



PRE-TEST PREPARATION FOR BOYS IN YEARS 4, 5 & 6

Boys sit four tests in the November of Year 6; each is online and multiple-choice in format.

1. Verbal Reasoning (25 minutes)
2. Non-Verbal Reasoning (30 minutes)
3. English (40 minutes)
4. Maths (40 minutes)

The two platforms that we recommend boys practice on are [Atom Learning](#) and [Century Tech](#). All boys have logins for both platforms. If your son doesn't have his, contact Michelle Moyles straight away.

Email mmoyles@choirschool.com

How much Pre-Test-*specific* preparation is done in class time at School each week?

Year Group	VR	NVR	English	Maths
Year 4	30 mins	30mins	15 mins	15 mins
Year 5	30 mins	30 mins	15 mins	15 mins
Year 6	30 mins	30 mins	15 mins	15 mins

How much extra practice should boys do at home each week?

Year Group	VR	NVR	English	Maths
Year 4	30 mins	30 mins	15 mins	15 mins
Year 5	30 mins	30 mins	20 mins	20 mins
Year 6	30 mins	30mins	40 mins	40 mins

Details of the elements in each test, and how the School covers them in curriculum time, are listed by Year Group below.

If you need any help, on any of the elements, please contact the relevant teacher direct.

1. Non-verbal & verbal reasoning mmoyles@choirschool.com
2. Maths dhudson@choirschool.com
3. English lhiggie@choirschool.com

Preparation for ISEB Pre-Tests in Year 4

Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>Verbal & non-verbal reasoning</p> <p>Atom Learning Century Tech</p>	<p>Non-verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities/differences: Odd ones out, find the figure like the first two, find the figure like the first three • Codes: two-letter shape codes, vertical codes, horizontal codes • Complete the diagram: complete the pair, complete the series <p>Spatial reasoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3D visualisation: 3D rotation, 3D building blocks, plans and elevations, plans and elevations with cuboids, nets of cubes, nets of cuboids, cubes and nets • 2D manipulation: rotate the figure, reflect the figure, rotation and reflection, combining 2D shapes, 2D folding <p>Verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word meaning: synonyms, antonyms, odd ones out, homographs, connecting words to complete the sentence, sentence order • Comprehension (making words): missing letter, move one letter, find the hidden word, find the missing word, following a pattern to make a word, joining words to make a new word, following a pattern with word pairs • Reasoning: balancing equations, number sequences, related numbers, basic algebra, mixed up words, words within words, alphabetical order, mixed up words within a sentence • Logic: alphabet codes, connecting letters, words and letter codes, words and number codes, word problems 	
		<p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities, odd one out • Analogies, series • Hidden pictures, reflected pictures • Matrices, combined pictures • Nets of cubes, codes • Similarities, analogies <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms, missing three-letter words, number sequencing, sorting information <p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odd one out, series • Hidden pictures, matrices • Nets of cubes, combined pictures • Series, reflected pictures • Codes, matrices • Similarities, analogies <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number sequencing, join two words to make one, match the codes, true statements

	<i>ICT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing numbers, antonyms, match the codes, true statements • Analogies, letters for numbers, letter sequencing, time problems • Antonyms, missing letters, letter codes, maths problems • Spot the word, anagrams, number connections, date problems • Missing three-letter words, join two words to make one, missing numbers, true statements <p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series, hidden pictures • Reflected pictures, odd one out • Combined pictures, codes • Matrices, nets of cubes • Reflected pictures, analogies • Codes, similarities <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabetical order, odd ones out, make a word from two words, sorting information • Synonyms, word chains, word codes, time problems • Word connections, missing numbers, letter sequencing, sorting information • Odd ones out, missing three-letter words, word codes, complete the word • Move a letter, letters for numbers, make a word from two words, maths problems • Antonyms, missing letters, word codes, position problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms, analogies, letter sequencing, date problems • Word categories, letters for numbers, letter codes, sorting information • Odd ones out, synonyms, analogies, complete the word • Number connections, anagrams, complete the sentence, position problems • Word chains, join two words to make one, alphabetical order, maths problems <p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of core skills using Atom Learning <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot the word, move a letter, missing letters, sorting information • Antonyms, missing three-letter words, complete the sentence, time problems • Move a letter, odd ones out, number sequencing, true statements • Spot the word, join two words to make one, analogies, date problems • Letter sequencing, missing numbers, make a new word, date problems • Letter codes, jumbled sentences, synonyms, maths problems
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Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>English ISEB Pre-Test Preparation</p>	<p>In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a boy's grasp of the grammar and literacy skills included in the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5.</p> <p>Comprehension In the Pre-Test, the extracts boys are given are from novels, non-fiction writing and poetry and boys become familiar with all three. Questions assess boys' ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and recall information contained in a passage • Summarise main ideas • Make comparisons (between different moments in a text, between contrasting characters, between formal language and informal language) • Draw inferences and read between the lines, especially when understanding characters' motivations • Explain the meaning of words in the context they are used in a passage • Comment on the effects of language choices e.g. adjectives and literary devices (alliteration, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, imagery, irony, rhetorical questions and personification) <p>Grammar In the Pre-Test, boys are assessed on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary – prefixes and suffixes; their ability to find synonyms and antonyms for given words; common idioms • Punctuation – correct use of commas (in a list, after an adverbial phrase, to separate clauses, within dialogue punctuation) full stops, exclamation marks, apostrophes (of possession and omission/contraction), speech marks, hyphens and dashes, question marks and colons • Grammar – their knowledge of what is grammatically correct, rather than complex terminology (pupils will be expected to be able to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions); clauses; formal and informal language; verb agreement; sentence structure. In most questions, boys will be asked 'What is grammatically correct?' rather than having to recall the names of specific tenses • Spelling – homophones e.g. their / there / they're and near homophones e.g. conscience / conscious; their knowledge of spelling patterns and common exception words e.g. for 'I' before 'e' except after 'c', leisure, foreigner, weird, seize, height <p>In Year 4, we begin the process of building and consolidating the fundamentals in each of the elements listed above. The overriding priority in Year 4 is to build competence and confidence in a wide range of skills which will be assessed in the Pre-Test.</p>	

Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>Maths ISEB Pre-Test Preparation</p>	<p>In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a boy's knowledge of mathematics topics from the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and place value • Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) • Fractions, decimals and percentages • Measurement • Geometry • Statistics <p>Some questions will assess mathematical fluency in the form of arithmetic questions, others will require solving mathematical problems, possibly including more than one of the topics.</p> <p>In Year 4, we begin the process of building and consolidating the fundamentals in each of the elements listed above. Boys are taught the processes they will be expected to execute accurately in the Pre-Test (e.g. decimal calculations, fractions of amounts, and transformations). They are also given opportunities to solve problems which encourage them to think flexibly and strategically within the various topics they learn about.</p> <p>The overriding priority in Year 4 is to build competence and confidence in a wide range of skills which will be assessed in the Pre-Test.</p>	

Preparation for ISEB Pre-Tests in Year 5

Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>Reasoning <i>Atom Learning/ Century Tech</i></p>	<p>Non-verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similarities/differences: odd ones out, find the figure like the first two, find the figure like the first three ○ Codes: two-letter shape codes, vertical codes, horizontal codes ○ Complete the diagram: complete the pair, complete the series <p>Spatial reasoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3D visualisation: 3D rotation, 3D building blocks, plans and elevations, plans and elevations with cuboids, nets of cubes, nets of cuboids, cubes and nets ○ 2D manipulation: rotate the figure, reflect the figure, rotation and reflection, combining 2D shapes, 2D folding. <p>Verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Word meaning: synonyms, antonyms, odd ones out, homographs, connecting words to complete the sentence, sentence order ○ Comprehension (making words): missing letter, move one letter, find the hidden word, find the missing word, following a pattern to make a word, joining words to make a new word, following a pattern with word pairs ○ Reasoning: balancing equations, number sequences, related numbers, basic algebra, mixed up words, words within words, alphabetical order, mixed up words within a sentence ○ Logic: alphabet codes, connecting letters, words and letter codes, words and number codes, word problems 	
	<p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Similarities, analogies ● Series, matrices ● Hidden pictures, odd one out ● Reflected pictures, codes ● Combined pictures, nets of cubes ● Series, reflected pictures 	<p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Similarities, nets of cubes ● Matrices, reflected pictures ● Hidden pictures, odd one out ● Nets of cubes, combined pictures ● Analogies, series ● Codes, similarities

