

# excel test prep

## ISEE Prep Course

for K-12 admissions

"Excel Test Prep improved my ISEE score, and they have flexible schedules. The tutors teach you strategies and tips that are convenient and useful."

DIANA PHAM, ISEE Student



The ISEE is a standardized test used by private schools as part of their admissions requirements. The ISEE has 3 levels - lower level, mid level, and upper level - to measure the knowledge and skills of students between 5th-12th grades.

**An Excel Test prep course is the best way to prepare for the ISEE.**

**We offer a variety of formats, so there is a course to suit the needs and schedule of every student.**

### Course Options

#### Step 1: Choose From 1 of 4 Course Formats

All course options cover the same material!

#### Step 2: Determine a Schedule That Works For You

Visit [www.exceltest.com](http://www.exceltest.com) for classroom course schedules or call the office for custom schedules.

|                             | ① Full Length Classroom Course  | ② Online Course  | ③ 1-on-1 Course  | ④ Custom Classroom Course                                |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Format                      | 12 sessions of 3-4 hours each: 36 hours of total class time   |  |  |  |
|                             | 2 to 3 classes per week for 4-5 weeks OR<br>6 classes per week for 2 weeks  | Take the classes at your own pace over 120 days.   | You pick the schedule and location.  | You pick the schedule and location.                      |
| How Will I Get Instruction? | Learn in a classroom setting with an instructor.  | Learn whenever and wherever through unlimited access to high definition online video lessons.  | Learn with a private tutor at your house.                                      | Learn with an instructor at the location of your choice. |
| Pricing                     | \$749: early registration<br>\$699: with 10 person group discount   | \$699  | \$2,499: Excel Test Main Office<br>\$3,499: Student's home in Bay area         | Call for Pricing   |
| Additional Notes            | Eligible for Group Discounts:<br>3-4 people: \$25 off each<br>5-9 people: \$50 off each<br>10+ people: \$100 off each | Comes with full support and all the course materials that are included with classroom courses. | Can be done in small groups. 50% off for each student after the first student. | Requires 20 students                                     |

**There are 3 separate courses for the ISEE Lower Level, Mid Level, and Upper Level Exams; however, the structure and options for each are the same.**

#### Included in course fees for all San Francisco Bay Area based students:

- 12 classes of 3-4 hours each
- 6 full length ISEE Exams

#### All course fees include:

- Coverage of all the topics that appear on the ISEE, including a complete Writing Strategy
- Excel Test Course Manual & books (with overnight shipping for online students)
- Computerized feedback & analysis on ISEE tests

#### 1-on-1 Tutoring:

- 1-on-1 Tutoring is available for all ISEE subjects. Highly qualified tutors can work with you from 10 am - 9 pm seven days a week. Tutoring offers effective, 1-on-1, customized instruction. Tutoring is available in 3 formats – in person in your home (\$129 per hour), or telephonically (combination of phone and internet for \$129 per hour). Purchase 10 hours of tutoring and receive a 10% discount.

#### Half Course: Single Subject 1-on-1 Preparation:

Students can sign up for a 1-on-1 course for just one ISEE Subject. Math or Verbal/Writing only: \$2,099 (students home). These options include 10 hours of structured tutoring, 2 full length practice exams, and all course materials.

**Visit our website for course schedules and details.**

### Sample ISEE Course Schedule

- Class 1: **ISEE Exam #1**
- Class 2: Sentence Completion & Synonyms
- Class 3: Geometry
- Class 4: **ISEE Exam # 2**
- Class 5: Writing
- Class 6: Word Problems
- Class 7: **ISEE Exam #3**
- Class 8: Reading Comprehension
- Class 9: Advanced Math
- Class 10: **ISEE Exam #4**
- Class 11: Verbal Workshop
- Class 12: Math Workshop

\*ISEE is a registered trademark of the Educational Records Bureau (ERB).

[www.exceltest.com](http://www.exceltest.com) • (510) 490-7000

## Top 9 Reasons To Choose Excel Test Prep

1. We have produced a record number of perfect scorers.
2. Highly qualified, dynamic teachers keep you engaged while teaching unique strategies.
3. Our score improvement guarantee is the best around!
4. Our materials are based off real exams, not simulated questions.
5. You can learn your way - live, online, or with a 1-on-1 instructor.
6. Our teachers frequently take the SAT to stay current on any changes.
7. You can take the class with your friends and receive a group discount.
8. It's plain and simple - our classes are fun and we give out prizes to keep students excited.
9. We have served California for years and are one of the fastest growing test preparation companies in the nation.

