



STAHS ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Independent Schools Examination Board (ISEB) Common Pre-Tests

STAHS is among a number of leading independent schools using the ISEB Common Pre-Tests to assess applicants. The assessment is produced by GL Assessment and is a secure and unbiased measure of each pupil's attainment, ability and potential.

The tests are taken on a computer, take 2.5 hours in total, and are adaptive. This means that they will be individual to each pupil, with the tests adapting to ensure that the questions are appropriate to each pupil's relative ability. This ensures that everyone taking the tests has a positive experience.

There are four separate tests:

- Mathematics
- English
- Verbal Reasoning
- Non-Verbal Reasoning.

The Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning tests are designed to test pupils' ability and potential, and the English and Mathematics tests are designed to test attainment.

Verbal reasoning tests common words, antonyms, word combinations, letter transfer and number codes. Non-verbal reasoning tests shape analogies, classification of items and horizontal codes. The English tests cover reading comprehension, sentence completion, spelling and punctuation. Maths tests are based on the National Curriculum up to the end of Year 5.

The questions are all multiple choice. During the tests, pupils will have practice questions that explain how they work before they have to complete the real questions. The final scores are standardised compared with the whole cohort taking the tests, and are adjusted to take into account the age of each pupil.

More information, including an extensive FAQs, can be found on the ISEB website in the [Parents' section for the Common Pre-Tests](#).

ISEB Familiarisation Test

There is no special preparation required for these tests. Pupils will complete practice questions during the tests themselves, but they will undoubtedly find it valuable to feel comfortable with the look and feel of the tests before they take them.

The ISEB Familiarisation Test gives pupils the opportunity to explore each of the four tests and better understand how they will look on the day, and can be found [here](#).

Other Adaptive Tests

You may be aware that there are a range of practice adaptive tests available online. These do not exactly replicate the experience of the ISEB tests but will provide some familiarisation with the question style. Being familiar with the nature of the questions in the assessments can be of some value.

The following resources could be of use:

- [Atom Learning](#)
- [Planet Bofa](#)
- [Keystone Tests](#)

There are a number of books and resources for verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests. A summary of some of these can be seen on the [Bright Lights Education website](#).

We are sharing information on these resources as you may find them useful, however STAHS does not endorse any practice test providers.