

# THE ISEB COMMON PRE-TESTS: A PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE

## WHAT ARE THE COMMON PRE-TESTS?

The ISEB Common Pre-Tests provide a set of four online entrance assessments that a wide range of senior schools accept, allowing pupils to sit the tests once and have their results shared with all of the senior schools they have applied to.

Senior schools are able to compare results from all of their applicants, no matter where or when they sat the tests, as they are 'common' to all pupils.

The results are standardised against a sample of pupils applying for independent school admission, giving consistency across each cohort of pupils.

## THE COMMON PRE-TESTS ARE:

ONLINE, ADAPTIVE MULTIPLE  
CHOICE TESTS

TAKEN IN YEARS  
6 OR 7

MADE UP OF FOUR TESTS IN: ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS,  
VERBAL REASONING, NON-VERBAL REASONING

DESIGNED TO GIVE  
INFORMATION ABOUT PUPIL  
ATTAINMENT AND POTENTIAL

PART OF EACH SENIOR  
SCHOOL'S UNIQUE  
ADMISSIONS PROCESS

## WHAT IS CHANGING IN 2022?

- **Parent/guardian registration:** Parents/guardians will register their children for the tests on the ISEB Guardian Portal.
- **Improved platform:** Accessibility features will be added to support children's experience of taking the tests.
- **Shorter test length:** Adaptivity will be improved for better well-being.
- **Increased support:** The ISEB website will offer support to parents/guardians and their children in the new [Families Hub](#).



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## THE ISEB TEST WALKTHROUGH

The tests will be delivered through a brand-new, user-friendly platform. The four tests will remain the same (English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning, Non-verbal Reasoning). Any preparation or practice children have already undertaken is still relevant.

The ISEB Test Walkthrough (replacing the Familiarisation Test) will be released in July 2022. It will allow children to navigate the platform, try out the accessibility features and see the styles of questions for each test.

## SEND IMPROVEMENTS

The new test platform is designed to be fully accessible to all pupils. Pupils will be able to select a coloured overlay to help improve the visibility of the questions, particularly for pupils who face visual discomfort and disturbance when reading. The font size can also be adjusted to suit the pupil. All the questions have been written to improve the experience for pupils, with less reliance on short-term working memory.

## WHY PARENT/GUARDIAN REGISTRATION?

Historically, senior schools registered pupils for the Common Pre-Tests. As the majority of pupils taking the tests apply to more than one senior school, this led to many pupils being registered multiple times.

The change to parent/guardian registration means that each child is only registered for the Common Pre-Tests once - greatly reducing administration for all involved and allowing schools to focus on supporting pupils and their families.

### Parent/guardian registration will:

- Improve visibility of the process
- Make it easier to schedule the tests
- Make it quicker to share results with senior schools.

## WHAT DO PARENTS/GUARDIANS NEED TO DO?

Registration on the ISEB Guardian Portal will open in September 2022.

### TIMELINE

- **NOW:** Visit the [Common Pre-Tests information for families web page](#) and sign up to the mailing list to be kept up to date.
- **JULY:** Explore the Common Pre-Tests Walkthrough on the ISEB website.
- **SEPTEMBER:** Register your child on the ISEB Guardian Portal.

If you have any questions, please email ISEB at [pretests@iseb.co.uk](mailto:pretests@iseb.co.uk).



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