

THE ISEB PRE-TESTS (11+) PREP PACK

USING CE 11+ PAST PAPERS AS PRE-TESTS PREP TOOLS



If your child is taking the ISEB Pre-Tests in the 2026-27 academic year, you might be thinking about how you can support their preparation at home. Our new ISEB Pre-Tests (11+) Prep Pack is a comprehensive preparation bundle, containing more than 65 high-quality materials and guidance resources prepared or curated by ISEB, the exam board behind the Pre-Tests.

The ISEB Pre-Tests (11+) Prep Pack includes 16 sets of Common Entrance (CE) 11+ past exam papers for English and mathematics.

WHY ARE COMMON ENTRANCE (CE) 11+ PAST PAPERS HELPFUL REVISION AND PREPARATION RESOURCES FOR PRE-TESTS?

This guide will help to break down the ways in which CE 11+ past papers make excellent preparation resources for the Pre-Tests, and how you can make the best use of them at home. In your prep pack, you will find:

- Eight CE 11+ English exam packs
- Eight CE 11+ Mathematics exam packs



What is Common Entrance (CE)?

Common Entrance (CE) is a paper-based assessment from ISEB used by many independent schools in the UK to evaluate pupils as part of wider admissions processes. CE is taken at two levels, CE 11+ exams are taken by pupils in Year 6, mainly for entrance into independent senior girls' schools, and CE 13+ exams are taken by pupils in Year 8.

CE 11+ exams include papers in three subjects: English, maths, and science. The exams are written, using printed papers, and are sat under timed conditions.

ISEB's CE 11+ English and maths exams assess similar skills as the Pre-Tests, and draw on the same content as taught in the National Curriculum. Using past CE 11+ past papers as part of Pre-Tests revision at home can complement and effectively support your child's preparation for all sections of the test, including English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. The papers also support the wider development of knowledge and skills that pupils will call upon throughout their ongoing learning journeys, through to GCSE and A Levels.



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HOW CAN CE 11+ PAST PAPERS SUPPORT EACH OF THE FOUR SECTIONS OF THE ISEB PRE-TESTS?

English and Verbal Reasoning (VR)

These two sections of the Pre-Tests require your child to demonstrate a good understanding of the following concepts:

- **Vocabulary:** Knowledge of word meaning, word families, prefixes and suffixes.
- **Punctuation:** Knowledge of how punctuation should be used.
- **Grammar:** Knowledge of what is grammatically correct, rather than complex terminology (pupils will be expected to be able to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions); clauses; formal and informal language; verb agreement; sentence structure. In most questions, pupils will be asked 'What is grammatically correct?' rather than having to recall the names of specific tenses.
- **Spelling:** Knowledge of spelling patterns and common exception words.
- **Reading comprehension:** Pupils will be presented with several short passages (between 300 – 500 words) each with a series of multiple-choice questions. These questions will cover skills such as inference, retrieval, explaining meaning, summarising and comparing.
- **Reason and logic skills:** Problem-solving techniques, trial and error and recognising suitable solutions.

How do the CE 11+ English past papers support the development of pupils' understanding of these concepts?

- **CE 11+ English Reading past papers** include an extract for your child to read, which will likely be from a text that your child won't recognise, set to the correct level for the Pre-Tests. This is great **reading comprehension practice** for the Pre-Tests, as it is important for your child to be able to understand and summarise an unfamiliar text.
- The **CE 11+ English Reading past papers** also ask questions about the extract, including language/word analysis, exploring/infering meaning, understanding character, summarising events and justifying opinions. These questions will help your child to practice a variety of **vocabulary, reading comprehension, and reasoning skills** required for the Pre-Tests.
- To gain full marks for each CE 11+ question, your child will need to include accurate spelling and grammar. This is great practice for the **spelling and grammar** sections of the Pre-Tests.
- Your child can check their work against the **CE 11+ English Reading mark scheme**, which provides detailed guidance on how each question is marked. Using the mark scheme can also help to **identify which areas they might need to improve on** ahead of the Pre-Tests.
- **CE 11+ English Writing past papers** provide a choice of five different writing prompts that pupils choose from in the exam, however, at home, your child can practice creating a piece of writing in response to all five prompts. This gives them a wide range of prompts they can practice their writing with at home, and you can review their pieces for **vocabulary, punctuation, grammar and spelling**, to determine the areas they could improve upon.