The Excel Test ISEE Lower Level course is one of the **only full-length preparation course** for the ISEE Lower Level exam **in the country** and the ISEE Mid Level and Upper Level courses are considered one of the **best nationwide**.

## Course Benefits

**COMPUTERIZED FEEDBACK!** Excel Test provides computerized grading and feedback after each in-class ISEE exam. This will give you information about the various areas you need to focus on to improve your score.

**ADDITIONAL HELP!** Extra help is always available before and after each class. One-on-one tutoring is also available for a fee during and after the course.

### GROUP DISCOUNTS!\*

|            | Classroom Course           |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 3-4 people | \$25 discount each person  |
| 5-9 people | \$50 discount each person  |
| 10+ people | \$100 discount each person |

### DYNAMIC TEACHING, SUPERIOR MATERIAL!

Our courses are typically taught by three or four instructors, each an expert in his or her subject area. Our material is entirely researched and developed by the Excel Test staff and up-to-date with the latest ISEE exam changes.

The quality of any course is truly dependent on the material and the instructor involved. Most tutoring services and independent tutors offer general tutoring assistance but do not have any proprietary materials related to the ISEE nor do they really focus on strategies for test taking. Our program has all of these components incorporated as well as highly qualified instructors.

Visit [www.exceltest.com](http://www.exceltest.com) for course schedules and details.

\*Our website has complete details, eligibility requirements, and conditions.

# Excel Test 9 facts

**About:** The ISEE (Independent School Entrance Exam) is a standardized test used by private schools as part of their admissions requirements. The ISEE has 3 levels - lower level, mid level, and upper level - to measure the knowledge and skills of students between 5th-12th grades.

**Governing Body:** ERB (Education Records Bureau)

**Official Website:** [www.erbtest.org](http://www.erbtest.org) / [www.erblearn.org](http://www.erblearn.org) / [www.iseetest.org](http://www.iseetest.org)

**Test Levels:** The ISEE is divided into 3 levels based on the grade the student plans on entering.

- Lower Level – Candidates for 5-6 grades
- Mid Level – Candidates for 7-8 grades
- Upper Level – Candidates for 9-12 grades

**Test Length:** Lower Level: 2 hours, 20 minutes

Mid Level/Upper Level: 2 hours, 40 minutes

"Excel Test Prep was the best class I have ever taken. The instructors were hilarious and great teachers."

Nick L., ISEE Student

**Test Subjects & Format:** The exam covers five subject areas: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics Achievement, and Writing.

| Part 1   | Lower Level (2 hrs, 20 min)   | Mid Level/Upper Level (2hrs, 40 min) |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| (V) Verbal Reasoning   | 34 questions: 20 min  | 40 questions: 20 min                 |
|  | vocabulary, sentence completion   |                                      |
| (Q) Quantitative Reasoning   | 38 questions: 35 min  | 37 questions: 35 min                 |
|  | word problems, number manipulation, and patterns/sequences covering arithmetic, algebra, geometry         |                                      |
| Part 2   |   |                                      |
| (R) Reading Comprehension  | 25 questions: 25 min  | 36 questions: 35 min                 |
|  | reading comprehension passages: central meaning (vocabulary not tested)                                   |                                      |
| (M) Mathematics Achievement  | 30 questions: 30 min  | 47 questions: 40 min                 |
|  | problem solving, mathematical concepts, and word problems covering arithmetic, basic algebra and geometry |                                      |
| Part 3   |   |                                      |
| Essay  | 30 min  | 30 min                               |
| <i>Note: The essay is not scored. Though the essay does not count towards the overall scores, it is sent to the schools as a writing sample, and many schools do evaluate it as a part of admissions criteria.</i> |   |                                      |

**Grading:** Grading for the ISEE is measured by several numbers: the scaled score, percentile rank, and stanine. A student gets a separate score for each section rather than one overall composite score.

Raw Score:

A raw score is generated based on the number of correct answers (no penalty for wrong answers).

Scaled Score:

The scaled score is derived from the raw score. Scaled scores range from 760-940 (for each section).

Percentile Rank:

To determine the percentile rank, the scaled score is compared to a 3 year rolling normal pool of applicants in the same grade.

This is NOT a national norm but a comparison of all students who took ISEE (a competitive candidate pool).

Stanine:

The percentile rank is abbreviated into the stanine, a number 1-9. For example, a student in the 96th - 99th percentile receives a stanine of 9 while a student with a percentile rank between the 40th and 59th percentile receives a stanine of 5.

When reviewing students' ISEE scores, schools focus on the stanine. A student will get 4 stanines - one for each of the 4 main sections.

