Primary 3 for incoming third-graders, and Primary 4 for incoming fourth-graders. Testing dates for the ISEE are specific to the school to which your student will apply. Find out when your test will be at [erblearn.org](http://erblearn.org). The format and scoring of the ISEE are described below.

## Primary Tests

What sections are on the ISEE?	What skills are being assessed?	How long is this section?
<b>Auditory Comprehension</b> *Primary 2 only	In this section, students will listen to a brief passage and answer questions about what they heard.	6 questions in 7 minutes
<b>Reading</b>	This section asks students to read passages and answer questions about main idea, supporting ideas, making inferences, organization/logic, vocabulary, and figurative language.	<b>Primary 2:</b> 18 questions in 20 minutes <b>Primary 3:</b> 24 questions in 28 minutes <b>Primary 4:</b> 28 questions in 30 minutes
<b>Mathematics</b>	This section tests math skills taught in all previous grades, such as number sense and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra, and data analysis and probability.	<b>Primary 2:</b> 24 questions in 26 minutes <b>Primary 3:</b> 24 questions in 26 minutes <b>Primary 4:</b> 28 questions in 30 minutes
<b>Writing Sample</b>	This section asks students' to write a short essay in response to an assigned writing prompt. This is intended to assess students' ability to organize and effectively communicate their ideas; however, it is not scored.	<b>Primary 2:</b> 1 picture prompt; untimed <b>Primary 3:</b> 1 picture prompt; untimed <b>Primary 4:</b> 1 written prompt; untimed
<b>Total Time</b>		<b>Primary 2:</b> 53 minutes + writing time <b>Primary 3 and Primary 4:</b> 60 minutes + writing time

\*The ISEE Primary tests are only available online.

## Lower, Middle, and Upper Levels

What sections are on the ISEE?	What skills are being assessed?	How long is this section?
<b>Verbal Reasoning</b>	This section consists of two parts: sentence completion and synonyms. These questions are meant to assess students' reasoning skills and vocabulary.	<b>Lower:</b> 34 questions in 20 minutes <b>Middle and Upper:</b> 40 questions in 20 minutes
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	This section assesses students' understanding of math to form opinions about how to solve math problem. These questions will ask students to evaluate/interpret data, apply measurements, and estimate numerical values.	<b>Lower:</b> 38 questions in 35 minutes <b>Middle and Upper:</b> 37 questions in 35 minutes
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	This section evaluates students' ability to read and understand topical passages. Questions will assess main idea, supporting ideas, inference, vocabulary, organization/logic, and figurative language.	<b>Lower:</b> 25 questions in 25 minutes <b>Middle and Upper:</b> 36 questions in 35 minutes
<b>Math</b>	This section assess students' skills in number operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, analysis and probability, and problem solving	<b>Lower:</b> 30 questions in 30 minutes <b>Middle and Upper:</b> 47 questions in 40 minutes
<b>Essay</b>	This section asks students' to write a short essay in response to an assigned writing prompt. This is intended to assess students' ability to organize and effectively communicate their ideas; however, it is not scored.	<b>All levels:</b> 30 minutes
<b>Total time</b>		<b>Lower:</b> 2 hours 20 minutes <b>Middle and Upper:</b> 2 hours 40 minutes

## How is the ISEE Scored?

ISEE scores are calculated by converting the raw score (the total number of questions answered correctly) to a scaled score which will range from 760-940. All questions on the ISEE are equal in value. That is, a difficult question and an easy question are worth the same amount of points. Because the score is calculated based on correct answers, there is no penalty for incorrect answers. This means that your student should always guess, if he or she is unsure of the answer! Stanine scores, a number which represents the percentile rank of the student's score, will also be reported. These scores range from 1-9, with nine being the highest.

