

# TORMEAD

## Further Information

### What are the ISEB Examinations?

The ISEB Common Pre-Tests are a well-respected, widely used, age-standardised assessment for pupils applying for selective independent senior schools. They assess potential and aptitude as well as attainment on National Curriculum topics taught up to the end of Year 5. The tests are mainly multiple choice and comprise of four sections: English, Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

The ISEB Common Pre-Test is specifically designed to be sat by multiple students taking the assessments at different times and in different locations. The questions are adaptive; in other words, correctly answered questions will lead to more challenging questions. As a result, each individual student will receive their own individual assessment.

### What is the Assessment?

The tests take approximately 2½ hours to complete: English (25 minutes), Mathematics (50 minutes), Verbal Reasoning (36 minutes), Non-Verbal Reasoning (32 minutes). For those sitting these at Tormead, they will be sat in one sitting with short breaks between each paper.

**English:** Question styles include reading comprehension, sentence completion, spelling and punctuation.

**Mathematics:** Content is in line with the National Curriculum; candidates are assessed on National Curriculum topics taught up to the end of Year 5.

**Verbal Reasoning:** Question styles include common words, antonyms, word combinations, letter transfer, number codes.

**Non-Verbal Reasoning:** Question styles include shape analogies, classes/categories (similar and dissimilar), horizontal codes.

Examples and practice questions, where relevant, are provided during the tests so that candidates understand what they have to do. Each question is answered by choosing an answer from a selection shown on the screen. Each question must be answered and candidates cannot go back to previous questions. While taking the tests, candidates are able to track their progress within the test (number of questions answered in relation to overall number of questions).

### What materials will be available to my child during the test?

Textbooks, calculators, mobile devices and other material which might assist a candidate will not be accessible during the Common Pre-Tests.

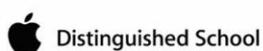
The use of pen/pencil is not permitted in the Non-Verbal Reasoning or English test. However, candidates should have access to pen/pencil and paper for their rough work during the Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests.

### How should I prepare my child?

Absolutely no special preparation is required for these tests which are designed to identify potential as well as attainment. Practice tests are not available although there is an online familiarisation test available on the ISEB website so that candidates can see the type and format of questions that may be asked: : <https://secure.testingforschools.com/player-demo-iseb/#/>

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**Will extra time be available?**

11+ Candidates usually sit the timed version of the ISEB Common Pre-Test. However, there is an un-timed version of the test which is available to candidates with a current Educational Psychologist's report and who would usually be given extra time during examinations. Please ensure a copy of the Educational Psychologist's report is provided to the Registrar, Mrs Melanie Hobdey, as soon as possible so that it can be reviewed by our Head of Learning Support, Mrs Yvette Hughes. Mrs Hughes will be happy to endorse candidates sitting the un-timed version of the test as required since we are keen to ensure that all candidates have the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability in the assessments.

**How do I register my child?**

Tormead will register all candidates with the ISEB to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Tests.

**Where are the tests taken?**

The tests are taken online. Each pupil only takes the test once and this information is then shared with each school using these tests to which she is applying.

Primary School candidates: the online test is sat in one of the candidate's intended senior schools who are running these tests. With Covid restrictions in place, the closest option geographically is strongly recommended.

Independent School candidates: the online test is sat in the candidate's own school. For those girls who are unable to sit the pre-test in their current schools, we are offering two dates when the tests can be taken at Tormead. This will be done fully in line with health and safety as well as government guidelines.

**When are the tests taken?**

ISEB Pre-Tests can be sat at Tormead on Saturday 28 November and we will be hosting two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the morning. A further afternoon session will also be held on Friday 11 December. This is a back-up session for those unable to attend on the 28 November due to either illness or the need to quarantine.

Candidates sitting at their own schools can sit their tests for Tormead from 23 November up to and including Saturday 11 December 2020. It should be noted that the ISEB Common Pre-Tests may only be sat once in any academic year and results will be shared between schools.

An Examination Reply Slip will be sent to all registered candidates as part of their examination pack in which they will be able to inform us whether their daughter will sit the test at her own school or if she will need to sit the test at Tormead. This form must be returned to Tormead by Friday 6 November at the very latest.

**What will happen after the assessment?**

We understand that this year girls have experienced considerable disruption to their education and so we will be looking at the results of the ISEB Common Pre-Tests alongside the references and school reports provided by a girl's current school before deciding on offers of places. Additionally, this year we will be inviting girls to join us for an interview in early January. We feel this will enable us to get to know the girls and the way that they express themselves. Further details about the timing of these interviews will be sent to candidates in December.

**When will offers be made?**

We understand waiting for results is an anxious time and we will let families know the outcome of the Tormead 11+ Entrance Examination as soon as possible after completing the interviews and scholarship assessments. Our aim is to send out offer decision letters on Friday 22 January. Girls who have been placed on the Waiting List or who have not been offered a place will be notified at the same time as those girls who have been offered a place for entry in September 2021.

## Overview of Key Dates

| 2020                 |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Saturday 31 October  | 11+ Registration Deadline   |
| Friday 6 November    | Deadline for returning Examination Reply Slips specifying where candidates will sit their assessments.  |
| Monday 23 November   | First date upon which candidates for Tormead could sit the ISEB Common Pre-Tests at their current school. (They could sit for other schools prior to this date and their result would then be shared with Tormead). |
| Saturday 28 November | Assessment Day 1 for those who wish to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Tests at Tormead<br>Two sessions will be held; one in the morning and one in the afternoon.  |
| Friday 11 December   | Assessment Day 2 for those who wish to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Tests at Tormead.<br>One afternoon session will be held.   |
| Friday 11 December   | Strict deadline by which the online ISEB Common Pre-Tests must have been sat by applicants to the Tormead 2021.   |
| 2021                 |   |
| January              | Interviews (dates to be confirmed).   |
| Saturday 9 January   | Scholarship Assessment Day for candidates who have been shortlisted for the Art, Music & Sports Scholarships.   |
| Friday 22 January    | Offer decision letters posted.  |

## Useful Links

Further information about the online ISEB Common Pre-Tests:  
<https://www.iseb.co.uk/Parents/What-are-the-Common-Pre-Tests>