

USApplicants

Should my student take the ISEE or the SSAT?

First, consider school requirements.

The American School in London requires the ISEE. Many schools in New York City will accept either, some boarding schools prefer the SSAT, and some schools indicate that they will only accept one or the other.

If students are in a position to choose which test to take, here are the factors to consider:

	ISEE	SSAT
Wrong answer penalty?	No wrong answer-penalty	¼ point penalty for each wrong answer
Multiple-choice answers	4 answer choices per question	5 answer choices per question
Verbal Reasoning	Synonyms and sentence completion	Synonyms and analogies. VR section has twice as many questions as the ISEE (60 questions!). Although the same time per question is allotted, it requires more testing endurance.
Math and Quantitative Reasoning	Covers more skills. Tends to favor a sharper math student.	Doesn't have the same breadth of questions. Tends to be easier than the ISEE.
Reading Comprehension		Contains twice as many reading comprehension questions as the ISEE. Again, same time allotment per question, but requires testing endurance.
Testing logistics	Can only take the test as part of a formal application to a school, and can only be taken once every 4 months	Can be taken multiple times. Does not have to be part of a formal application.
Materials	ERB, the ISEE testing company, has published one practice test at each level. They can be found online, or a bound version can be ordered from ERB.	SSAT has two tests at each level available for practice. Tests are not available online; bound copies must be ordered from SSAT.
Writing sample	30 minutes for an essay	25 minutes for a choice of 2

Call us at 0203 794 1948 to discuss how we can best prepare your child for the SSAT or ISEE.

		prompts: 1 is an essay topic and 1 is a “story”
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