

Test overview – ISE I (B1)

Reading & Writing

The ISE I Reading & Writing exam is 2 hours long. There are four tasks:

- ▶ Task 1 – Long reading
- ▶ Task 2 – Multi-text reading
- ▶ Task 3 – Reading into writing
- ▶ Task 4 – Extended writing

Divide your time carefully:

Task 1 – Long reading 20 minutes	Task 2 – Multi-text reading 20 minutes	Task 3 – Reading into writing 40 minutes	Task 4 – Extended writing 40 minutes
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Task 1 – Long reading

There are 15 questions in the Long reading task.

Title matching

For questions 1-5 choose a title for each paragraph.

- ▶ Read the text quickly and think of what title you would give each paragraph. Do not try to understand every word.
- ▶ Try to match your ideas for titles for the paragraphs to the possible answers given in the exam paper.
- ▶ Do not use any paragraph title more than once.
- ▶ Answer all questions, even if you have to guess.
- ▶ There are six possible answers – you will use only five.

Selecting true statements

For questions 6-10 decide which five statements from a list of eight are true.

- ▶ Read each statement and decide if you think it is true or false.
- ▶ Look at the text and try to find a sentence that supports what you think.
- ▶ Always write five answers (never leave a blank), even if it is only a guess.

Completing sentences

For questions 11-15 choose an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the text.

- ▶ Read the sentences. For each sentence, look at the words around the gap and think what number, word or phrase could complete the information.
- ▶ From the text try to find the paragraph and then the sentence that relates to the sentence.
- ▶ Sometimes the type of word (noun, verb or adjective) can help you find the right word or phrase.
- ▶ Choose an exact number, word or phrase from the text that completes the sentence.
- ▶ Always put an answer. Guess if you are not sure.

Important

- Give an answer to all questions, even if you are not sure.
- Spend up to 20 minutes on questions 1-15 and no more.

Task 2 – Multi-text reading

There are 15 questions in the Multi-text reading task.

Multiple matching

For questions 16-20 choose the correct text the question refers to.

- ▶ Read the four texts quickly and think of how you would summarise each text.
- ▶ Read the questions – each question refers to one of the four texts. Choose which text matches the question.
- ▶ There are five questions and four texts. You can use texts for more than one answer. Answer all questions. Guess if you are not sure.

Selecting the true statements

For questions 21-25 decide which five statements from a list of eight are true.

- ▶ Read each statement and decide if you think it is true or false.
- ▶ Look at the texts and try to find a sentence from the texts that gives information to confirm what you think.
- ▶ Always write five answers (never leave a blank), even if it is only a guess.

Completing summary notes

For questions 26-30 choose an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the texts.

- ▶ Read the Summary notes. Look at the words around the gaps and for each one, think what number, word or phrase could complete the information.
- ▶ From the texts, try to find the paragraph and then the sentence that relates to the question.
- ▶ Choose an exact number, word or phrase from one of the four texts that completes the information.
- ▶ Sometimes the type of word (noun, verb or adjective) can help you find the right word or phrase.
- ▶ Always put an answer. Guess if you are not sure.

Important

- Give an answer to **all** questions, even if you are not sure.
- Spend up to 20 minutes on questions 16-30 and **no more**.

Task 3 – Reading into writing

Use information from the four texts from task 2 to write an answer to a question.

- ▶ Read **all** four texts before you answer.
- ▶ Read the Reading into writing question and underline the important words.
- ▶ There are three parts to the question. Make sure you answer all three.
- ▶ Use the space provided to plan your answer. For example, you could make a mind map.
- ▶ Refer to the texts from task 2 – you **must** refer to **all** four texts in your answer.
- ▶ When you finish, check your answer. Refer back to the question to check you have answered all three parts and check your spelling and grammar.
- ▶ Spend up to 40 minutes on this task but **no more**.

Important

- Use your answers to questions 26-30 (the Summary notes) from task 2 to help you.
- In your answer refer to all texts from task 2. Check your answer.

Task 4 – Extended writing

- ▶ Read the Extended writing question and underline the important words.
- ▶ There are several parts to the question – make sure you answer all parts.
- ▶ Use the space provided to plan your answer, eg make a mind map.
- ▶ Your answer should be roughly 100-130 words.
- ▶ When you finish, check your answer. Refer back to the question to check you have answered all parts.
- ▶ Spend up to 40 minutes on this task but **no more**.

Important

- Read the question carefully and plan your answer.
- When you have finished, check your answer and correct any mistakes.

Speaking & Listening

When you enter the exam room for your Speaking & Listening exam the examiner will be waiting for you. Say 'Hello' and give the examiner your topic form (see below). You will be one-to-one with the examiner. The exam is approximately 18 minutes* long.