		<p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms, missing three-letter words, number sequencing, time problems • Missing numbers, antonyms, match the codes, true statements • Analogies, letters for numbers, letter sequencing, maths problems • Antonyms, missing letters, letter codes, sorting information • Spot the word, anagrams, number connections, date problems • Missing three-letter words, join two words to make one, missing numbers, sorting information <p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analogies, odd one out • Nets of cubes, hidden pictures • Matrices, combined pictures • Reflected pictures, similarities • Codes, series • Odd one out, analogies <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabetical order, odd ones out, make a word from two words, complete the word • Synonyms, word chains, word codes, time problems • Word connections, missing numbers, letter sequencing, true statements, maths problems • Odd ones out, missing three-letter words, word codes, date problems • Move a letter, letters for numbers, word connections, maths problems • Antonyms, missing letters, make a word from two words, position problems 	<p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number sequencing, join two words to make one, match the codes, true statements, date problems • Synonyms, analogies, letter sequencing, date problems • Word categories, letters for numbers, letter codes, sorting information • Odd ones out, synonyms, complete the sentence, complete the word • Number connections, anagrams, jumbled sentences, position problems • Word chains, join two words to make one, alphabetical order, maths problems <p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of core skills <p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot the word, move a letter, missing letters, time problems • Antonyms, missing numbers, complete the sentence, complete the word • Move a letter, odd ones out, number sequencing, time problems • Spot the word, join two words to make one, number connections, complete the word • Make a new word, missing three-letter words, letter sequencing, date problems • Letter codes, jumbled sentences, synonyms, position problems
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Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>English ISEB Pre-Test Preparation</p>	<p>In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a boy's grasp of the grammar and literacy skills included in the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5.</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <p>In the Pre-Test, the extracts boys are given are from novels, non-fiction writing and poetry and boys become familiar with all three. Questions assess boys' ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find and recall information contained in a passage - Summaries main ideas - Make comparisons (between different moments in a text, between contrasting characters, between formal language and informal language) - Draw inferences and read between the lines, especially when understanding characters' motivations - Explain the meaning of words in the context they are used in a passage - Comment on the effects of language choices e.g. adjectives and literary devices (alliteration, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, imagery, irony, rhetorical questions and personification) <p>Grammar</p> <p>In the Pre-Test, boys are assessed on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocabulary – prefixes and suffixes; their ability to find synonyms and antonyms for given words; common idioms - Punctuation – correct use of commas (in a list, after an adverbial phrase, to separate clauses, within dialogue punctuation) full stops, exclamation marks, apostrophes (of possession and omission/contraction), speech marks, hyphens and dashes, question marks and colons - Grammar – their knowledge of what is grammatically correct, rather than complex terminology (pupils will be expected to be able to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions); clauses; formal and informal language; verb agreement; sentence structure. In most questions, boys will be asked 'What is grammatically correct?' rather than having to recall the names of specific tenses - Spelling – homophones e.g. their / there / they're and near homophones e.g. conscience / conscious; their knowledge of spelling patterns and common exception words e.g. for "i" before 'e' except after 'c", leisure, foreigner, weird, seize, height <p>In Year 5, we continue the process of building and consolidating the fundamentals in each of the elements listed above and students begin to complete practice papers in timed conditions in the Trinity term. The overriding priority in Year 5 is to build competence and confidence in a wide range of skills which will be assessed in the Pre-Test.</p>	

Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>Maths ISEB Pre-Test Preparation</p>	<p>In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a pupil's knowledge of mathematics topics from the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and place value • Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) • Fractions, decimals and percentages • Measurement • Geometry • Statistics <p>Some questions will assess mathematical fluency in the form of arithmetic questions, others will require solving mathematical problems, possibly including more than one of the topics.</p> <p>In Year 5, we continue to progress through the National Curriculum. Some topics that were learned in Year 4 are reviewed at a higher level of difficulty to ensure that they are retained and mastered. Skills-based work is complemented with problem-solving and puzzles to ensure boys can access the higher difficulty questions in the Pre-Test.</p> <p>In Trinity term, one of the two weekly preps is set by the teacher on Atom Learning. This consists of Pre-Test-style questions in a certain topic. Aside from this, boys should also work through the 'Primary – 11+ Mathematics' course on Century Tech for further practice completing multiple choice questions online. This course covers the whole National Curriculum and is split into 'nuggets' which focus on specific topics.</p>	

Preparation for ISEB Pre-Tests in Year 6

Michaelmas term	Lent term	Trinity term
<p>Reasoning Pre-test Preparation <i>Atom Learning/ Century Tech</i></p>	<p>Non-verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities/differences: odd ones out, Find the figure like the first two, find the figure like the first three • Codes: two-letter shape codes, vertical codes, horizontal codes • Complete the diagram: complete the pair, complete the series <p>Spatial reasoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3D visualisation: 3D rotation, 3D building blocks, plans and elevations, plans and elevations with cuboids, nets of cubes, nets of cuboids, cubes and nets; • 2D manipulation: rotate the figure, reflect the figure, rotation and reflection, combining 2D shapes, 2D folding <p>Verbal reasoning (30 mins) pre-test questions are split into these main types, each with different question styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word meaning: Synonyms, antonyms, odd ones out, homographs, connecting words to complete the sentence, sentence order • Comprehension (making words): Missing letter, move one letter, find the hidden word, find the missing word, following a pattern to make a word, joining words to make a new word, following a pattern with word pairs • Reasoning: Balancing equations, number sequences, related numbers, basic algebra, mixed up words, words within words, alphabetical order, mixed up words within a sentence • Logic: Alphabet codes, connecting letters, words and letter codes, words and number codes, word problems 	
<p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities, analogies • Series, matrices • Hidden pictures, odd one out • Reflected pictures, codes • Combined pictures, nets of cubes • Series, reflected pictures 	<p>Non-verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analogies, odd one out • Nets of cubes, hidden pictures • Matrices, combined pictures • Reflected pictures, similarities • Codes, series • Odd one out, analogies 	<p>Art</p>

