



## ISEE versus SSAT

*Note: The following comparisons are meant to provide basic information about the ISEE and SSAT. For more detailed information (e.g., stanine scoring on the ISEE, Primary Level ISEE testing), please visit the SSAT or ERB (ISEE) websites.*

### Test Offerings

|               | ISEE   | SSAT   |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Lower</b>  | Yes (current 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders)  | Yes (current 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> graders)   |
| <b>Middle</b> | Yes (current 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> graders)  | No   |
| <b>Upper</b>  | Yes (current 8 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> graders) | Yes (current 8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> graders) |

### Lower Level Content and Question Types

| Lower          | ISEE  | SSAT   |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Math</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic, basic Geometry, data analysis (graphs and charts) multiple choice questions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, data analysis (graphs and charts) multiple choice questions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Reading</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short passages w/multiple choice questions</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short passages w/multiple choice questions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Verbal</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary: multiple choice               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synonyms</li> <li>- Sentence Completions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary: multiple choice               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synonyms</li> <li>- Analogies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <b>Writing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay: Practical Plan or Solution (e.g., “If you could plan the perfect vacation, what would you do?”)</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay: Analysis of Idea (e.g., “Out with the old, in with the new.” Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Support your position with one or two specific examples.”).</li> </ul> |

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## Middle Level Content and Question Types: ISEE ONLY

| Middle         | ISEE  |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Math</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, data analysis (graphs and charts)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multiple choice</li> <li>- Quantitative comparisons</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Reading</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short passages</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Verbal</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary multiple choice:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synonyms</li> <li>- Sentence completions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <b>Writing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay: Practical Plan or Solution (e.g., “If you could change one thing about your school, what would you change and why”).</li> </ul>   |

## Upper Level Content and Question Types

| Upper          | ISEE  | SSAT   |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Math</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, data analysis (graphs and charts)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multiple choice</li> <li>- Quantitative comparisons</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, data analysis (graphs and charts) multiple choice questions</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Reading</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long passages w/multiple choice questions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long and short passages w/multiple choice questions</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Verbal</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary: multiple choice               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synonyms</li> <li>- Sentence completions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary: multiple choice               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synonyms</li> <li>- Analogies</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Writing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Essay Prompt</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Choice of Two Essays Prompts</li> </ul>   |

## Format Comparison: Lower Level ISEE and SSAT

|                         | ISEE  | SSAT  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Sections</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Verbal</li> <li>• 2 Math (Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement)</li> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Verbal</li> <li>• 2 Math (Quantitative)</li> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Time</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total: 2 hours, 20 minutes</li> <li>• Verbal: 20 minutes, 34 questions</li> <li>• Math: one 35-minute section (38 questions) and one 30 minute section (30 questions)</li> <li>• Reading: 25 minutes, 30 questions</li> <li>• Essay: 30 minutes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total: 2 hours, 35 minutes</li> <li>• Verbal: 30 minutes, 60 questions</li> <li>• Math: 30 minutes each, 25 questions each</li> <li>• Reading: 40 minutes, 40 questions</li> <li>• Essay: 25 minutes</li> </ul>      |
| <b>Order</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomly ordered sections</li> <li>• Essay always last</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomly ordered sections</li> <li>• Essay will come first or last</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Scoring</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw score converted to scaled score: 760-940 points</li> <li>• Percentile ranking</li> <li>• Essay not scored, but sent to schools of choice</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each section (Q/R/V): 440-710 points</li> <li>• Total: 1320-2130 points</li> <li>• Percentile ranking</li> <li>• Essay not scored, but sent schools of choice</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Answer Penalties</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No point deductions for incorrectly answered questions.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> point deducted from the raw score for every incorrectly answered question. Approximately 4 incorrectly answered questions results in a 10-point deduction from the scaled score.</li> </ul> |

## Format: Middle Level ISEE ONLY

|                         | ISEE  |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Sections</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Verbal</li><li>• 2 Math (Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement)</li><li>• 1 Reading</li><li>• Essay</li></ul>  |
| <b>Time</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total: 2 hours, 40 minutes</li><li>• Verbal: 20 minutes, 40 questions</li><li>• Math: one 35-minute section (37 questions) and one 40-minute section (47 questions)</li><li>• Reading: 35 minutes, 36 questions</li><li>• Essay: 30 minutes</li></ul> |
| <b>Order</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Randomly ordered sections</li><li>• Essay always last</li></ul>   |
| <b>Scoring</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raw score converted to scaled score: 760-940 points</li><li>• Percentile ranking</li><li>• Essay not scored, but sent to schools of choice</li></ul>  |
| <b>Answer Penalties</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No point deductions for incorrectly answered questions.</li></ul>   |

## Format Comparison: Upper Level ISEE and SSAT

|                         | ISEE  | SSAT  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Sections</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Verbal</li> <li>• 2 Math (Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement)</li> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Verbal</li> <li>• 2 Math (Quantitative)</li> <li>• 1 Reading</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Time</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total: 2 hours, 40 minutes</li> <li>• Verbal: 20 minutes, 40 questions</li> <li>• Math: one 35-minute section (37 questions) and one 40-minute section (47 questions)</li> <li>• Reading: 35 minutes, 36 questions</li> <li>• Essay: 30 minutes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total: 2 hours, 35 minutes</li> <li>• Verbal: 30 minutes, 60 questions</li> <li>• Math: 30 minutes each, 25 questions each</li> <li>• Reading: 40 minutes, 40 questions</li> <li>• Essay: 25 minutes</li> </ul>      |
| <b>Order</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomly ordered sections</li> <li>• Essay always last</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomly ordered sections</li> <li>• Essay will come first or last</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Scoring</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw score converted to scaled score: 760-940 points</li> <li>• Percentile ranking</li> <li>• Essay not scored, but sent to schools of choice</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each section (Q/R/V): 500-800 points</li> <li>• Total: 1500-2400 points</li> <li>• Percentile ranking</li> <li>• Essay not scored, but sent to schools of choice</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Answer Penalties</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No point deductions for incorrectly answered questions.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> point deducted from the raw score for every incorrectly answered question. Approximately 4 incorrectly answered questions results in a 10-point deduction from the scaled score.</li> </ul> |