Task 1 –
Topic
4 minutes

Task 2 –
Conversation
2 minutes

Task 3 –
Independent listening
10 minutes

Task 1 – Topic

You need to prepare a topic to talk to the examiner about.

- ▶ Choose a topic you are interested in – anything you can talk about. This could be your work, a hobby or an experience, eg 'my recent trip to Scotland'.
- ▶ Prepare your topic. Write a mind map and think of different areas to talk about related to your topic (When I went to Scotland, Future visits, Time I spent in Scotland, Good and bad experiences, etc).
- ▶ The examiner wants to see you use a variety of language of the level (B1) – see the language functions on page 2. Be ready to talk about what has happened, the future, your preferences, what might happen and so on.
- ▶ Choose four points about your topic that interest you the most. Think about how you can use the language functions and talk about these four things.
- ▶ You need to bring a topic form into the exam. This is a blank form that you can download from trinitycollege.com/ISEItopicform or get from the test centre. You can also make your own.
- ▶ There are five boxes on the topic form. Write the title of your topic in the middle, and your four points in the other boxes. You don't need to write full sentences, just notes are fine.
- ▶ Think about how to talk about each point on your topic form.
- ▶ Think of a question you could ask the examiner about the topic you want to talk about.
- ▶ This is a conversation about a subject you are interested in, so don't write a script or try to memorise a long text.
- ▶ The topic discussion will last up to 4 minutes.

Example of a topic – My trip to Scotland – and areas to talk about:

- ▶ The first time I visited Scotland (indefinite past)
- ▶ My plan to visit again next year (describing future)
- ▶ I prefer driving to Scotland (preferences)
- ▶ I don't have to take a passport (obligation)

Task 2 – Conversation

Your examiner will choose one of the subject areas from the list below, and will ask you about the subject to start the conversation. It is important to prepare to talk about each area:

Subject areas for conversation at ISE I

- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Money
- ▶ Fashion
- ▶ Rules and regulations
- ▶ Health and fitness
- ▶ Learning a foreign language

- ▶ Listen carefully and respond naturally to the examiner – you can ask the examiner to repeat what he or she said if you don't understand.
- ▶ Remember to ask the examiner questions about the subject.
- ▶ The examiner is looking for the language functions (see below), so try to use this language.
- ▶ The conversation will last up to 2 minutes.

Important

- Prepare to talk about all the subject areas.
- Ask the examiner some questions about the subject.
- Try to use the language functions (see below).

Language functions

- ▶ Describing past actions in the indefinite and recent past
- ▶ Describing the future, informing and expressing intention
- ▶ Predicting and expressing certainty and uncertainty
- ▶ Giving reasons, opinions and preferences
- ▶ Expressing obligation
- ▶ Asking for information and opinions

Task 3 – Independent listening

You will hear two talks for this part of the exam. There are different tasks for each talk.

Independent listening task 1

The examiner will introduce the first talk and then the recording will play twice. After the second time, the examiner will ask you six questions about the content of the talk.

- ▶ You will have a pen and paper. You can take notes if you want to. These notes will not be marked as part of your exam.
- ▶ It is a good idea to make notes when you listen to the text. Here are some ideas to help you take notes:
 - write the subject of the talk on the paper when the examiner introduces it
 - don't try to write every word, just write key words
 - don't worry about spelling or grammar
 - use symbols or pictures
 - the second time you listen review your notes and add anything you have missed.
- ▶ The examiner will then ask you six questions about the text – use your notes to help you answer the questions.
- ▶ If you don't know the answer, try to guess or quickly say you don't know.

Independent listening task 2

The examiner will then introduce the second talk. You will also hear this talk twice. The first time you listen you cannot take notes – just listen. The examiner will then ask you to say what the talk is about in just a few words.

- ▶ Listen to the examiner introduce the talk and try to remember the title.
- ▶ Listen carefully, try to identify key words.
- ▶ After the talk the examiner will ask you what the talk is about – tell the examiner your answer in only a few words.

You will then hear the talk a second time, and now you can take notes. The examiner will then ask you to give six pieces of information from the talk.

- ▶ You will have a pen and paper. You can take notes if you want to. These notes will not be marked as part of your exam.
- ▶ It is a good idea to make notes when you listen to the text. Here are some ideas to help you take notes:
 - write the subject of the talk on the paper when the examiner introduces it
 - don't try to write every word, just write key words
 - don't worry about spelling or grammar
 - use symbols or pictures.
- ▶ The examiner will then ask you to give six pieces of information from the text – use your notes to help you answer the questions.
- ▶ If you can't remember a piece of information, try to guess.

The examiner will then ask you four more questions based on the content of the talk. Once again, use your notes to help you.

Important

- You don't have to make notes, and your notes are not marked but it is a good idea to try to make some as you listen to help you with the tasks.