

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

ESOL Skills for Life
English language qualifications



Assessing English language since 1938

www.trinitycollege.com/SfL

Trinity College London's ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are for people aged 16 and over who live in the UK and need English for everyday life and for work. Designed to help progression into mainstream education and employment, they are external assessments of the English language skills that people need in real-life situations.

Each of these updated Trinity Awards and Certificates is an individual qualification in its own right. With each unit award carrying transferable credits, there is increased flexibility to build qualifications in accessible stages over time.

All the units are based on the National Standards for Adult ESOL Literacy and reflect the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum. While the new exam remains similar to the previous version from a teaching and administration perspective, the exam content has been modernised to better reflect the needs of people learning English today.

Trinity Awards and Certificates

Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are available at five levels from beginner to advanced:

▶ Entry 1 | Entry 2 | Entry 3 | Level 1 | Level 2

Individual Awards

- ▶ ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) – 12 credits
- ▶ ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) – 6 credits
- ▶ ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) – 9 credits

Overarching Certificates

When every unit has been passed at the same level:

- ▶ ESOL Skills for Life – 27 credits
(speaking, listening, reading and writing)

Students receive an Award for each ESOL Skills for Life unit passed. When every unit has been passed at the same proficiency level, an overarching Trinity ESOL Skills for Life certificate qualification is awarded.

Flexible and convenient

Once you are registered with us, all our ESOL Skills for Life exams are available on demand, subject to a minimum of four weeks' notice, and can be held at your choice of venue – a school, college or place of work.



Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

All UK ESOL Skills for Life qualifications have moved from the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) to the QCF. The QCF has a different model of assessment from the NQF. Each unit has a number of learning outcomes and assessment criteria, and each criterion must be met to pass the unit. Our exam specifications help you understand how this works in practice.

Exam specifications

Our exam specifications are an essential tool for teachers – they contain information about what candidates are expected to be able to do at each level of proficiency. Available online, the specifications for each level contain:

- ▶ Structure of units
- ▶ Candidate profile
- ▶ Format and procedure
- ▶ Assessment criteria
- ▶ Performance descriptors
- ▶ Mark schemes

Assessment format

- ▶ Speaking and Listening assessments take the form of a one-to-one conversation, plus a small group discussion (up to three people) facilitated by a Trinity examiner.
- ▶ The reading assessments and writing assessments take the form of a formal exam paper taken under controlled exam conditions.

An inclusive approach

- ▶ A range of both work-related and non-work related discussion topics ensures our exams are inclusive and relevant to every student.
- ▶ Group discussion assessments are limited to a maximum of three people facilitated by a Trinity examiner, so all candidates can participate in full.
- ▶ Trinity assessment tasks are based on the way English is used in real life – so preparing for our tests is an authentic and motivating experience for students.

Transfer of credits

Reciprocal arrangements are in place so that unit credits at the same level from other awarding organisations will count towards an overarching ESOL Skills for Life qualification. See our exam specifications for further details and a list of participating organisations.

Step 1 and 2 exams for beginners

For people who aren't ready to take an Entry 1 qualification, Trinity's Step 1 and 2 exams offer them the chance to mark their progress while building up to take an accredited Entry level qualification.



English language for everyday life and for work

Assessment summary

Level	Qualification title	Ofqual number	Assessment details
Entry 1	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)	601/5207/2	Conversation – 5 mins (2 tasks) Group discussion – 5 mins (1 task)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 1)	601/5210/2	24 items – 45 mins (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 1)	601/5214/X	30 minutes (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)	601/4785/4	3 awards at the same level
Entry 2	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)	601/5208/4	Conversation – 8 mins (3 tasks) Group discussion – 7 mins (1 task)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 2)	601/5211/4	24 items – 60 mins (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 2)	601/5215/1	50 mins (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)	601/5204/7	3 awards at the same level
Entry 3	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	601/5209/6	Conversation – 8 mins (3 tasks) Group discussion – 8 mins (1 task)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) (Entry 3)	601/5212/6	27 items – 60 mins (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 3)	601/5216/3	70 mins (3 tasks)
	Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)	601/5205/9	3 awards at the same level
Level 1	Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)	601/5219/9	Conversation – 10 mins (3 tasks) Group discussion – 10 mins (1 task)
	Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)	601/5218/7	30 items – 60 mins (3 tasks)
	Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing)	601/5217/5	110 minutes (4 tasks)
	Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	601/4786/6	3 awards at the same level
Level 2	Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)	601/5220/5	Conversation – 14 mins (3 tasks) Group discussion – 15 mins (1 task)
	Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)	601/5221/7	30 items – 60 mins (3 tasks)
	Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing)	601/5222/9	110 mins (4 tasks)
	Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	601/5206/0	3 awards at the same level

Unit award credit values: Speaking and Listening – 12, Reading – 6, Writing – 9, Overarching certificate – 27



Inclusive and relevant for every student

Professional support for teachers

We offer a range of resources to help teachers prepare candidates for the tests:

Online

- ▶ Exam specifications
- ▶ Sample videos
- ▶ Sample papers

You can also sign up for our news and information e-bulletins.

In person

- ▶ Dedicated contact for academic and general queries (email ukesol@trinitycollege.co.uk)
- ▶ Visits are offered to new exam centres to help get them started with Trinity
- ▶ Workshops and seminars to share best practice and familiarise teachers with Trinity materials

Funding

To find out about government funding arrangements for ESOL Skills for Life qualifications, search on www.gov.uk or follow the link on our website at www.trinitycollege.com/SfL

Become a registered exam centre

To offer Trinity exams you need to be a registered exam centre. Download the centre registration forms from our website at www.trinitycollege.com/SfLregistration or contact Trinity directly.

Professional support for centres

We provide support:

Online

- ▶ Fees and information
- ▶ How to book exam sessions
- ▶ Best practice guide
- ▶ Quick reference documents

In person

- ▶ Registered centres are assigned a dedicated Trinity contact

Registered centres can book exams and directly access information via Trinity Online, our exams administration system, featuring:

- ▶ Results tracking
- ▶ Examiner information
- ▶ Access to timetables and materials



Professional support for teachers and administrators

Why Trinity?

Trinity College London is a world leader in assessing English language proficiency. Available in over 60 countries, Trinity exams are contemporary and learner-centred, focusing on practical and communicative English language skills.

- ▶ **100% external assessment:**
Allows teachers to focus on teaching and preparation
- ▶ **Flexible and on demand:**
All assessments are now available on demand
- ▶ **Competitively priced:**
Improved booking options offer value for money
- ▶ **Inclusive and understanding:**
Professional and friendly examiners put candidates at ease
- ▶ **High quality:**
Reliable results from a reputable exam board
- ▶ **Supportive:**
Clear guidance and resources plus personal contact

Professional recognition

Recognised by exam regulator Ofqual in the UK, Trinity is also a full member of international professional associations, including the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE). In 2012, Trinity's Skills for Life, Graded Examinations in Spoken English and Integrated Skills in English exams were awarded the ALTE Q-mark, showing they meet the highest level of its quality standards.





Practical and learner-centred exams



Trinity College London is an international exam board offering a unique range of qualifications in English language, drama, music and the arts.

Contact us

To find out more about Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life qualifications and how to run the assessments email UKesol@trinitycollege.co.uk or visit www.trinitycollege.com/SfL

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