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Cracking The SSAT & ISEE, 2016 Edition (Private Test Preparation)



Synopsis

WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER, WITH THE PRINCETON REVIEW. Get all the prep you need to ace the SSAT & ISEE with 6 full-length practice tests, up-to-date content reviews for every test section, and extra practice online. Techniques That Actually Work. • Powerful tactics to avoid traps and beat the SSAT & ISEE for Elementary/Lower, Middle, and Upper Level students • Tips for pacing yourself and guessing strategically • Essential strategies to help you work smarter, not harder • Everything You Need to Know to Help Achieve a High Score. • Complete coverage of the Math, Verbal, and Reading sections for both tests • A thorough content review of fundamental math skills and frequently appearing SSAT and ISEE vocabulary words • A detailed syllabus to help guide your prep Practice Your Way to Excellence. • 5 full-length, in-book practice tests (2 for SSAT, 3 for ISEE) with detailed scoring instructions • 1 full-length, downloadable SSAT Elementary Level exam online • Practice questions for every level, subject, and question type to help diagnose your progress

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (16 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 - 9

Customer Reviews

This is the worst book on the market, 2 out of the 25 answers in the math section, in the only sample test that is provided, are wrong. Therefore one should assume the English reading comprehensions

answers are wrong and it is rather difficult to unwind a major crying session with a frustrated 13 year old girl. The company's response was also slow and ridiculous.

The book seemed pretty good until the first chapter already had basic errors. The words aren't in the alphabetical order they say they are in. For example the words under category FI through Hi, contain words that are Ex through Fe. And this is only one such instance. The book as a whole seems pretty good but as others have pointed out there are basic issues that need fixing.

PROS:- Comprehensive review of topics. (+2)- Generous number of drills to reinforce concepts, with answer explanations (+2)- Competent and adequate practice tests (+1) - I took off a star here because I noticed some problems with the logical integrity of some of the questions. It's not that some of them are too difficult; it's that they're poorly written. Take, for example, the attached photograph. It was from the upper level ISEE practice test of this book. The correct answer is (A) amiable. The problem is that amiable and monotonous are NOT necessarily antonymous. Sure, it's probably the best answer choice there, but that doesn't make it logically correct. In fact, I also have the 2003 edition of this book, and in that book, the same question is posed, except the correct answer was (C) fascinating, which actually makes sense--"monotonous" means dull, boring, or of a single tone. I don't understand how the answer choices got worse over the span of a dozen-plus years. (The choices were (A) prosaic, (B) vapid, (C) fascinating, and (D) pious.)

CONS:- Answer explanations not included for the practice tests (-2) For parents and students studying independently, not having answer explanations can be crippling. At the very least, you'd expect the big name test prep companies to provide full answer explanations. I can sort of understand how small-time authors don't provide answer explanations to their practice test books, but how can a company say they're helping you crack the SSAT & ISEE when practice test answer explanations aren't provided in the book? If you think about it, this book is about 700 pages long. Each test is about 40 pages long on average. Since there are 5 tests, that's roughly 200 pages worth of practice questions that do not have any explanations provided. I think that is egregious for a big name like The Princeton Review. I know from experience that the number of questions solved is not the key driver of test taking success. It's the review portion that is. I personally don't care because I am a tutor and author, and I can provide my own explanations. In fact, I have my own SSAT book on with full answer explanations. (Look up SSAT Practice Tests by Won Suh.) When I think of parents and students, however, this is an unfortunate omission from an otherwise competent to laudable book.

We purchased both this volume and the 2015 editions so that our child would have extra problems to work on. Unfortunately, they duplicated the tests from the 2015 edition, so there was no point in buying it.

This book was recommended by a school administrator. My child was able to do some preliminary testing with blank answer sheets similar to the test answer sheets. The questions are for students entering 9-12 grades, so some vocabulary and math may have to be skipped over due to advanced material. It had a lot of helpful SSAT test information.

I like the book as a resource. You'd need to add vocabulary practice (they give you the words, but you need to find and practice the definitions on your own) and may need to add more math practice if you're not doing well with the problems in the book. I wish there were a second practice test so you could do a pre and post assessment. I use this book to teach ISEE and SSAT prep, supplementing as needed.

Helpful in general, but there are several mistakes in the math sections. Would be best if they separated SSAT and ISEE into two separate books and included many, many more practice questions. Only one upper level practice test. Overall, still helpful though.

This book's structure needs to be revised. Good content but difficult to follow for the specific grade of your child. For what they're charging, it should be a lot easier with all content related to the graded in one section instead of having everything everywhere. If I could I would return this. Not recommended

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