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Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR)

These two sections of the Pre-Tests require your child to demonstrate a good understanding of the following areas from the National Curriculum, up until the end of Year 5:

Mathematics:

- **Number and place value:** Understanding the value of each digit within a number based on its position.
- **Calculations:** Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- **Fractions, decimals and percentages.**
- **Geometry:** Knowledge of different shapes and their properties, and applying geometric concepts such as angles, perimeter, area, volume, symmetry and coordinates in problem solving.
- **Measurement:** Knowledge of how to measure and convert length, weight and volume using different units.
- **Statistics:** Ability to solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in a line graph, and to complete, read and interpret information in tables, including timetables.
- **Mathematical fluency:** Some questions will assess mathematical fluency in the form of arithmetic questions; others will require solving mathematical problems, possibly including more than one of the topics above.

Non-Verbal Reasoning:

- **Analysis of 2D figures and diagrams** to look for patterns, including similarities and differences, completing the diagram, and code matching.
- **Manipulation of 3D figures and diagrams** to visualise them in a different way.

How do the CE 11+ Mathematics past papers support the development of pupils' understanding of these areas?

- **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** include questions that assess similar content to the mathematics and NVR sections of the Pre-Tests, and use similar language. This enables your child to practice answering the kind of questions they will be asked in the Pre-Tests. Although the format of the questions is different, with the Pre-Tests including solely multi-choice questions, pupils will use the same skills and techniques to work out the answers.
- **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** follow a similar format to the Pre-Tests. As the Pre-Tests are adaptive tests, they start with easier questions and move into more challenging questions to establish each child's individual ability, while ensuring they do not ever feel overwhelmed. Similarly, **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** also start with easier questions and move into progressively more challenging questions which encourage deeper problem-solving and decoding skills. By practicing with **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** children can familiarise themselves with a similar test format to the Pre-Tests.



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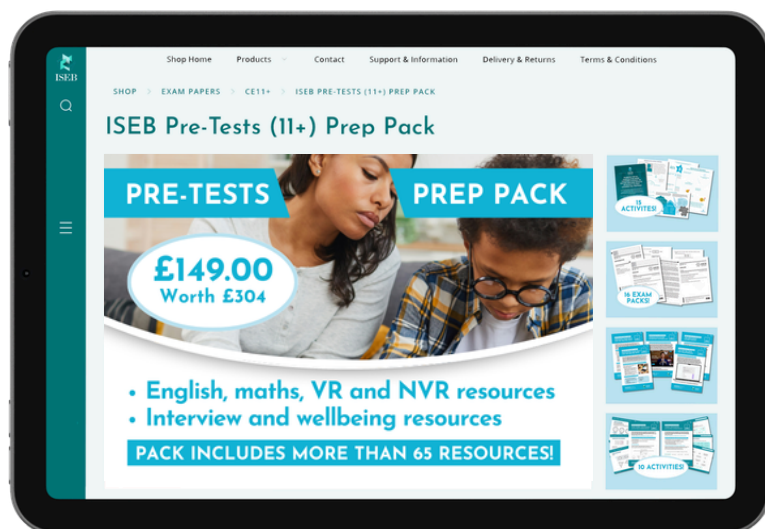
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Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR)

- **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** include questions on pattern recognition and code matching, which are excellent practice for the Non-Verbal Reasoning section of the Pre-Tests.
- **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** present a variety of question types that train pupils to effectively process information and work through steps to reach the solution. This process can be practised offline using **CE 11+ mathematics past papers** and then utilised during the Pre-Tests, where students can use the process of elimination to support their answers to multiple-choice questions.
- You can check your child's work against the **CE 11+ mathematics mark scheme**, which provides detailed guidance on how each question is marked. Using the mark scheme can also help to identify which areas they need to improve on ahead of the Pre-Tests.

ORDER YOUR ISEB PRE-TESTS (11+) PREP PACK

If you have not yet ordered your [ISEB Pre-Tests \(11+\) Prep Pack](#) you can do so via the [ISEB Online Shop for Families](#). You'll get 16 sets of CE 11+ past papers for English and mathematics, as well as a wide range of other support and preparation resources.



- English and Maths CE 11+ Past Papers (worth £194).
- Digital Verbal Reasoning & Non-Verbal Reasoning Resources.
- ISEB Parent Power Toolkit (worth £110.00).
- Admissions Interview Masterclass (by Oppidan Education)
- ISEB Pre-Test Guides

[Order your pack now](#)

FURTHER SUPPORT

We provide a hub of support resources, articles and FAQs and more on registration and preparation for the Pre-Tests on our [Pre-Tests Admissions Toolkit for Families](#). You can also access further information and direct support from ISEB through our [Pre-Tests Support Portal](#). Access over 100 articles or raise a ticket with our customer success team for bespoke support.



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