

Eton College Admissions



Background

Eton College is an independent boarding school for boys aged 13 to 18. It was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI and is one of the most prestigious schools in the world. Entrance to Eton is fiercely competitive with only around 18% of applicants being offered a place. Despite this, all of our students who followed our recommendations and started lessons with us no later than the beginning of Year 5 have been offered places.

When should I apply?

Registration is open from birth and the latest that parents can apply for 13+ entry is June in Year 5 (when your son is 9 or 10 years old). Parents must apply to the school directly and complete a registration form and send in the registration fee and copy of your son's birth certificate.

<https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/entry-to-eton/>

What is the first stage of the test?

In the autumn term of Year 6 your son will take the ISEB Common Pre-Test. This is usually taken at your son's prep school. Parents need to register on the ISEB parent portal for this test.

<https://www.iseb.co.uk/>

The ISEB Common Pre-Test is online test, which is adaptive, so the questions get harder if you answer them correctly. The test is divided into 4 parts and includes questions on English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. It total these take around two and a half hours. We recommend preparing for this with tuition in these four subjects with our specialist tutors and using Atom Learning's mock tests. With an Atom Learning subscription your son can complete unlimited mock tests. We are able to offer our students a discount on this with the code CAMBRIDGE.

www.CambridgeAcademicTuition.co.uk

<https://atomlearning.com/p/CAMBRIDGE>

Your son's school will also be asked to provide a report on their academic strengths and weaknesses. The results for the ISEB Common Pre-Test are sent out in mid-December of Year 6.

What is the Eton List Test?

If your son is successful in the ISEB Common Pre-Test he will be invited to Eton for the next stage in the spring or summer term of Year 6. He will have an interview with current teachers and take The Eton List Test which was created by Cambridge University and is unique to Eton. There are no sample papers provided. It is an adaptive online test taking 60 minutes which includes questions on English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Boys take the test with up to 16 students at a time and there is an opportunity to practise using the mouse to respond to questions in advance. It is considerably more challenging than the ISEB Common Pre-Test and has an unlimited bank of questions. No boy has ever answered all of the questions.

The aim is to get as many questions correct within the given time. It is advisable not to spend too long on a particular question. There are timed sections which close down, and boys are given a constant indication of the time remaining. Boys can change an answer only while it is on the screen and after moving on to the next question he cannot go back. Achieving a high score is therefore a careful balance between speed and accuracy. A standardised age score is given which is predictive of a boy's future ability.

On the English section, in the past, pupils have been given a scrolling text where you must spot and correct errors on each line of text as it moves up the screen before it disappears. These can include spelling errors and revising the Key Stage 2 Statutory Spelling List is helpful. There may also be a comprehension activity and a writing task which is also typed on a computer. The essay often includes open-ended questions such as, "Would the world be a better place without rules?" There are also likely to be a number of vocabulary-based questions.

For Maths and Reasoning your child should be familiar with all topics of the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum for Mathematics as well as some questions stretching beyond this. Worded problems and questions involving problem solving and lateral thinking may be included. Completing number and word puzzles and brain teasers would be beneficial.

To prepare for The Eton List test, our students continue with lessons with our specialist tutors who can guide them with the skills and techniques to perform well on the test. In addition to this, with a subscription to Atom Learning, mock tests specifically for The Eton List Test can be completed and analysed with the help of our teachers to identify key areas for improvement.

What happens at the interview?

Your son may be asked to complete a questionnaire, which will be used by the teacher during the interview. Questions may include, sports, hobbies, music, why Eton, feelings about boarding, favourite subjects and books currently being read. We also prepare students for the interview which is vitally important as this, along with the test results and school reference play important parts on the school's decision whether your son is suited to Eton. We help our students to think carefully and offer the best possible answers, so they express themselves confidently in an interview situation.

What happens after the assessments?

Results are published in March, May and July depending on when the test was taken (which is according to your son's birthday). There are three possible outcomes. Your son could be placed on the A list which is a conditional place. Your son will still need to complete the Common Entrance Exams in Year 8, The King's Scholarship Exam or Eton's own test (Eton Entrance) if your son is at a state school. Subjects tested at Common Entrance include Maths, English, History, Geography, languages (French, Spanish, Latin, or Greek). We also provide support with all of these subjects to our students, and we have not had a student who did not pass at this stage.

If your child has not performed well enough for an A list place, they may be placed on the B list (or waiting list). They may then be invited back for an assessment in Year 7. About 40% of boys are likely to be moved to the A list. If your son is not successful in the ISEB Common Pre-Test, this is referred to the C list and no offer is given.

How can your son prepare?

As the tests are pre-tests, preparation must start early. Ideally starting in Year 4 or earlier but no later than the start of Year 5. We do sometimes have students who join us much closer to the exams and we have also helped them to pass the exams, but lessons need to be much more intensive to ensure that we can cover as much as possible.

We do recommend using Atom Learning to help but it should not be used as a stand-alone tool or replacement for a qualified, experienced tutor. It is much more motivating for our students to have someone to guide them on the relevant topics and develop their skills further. We are also able to prepare students specifically for the written essay which is not possible with Atom Learning alone. Reading is also vitally important, and we have a list of suitable books on our website.

What experience does Cambridge Academic Tuition have with Eton College?

Members of our families have attended Eton College, so we have a long-standing connection over generations with the school. I also taught rowing at Eton and am qualified and trained by Eton College to teach their online courses with EtonX. We have worked with boys preparing for Eton for many years and have students who study at Eton who come back to us during the holidays for support with public exams.

Juliet Rolls, Founder of Cambridge Academic Tuition



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