	<p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms, missing three-letter words, number sequencing, sorting information • Missing numbers, antonyms, match the codes, maths problems • Analogies, letters for numbers, letter sequencing, time problems • Antonyms, missing letters, letter codes, true statements • Spot the word, anagrams, number connections, date problems • Missing three-letter words, join two words to make one, missing numbers, true statements • Alphabetical order, odd ones out, join two words to make one, sorting information • Synonyms, word chains, word codes, time problems • Word connections, missing numbers, letter sequencing, sorting information • Odd ones out, missing three-letter words, word codes, complete the word • Move a letter, letters for numbers, make a word from two words, maths problems • Antonyms, missing letters, word codes, maths problems 	<p>Verbal reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number sequencing, join two words to make one, match the codes, true statements • Synonyms, analogies, letter sequencing, time problems • Word categories, letters for numbers, letter codes, sorting information • Odd ones out, synonyms, analogies, complete the word • Number connections, anagrams, complete the sentence, position problems • Antonyms, join two words to make one, alphabetical order, position problems • Spot the word, move a letter, missing letters, position problems • Word chains, missing three-letter words, complete the sentence, date problems • Make a word from two words, odd ones out, number sequencing, time problems • Spot the word, join two words to make one, jumbled sentences, time problems • Move a letter, missing numbers, letter sequencing, date problems • Word connections, jumbled sentences, synonyms, maths problems 	
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Michaelmas term

English ISEB Pre-Test Preparation

In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a boy's grasp of the grammar and literacy skills included in the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5.

Comprehension

In the Pre-Test, the extracts boys are given are from novels, non-fiction writing and poetry and students become familiar with all three. Questions assess boys' ability to:

- Find and recall information contained in a passage
- Summarise main ideas
- Make comparisons (between different moments in a text, between contrasting characters, between formal language and informal language)
- Draw inferences and read between the lines, especially when understanding characters' motivations
- Explain the meaning of words in the context they are used in a passage
- Comment on the effects of language choices e.g. adjectives and literary devices (alliteration, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, imagery, irony, rhetorical questions and personification)

Grammar

In the Pre-Test, boys are assessed on the following areas:

- Vocabulary – prefixes and suffixes; their ability to find synonyms and antonyms for given words; common idioms
- Punctuation – correct use of commas (in a list, after an adverbial phrase, to separate clauses, within dialogue punctuation) full stops, exclamation marks, apostrophes (of possession and omission/contraction), speech marks, hyphens and dashes, question marks and colons.
- Grammar – their knowledge of what is grammatically correct, rather than complex terminology (pupils will be expected to be able to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions); clauses; formal and informal language; verb agreement; sentence structure. In most questions, boys will be asked 'What is grammatically correct?' rather than having to recall the names of specific tenses
- Spelling – homophones e.g. their / there / they're and near homophones e.g. conscience / conscious; their knowledge of spelling patterns and common exception words e.g. for "i" before "e" except after "c", leisure, foreigner, weird, seize, height

Ahead of the Pre-Test in November, Michaelmas term is spent intensively reviewing the content covered in Years 4 and 5 at a higher difficulty level. Pre-Test-style questions are used in classwork and prep to familiarise the boys with nature of the questions they will face. A practice paper is completed in class every week. Further to this, one of the two weekly preps is set on Atom Learning. This ensures plenty of exposure to the format and style of the Pre-Tests, in every topic.

Michaelmas term

Maths ISEB Pre-Test Preparation

In the Pre-Test, questions will assess a boy's knowledge of mathematics topics from the National Curriculum Programme of Study up until the end of Year 5:

- Number and place value
- Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Statistics

Some questions will assess mathematical fluency in the form of arithmetic questions, others will require solving mathematical problems, possibly including more than one of the topics.

Ahead of the Pre-Test in November, Michaelmas term is spent intensively reviewing the content covered in Years 4 and 5 at a higher difficulty level. Pre-Test-style questions are used in classwork and prep to familiarise the boys with nature of the questions they will face. Three more topics are taught to ensure full coverage: equations of lines; exterior and interior angles of polygons; and sequences (including n th term).

Atom Learning is used in one half-hour lesson per week. Further to this, one of the two weekly preps is set on Atom Learning. This ensures plenty of exposure to the format and style of the Pre-Tests, in every topic. Boys should also continue to work through 'Primary – 11+ Mathematics' on Century Tech, aiming to complete every "nugget" ahead of the Pre-Test.