**Test Dates:** School generally offer the ISEE between November and May. You can take the ISEE as late as February of the school year prior to admissions. The test is typically taken at the school the student is applying to, so each school sets its own test date.

**Registration:** Register online at [www.iseetest.org](http://www.iseetest.org). The paper registration form can be found in the center of the student guide between pages 26 and 27 inside the envelope. Contact [iseeremote@erbtest.org](mailto:iseeremote@erbtest.org) to have a Student Guide mailed to you. You can also call 1-800-446-0320 or fax the registration form from the ISEE Student Guide to 919-682-5775.

**Test Locations:** Since individual schools administer the ISEE, the testing location is usually at the school the student is applying to.

**Test Fees:** Fees vary by registration method. Please check the website for more details.

**Factors that Play into K-12 Admissions:** Grades, ISEE scores, OLSAT scores, teacher recommendations, interviews and other factors play important roles in admissions, as well. The interview is more important than some students might think. Prepare by coming up with answers to common questions that may be asked; even if there is no wrong answer, responses that demonstrate maturity tend to be better.

"I enjoyed Excel Test Prep because the teachers were energetic and eager. The materials provided were very useful and I improved a lot. I would definitely recommend this course."

JULIA J., ISEE Student

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"Excel Test Prep was the ultimate learning experience; it combined learning with fun, which helped me learn more and improve my ISEE score tremendously."

CHERYL THOMAS, ISEE Student

## FAQs

**Who creates the ISEE?** The ISEE was developed for the Educational Records Bureau by the Educational Testing Service. The test was constructed in accordance with the guidelines provided by a national committee of independent school admissions directors and faculty.

### How do I know which level to take?

The Lower Level exam is for students currently in grades 4-5 who are candidates for admission into grades 5-6.

The Mid Level exam is for students currently in grades 6-7 who are candidates for admission into grades 7-8.

The Upper Level exam is for students currently in grades 8-11 who are candidates for admission into grades 9-12.

**How long does it take to get my scores back?** You will receive your scores within two weeks after your test date. Your Individual Student Report (ISR) and a copy of your essay are usually released to your chosen schools 7 - 10 days after your test date.

**How many times can I take the Upper Level ISEE?** You may only take the ISEE once in a six-month period. Additionally, you may not take an official exam for practice - you must make a formal application to a school for each administration of the test.

**When should I start preparing for the ISEE?** It is always best to start preparing as early as possible; this allows more time to achieve score goals.

**What is a good score on the ISEE?** There is not a "passing" score for the ISEE. A good score is one that will get you into the school you want to attend. It is important to know what the average admissible score is for the schools to which you are applying. Consider contacting the schools you are interested in for admissions statistics.

For many private schools, stanines in the 4 to 5 range are considered good scores. Students in the 5 to 6 range are excellent and quite competitive, and students scoring in the 7 to 9 are in a very high achieving, elite group.

Research what your school expects from your ISEE score. The following are a few reference websites for private schools with contact information so you can find out the average score of students accepted.

- [www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)
- [www.boardingschoolreview.com](http://www.boardingschoolreview.com)
- [www.allprivateschools.org](http://www.allprivateschools.org)

**A stanine of 5 represents the 40th to 59th percentile. How is that considered excellent?** A 50% on your English test might be a bad thing, but you can't compare ISEE stanines to school grades. Remember that the candidates taking the ISEE are part of an elite, competitive pool. These students do not represent the average American student; rather a 5 represents a score in the 40th to 59th percentile for high achieving students. Students scoring a 5 are likely in the top 10% of their grade level nationwide.

**Will my scores be compared against all Upper/Mid/Lower Level ISEE test takers or just students in my grade?** For all three levels of the ISEE, students will only be scored against other applicants in their grade. This means that although an 8th grader and an 11th grader will be taking the same Upper Level ISEE, the 8th grader will only be competing against other 8th graders.

**Are there certain grades when I'm more likely to be accepted?** Private schools generally have more openings at "natural entrance points" like 6th or 9th grades. Applying for schools at these points may increase your chances of acceptance, as they have more spaces available.

### Corporate Office

4160 Technology Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94538

### Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 9:30am - 6:30pm  
Sat: 9:30am - 2:30pm

### Contact

(510) 490-7000  
(800) 913-PREP

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[info@exceltest.com](mailto:info@exceltest.com)  
[www.exceltest.com](http://www.exceltest.com)

### About Us

Excel Test offers professional test preparation services. Thousands of students have taken Excel Test courses since 2003 for a variety of exams, including the GMAT, GRE, SAT, PSAT, SAT II, ACT, AP, ISEE, and the EIT & PE Professional Engineering Exams.

