7 Winning Strategies to beat the SSAT® and the ISEE®

Bell Curves
Get Ahead of the Curve!

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The ISEE® is a registered trademark of the Educational Records Bureau, which was not involved in the production of and does not endorse this product.
SSAT Registration

When is the SSAT offered? Tests are offered on 8 national test dates each year, from October to June. Schools and organizations can apply to administer the test on additional dates through Flex Test.

How often should I take the SSAT? You may take the exam as often as you like, but schools will be able to see all test scores, and some schools may have specific policies about how often you can take the exam. Check with the schools you are considering for more information.

How much is the test? The Elementary level SSAT costs $80. The SSAT Middle and Upper exams each cost $116.00. Fee waivers may be available for families who qualify. Contact the school to which you are applying for more details.

How is my score reported? When you register for the SSAT, you can select up to 10 schools to receive your scores. After you have completed the test, you can request additional reports online for free.

For more info: Visit www.ssat.org

ISEE Registration

When is the ISEE offered? There are no national test dates and scheduling is flexible. Test dates are scheduled by each testing center or regional consortium.

How often should I take the ISEE? The ISEE can be taken once every six months.

How much is the test? The cost is $98.00. Fee waivers may be available for families who qualify. Contact the school to which you are applying for more information.

How is my score reported? When you register, you must select at least one school to receive your scores, with a maximum of six. After you have completed the test, you can request additional reports online for $25 per testing date.

For more info: Visit erblearn.org

For more information call us at 877-223-3828 or visit our website at ssat.bellcurves.com and isee.bellcurves.com
The main factor in deciding which test to take is to determine which test is accepted by your schools of choice. Typically, boarding schools take the SSAT and day schools accept the ISEE, but some schools accept either. In that case, try taking a practice test of each type under timed conditions to determine which test works best for you.
Build your endurance with real practice!

Like an athlete, you will perform at your best only if you train and practice realistically. The SSAT and ISEE each consist of almost three hours of testing. Taking practice tests will build your endurance and stamina.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SSAT (Middle &amp; Upper)</th>
<th>ISEE (Middle &amp; Upper)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 1</strong></td>
<td>Quantitative 25 Questions 30 Minutes</td>
<td>Verbal Reasoning 40 Questions 20 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Section 2</strong></td>
<td>Reading Comp 40 Questions 40 Minutes</td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning 37 Questions 35 Minutes</td>
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<td><strong>Section 3</strong></td>
<td>Verbal 60 Questions 30 Minutes</td>
<td>Reading Comp 36 Questions 35 Minutes</td>
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<td><strong>Section 4</strong></td>
<td>Quantitative 25 Questions 30 Minutes</td>
<td>Math Achievement 47 Questions 40 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unscored Essay</strong></td>
<td>25 Minutes (typically administered first)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2 hours 35 minutes</td>
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The ISEE has 3 levels - Lower for current 4th and 5th graders, Middle for current 6th and 7th graders and Upper for 8th - 11th graders. The Lower test is 2 hours 20 minutes.

The SSAT has 3 levels - Elementary for current 3rd and 4th graders, Middle for current 5th, 6th, and 7th graders, and Upper for current 8th - 11th grades. The Elementary test was introduced in 2012 and is 1 hour 50 minutes.

For more information call us at 877-223-3828 or visit our website at ssat.bellcurves.com and isee.bellcurves.com
Work smarter, not harder...

Most students attempt to answer every question on the SSAT, but shouldn’t! To get a great score, you should focus on achieving the highest possible accuracy rather than finishing as quickly as possible.

SSAT Scoring

SSAT Scaled Scores (Upper Level)

You can increase your score by slowing down and focusing on the easy and medium questions and skipping the harder questions. Developing a solid pacing plan will increase your score!

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...by focusing on accuracy, not speed!

There is no guessing penalty on the ISEE, which means you should answer every question. But that doesn’t mean you have to spend time on every question. Since ISEE questions are not in a predictable order of difficulty, you should skip the hard questions and try them later. If you are running out of time, guess.

ISEE Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1</th>
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Question 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40

Correct: B, C, A, B, C, C, B, D, D, B, D, B, C, D, A, D, C, D, A

Student: ✓ ✓ ✓ B ✓ A ✓ C ✓ B ✓ ✓ D ✓ ✓ C B

Section 1 results: RAW SCORE: 14  Total Correct: 14  Total Wrong: 16  Total Skipped: 10

Sam Smith

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Section 1 results: RAW SCORE: 22  Total Correct: 22  Total Wrong: 18  Total Skipped: 0

Belle Curves

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Section 1 results: RAW SCORE: 14  Total Correct: 14  Total Wrong: 16  Total Skipped: 10

ISEE Scaled Scores

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<tr>
<th>Raw Score</th>
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When taking the ISEE, you can skip harder questions and come back to them once you’ve answered all the questions you know. If you still can’t do them or are running out of time, GUESS! With the ISEE, leave nothing blank.

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Estimate to simplify calculations!

SSAT and ISEE math questions often look more difficult than they are. Estimation and taking advantage of the multiple choice answers make the questions much easier.

1. Which of the following is equal to \( \frac{3}{8} \) of 32?
   (A) 4
   (B) 8
   (C) 12
   (D) 38
   (E) 96

2. Mr. Chan purchased 841 square yards of cloth at a cost of $14,297 to make dresses. How much did Mr. Chan spend per square yard of cloth?
   (A) $21.25
   (B) $17.00
   (C) $8.25
   (D) $5.00
   (E) $2.75

3. If the monthly office budget is $30,000, what is the amount spent each month on rent?
   (A) $3,100
   (B) $4,200
   (C) $6,300
   (D) $6,600
   (E) $9,800

Eliminating even one answer choice puts the odds in your favor and can increase your score.
Answer questions in your own words first!

Ignore the choices at first so you don’t get distracted and fall into traps.

4. Because the evidence against the criminal was so insufficient, the presiding judge was not ------- by it.

   (A) convinced  
   (B) surprised  
   (C) aggravated  
   (D) entertained

6. To adequately portray the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.’s fight for civil rights in a short presentation, Susan had to ------- the most ------- achievements in his life.

   (A) repudiate . . trite  
   (B) compare . . profound  
   (C) trivialize . . notable  
   (D) emphasize . . significant

5. Hardly -------, the company’s new product shares many design elements with previous models.

   (A) detrimental  
   (B) anachronistic  
   (C) innovative  
   (D) banal

Learning vocabulary words will help your performance in sentence completions, analogies, synonyms, and passage-based reading.
Make a sentence!

Know what you are looking for before you try to find it. A sentence will allow you to express the relationship between the words.

7. Mountain is to peak as
   (A) hair is to head
   (B) house is to roof
   (C) moon is to sun
   (D) ice is to pole
   (E) water is to fountain

8. Thin is to gaunt as
   (A) portly is to obese
   (B) skeletal is to bones
   (C) dowdy is to handsome
   (D) restive is to fatigued
   (E) awkward is to angular

9. Librarian is to library as
   (A) patron is to studio
   (B) aficionado is to gallery
   (C) advocate is to workshop
   (D) curator is to museum
   (E) haberdasher is to stable

Analogies on the SSAT usually contain a few common relationships that can be expected on every test. Some typical sentences are: [word 1] is a big/small [word 2], [word 1] is used for [word 2], and [word 1] is the lack of [word 2].