

Common Entrance Exam Papers

A Beginner's Guide

GALORE
PARK 

ISEB Independent Schools
Examinations Board

With dozens of past Common Entrance examination papers to choose from, finding the right papers for your child to revise with may seem a little daunting. We have therefore created this short 'Beginner's Guide' to ISEB Common Entrance exam papers.

General Information

- Common Entrance examination papers are written by the Independent Schools Examination Board (ISEB). Galore Park is the sole distributor of ISEB exam papers
- A lot of independent schools in the UK use ISEB Common Entrance exams as part of their entry assessment process. However, some schools choose to write their own entrance exams instead. Whichever exam your child will be sitting, using past Common Entrance papers is still the best way to prepare, as many individual school entrance exams are similar to Common Entrance
- Common Entrance exams are sat at different times of the school year. The exams are not harder or easier depending on when they are sat; simply, the questions are different:
 - Autumn: November (11+ and 13+)
 - Spring: January/February (11+, 13+ and 13+ CASE)
 - Summer: May/June (13+ and 13+ CASE)
- CASE stands for Common Academic Scholarship Examination. It is taken by pupils aged 12 or 13 instead of the 13+ Common Entrance exam, and is set at a higher level

Important Purchasing Information

Exam Paper Packs include papers, transcripts and mark schemes

Audio (CD) include Audio CDs only and do not include exam papers, mark schemes or transcripts

- **Audio CDs are not included in the exam packs and must be purchased separately.** Some subjects, such as Maths and languages, have a 'Listening' section as part of the examination, which requires pupils to listen to a recording and answer questions. A transcript of this recording will be supplied with the test paper, so that you can read the questions out to your child for them to answer. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the Audio CD separately

Levels

Some of the 13+ Common Entrance papers have been levelled. Most pupils sit Level 2, the standard level.

- Level 1 - for candidates who are unlikely to achieve more than 40% on the Level 2 paper
- Level 2 - the standard level - most candidates will be entered for this paper
- Level 3 - the highest level - this is the hardest of the 13+ Common Entrance papers

If you do not know which level your son or daughter is expected to be entered for, please contact his or her current school. The decision as to which level a pupil is entered for is generally negotiated between the current school and the senior school to which the child is applying.

Please note that the 11+ Common Entrance and 13+ CASE exams (Common Academic Scholarship Examination) are not levelled.

ISEB Common Entrance at 13+ overview

Take a look at the table below for more information about the 13+ exams, levelling and when the papers were last revised.

Subject	Levels	Number of exams	Overview	Time	When the syllabus was last revised
13+ English	2	2 papers per level	Paper 1: Reading (literary prose) and writing (prose for a practical purpose) Paper 2: Reading (poetry) and writing (imaginative, descriptive or narrative)	Each 75 minutes	Revised January 2012 for first examination in Autumn 2013.
13+ Mathematics	3	2 papers per level	Paper: Non-calculator Paper: Calculator	60 minutes 60 minutes	Revised Summer 2014 and reviewed Autumn 2014 for first examination in Autumn 2016
		All candidates	Paper: Mental arithmetic	30 minutes	
13+ Science	2	Level 1: 1 Level 2: 3	Biology, chemistry and physics Paper: biology Paper: chemistry Paper: physics	60 minutes Each 40 minutes	Revised Spring 2010 for first examination in Autumn 2011; Scholarship updated Summer 2013. Revised spring 2015 for first at 13+ in autumn 2017
13+ History	1	1	Evidence and essay questions	60 minutes	Revised Summer 2012 for first examination in Autumn 2013)
13+ Geography	1	1 paper and coursework	Location knowledge, ordnance survey mapwork and thematic studies. Individual fieldwork enquiry to be submitted in addition	60 minutes	Revised December 2013 for first examination in Autumn 2015
13+ Religious Studies	1	1 paper and optional coursework	<i>Two syllabuses available for Religious Studies (chosen by school)</i> Syllabus A paper: Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions and Contemporary Issues	60 minutes Or 40 minutes if coursework option completed	Syllabus A: Revised Summer 2010 for first examination in November 2011; updated Summer 2013 Syllabus B: Revised Summer 2014 for first

			Syllabus B paper :Old Covenant, Jesus Chist and the Sacraments, and the Church		examination in Autumn 2015
13+ French	2	2 papers and 1 speaking test per level	Paper: Reading and writing Paper: Listening Paper: Speaking	60 minutes 25 minutes 6 minutes	Level 1 Scheme of Assessment revised for first examination in Autumn 2015
13+ Classical Greek	2	1 paper per level	Comprehension, translation, syntax and non-linguistic studies	60 minutes	Revised September 2015 for first examination Autumn 2015
13+ Latin	3	1 paper per level	Comprehension, translation, syntax and non-linguistic studies	60 minutes	Revised September 2015 for first examination Autumn 2015
13+ Spanish	2	2 papers and 1 speaking test per level	Paper: Reading and writing Paper: Listening Paper: Speaking	60 minutes 25 minutes 6 minutes	Level 1 Scheme of Assessment revised for first examination in Autumn 2015
13+ German	1	2 papers and 1 speaking test per level	Paper: Reading and writing Paper: Listening Paper: Speaking	60 minutes 25 minutes 6 minutes	Revised Summer 2012; updated Summer 2013

We hope that the above information has been helpful. If, however, you are still struggling to understand which papers you should buy for your son or daughter, please pick up the phone and contact our Customer Service Advisors on 020 3122 6405.