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Hi everyone, Alexis here, Prepped and Polished. Now, if you're applying to boarding or private school, you're going to have to take the SSAT, ISEE test or both. Now, what are the differences between the two tests?

The ISEE test has sentence completion questions. The SSAT test has analogies. The ISEE test first math section has quantitative comparison math questions, middle and upper level ISEE test only. The ISEE test has no guessing penalty and four answer choices.

The SSAT test has a guessing penalty - one quarter point deduction for questions answered incorrectly and five answer choices to choose from.

Now overall, the ISEE test is a little easier, more straightforward than the SSAT test. After all, there's no guessing penalty. However, the second math section of the ISEE test has 45 questions. You have 40 minutes to do them. That's one minute per question - less than one minute per question and that throws kids off, so be careful with the pacing there. I recommend the ISEE test for students who aren't good test takers because there's no guessing penalty.

However, lately, I find that the SSAT test is a more coachable test because analogy questions are easy to master. Now the ISEE lower level test is for students currently in fourth and fifth grade. The ISEE middle level test is for students currently in sixth and seventh. The ISEE upper level test is for students in eighth through eleventh grade.

The SSAT lower level test is for fifth through seventh graders. The SSAT upper level test is for eighth through eleventh graders. Now overall, find a private tutor who will teach you strategies and pacing for all components of the test.

If you walk into the test knowing exactly what to expect, you'll be that much more confident, no matter what test you choose. Now I'm attaching a link to this that elaborates on these tips.

Good luck to you, and I'll talk to you soon.