

ISE I (B1) Reading & Writing

Task 2 – Multi-text reading self-study activities

Welcome to Trinity's ISE I self-study worksheet, which will help you understand how to do task 2 of the Reading & Writing exam. There are activities that will guide you through the different types of question in the exam. Then you can try the whole exam for yourself. The answers to the questions in each activity are at the end of this document. There is also space for your own notes. You can find information about the whole ISE I exam in the **Guide for Students – ISE I (B1)**.

More resources to help you prepare for your exam are available at trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy

Task 2 – Multi-text reading

We're going to look at what you need to do in task 2. Before we do, think about the following four questions.

Activity 1

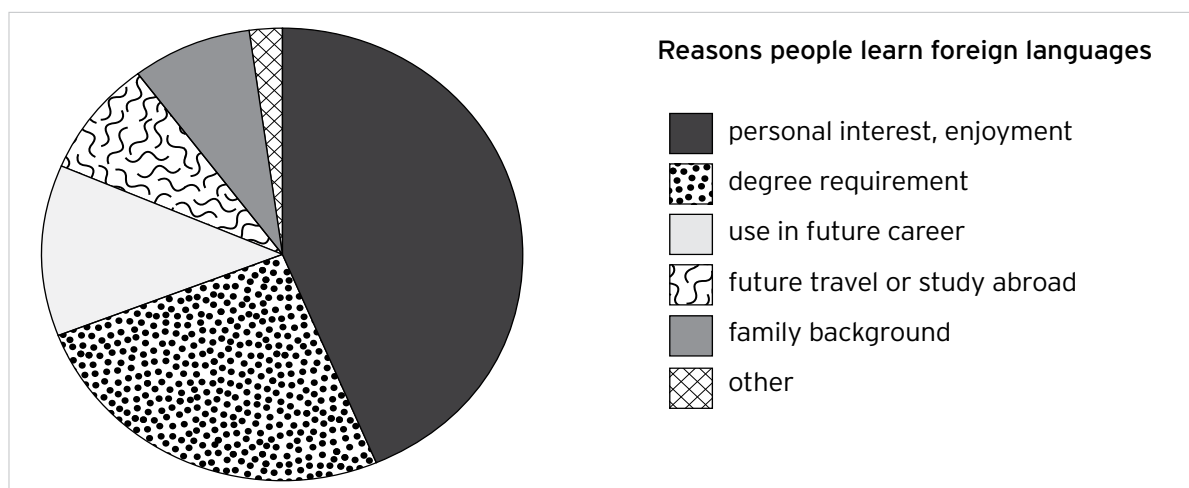
- ▶ How many reading texts are there for this task?
- ▶ In total, how many words are there in the reading texts?
- ▶ How many questions are there?
- ▶ What type are the questions?

Activity 2

Let's have a look at an example of a Multi-text reading task. Read the texts below quickly and find out what the main theme of the texts is. Choose the best answer from the list below.

- ▶ Intelligence
- ▶ Learning a second language
- ▶ Music

Text A



Text B

Scientists believe learning a second language increases brainpower. Researchers from University College London studied the brains of 105 people. 80 of these people were bilingual. They found learning other languages changed the part of the brain which processes information. They compared this change to the way in which


exercise builds muscles. Studies show that people who regularly speak more than one language are better at problem solving. In addition students who study foreign languages often score better in tests than students who only speak one language. This is particularly true in maths, music, reading and understanding vocabulary.


Text C


STUDENT NAME: Maria Coates
CLASS: 4A
LANGUAGE EXPERIMENT
Today our class conducted an experiment based on research about learning languages. Researchers at the University of Edinburgh's Reid School of Music have discovered that learners' memory skills are much better when learning language to music.
Our class decided to test whether music helped us learn languages. In our school experiment, we tried to remember phrases in Greek, and repeat them fifteen minutes later. It was of course important to choose a language no one knew. We were divided into three groups. Each group listened to the Greek phrases and repeated them but each group did this in a different way. The first group heard the phrases spoken, the second group heard phrases set to a rhythm, and the third group heard phrases in a song. The singing group was able to remember far more Greek than the other two groups. Our conclusion was that learning language in a song does help you remember language more easily.

Text D

What is the best way to learn a foreign language?

 **Iksung, South Korea:** You should definitely go and live abroad. The best way to learn a language is to be with native speakers and not speak your own language.

 **Alexei, Russia:** I use the internet all the time. It's a really cheap and easy way to learn. You have to be careful though as not all websites are good.

 **Cara, Italy:** I think watching films with English subtitles is very helpful. My friends listen to English music but I don't think that's a very good way to learn.

Information

In the exam, some students like to read the questions first and then start reading the text, so they can start answering the questions as soon as they read the text. Other students prefer to read the text quickly to understand its general meaning before reading the questions because it helps them answer the questions more quickly.

Try both ways and find out which one works best for you.

Activity 3

Let's look at questions 16-20.

Questions 16-20

Read questions 16-20 first and then read texts A, B, C and D below the questions.

As you read each text, decide which text each question refers to. **Choose one letter – A, B, C or D – and write it on the lines below.** You can use any letter more than once.

Which text

- 16. explains that learning languages can help you learn other skills?
- 17. advises language learners to travel?
- 18. says that music helps us learn?
- 19. shows that more people choose to learn a language for pleasure than work?
- 20. suggests that people who learn more than one language do better at school?

To answer these questions, you have to be able to understand the main idea of each text. Sometimes the text has a title, which can be really helpful. Which texts have a title? Does it help you to understand the main idea the text?

Information

If you read the texts quickly before you look at the questions, you might think you already know which text the question refers to. However, even if you are very confident about the answer, it's important to check the text carefully to make sure you are right.

For example, look at question 18. We need to find the text that says that 'music helps us learn'. You might think text D has this information because the title talks about ways to learn.

Activity 4

Read text D carefully and decide if it is the text that question 18 is about. Why/why not?

Activity 5

The correct answer to question 18 is actually text C. Read through the text and see if you can understand why that is the answer.

Activity 6

Let's look at questions 21-25.

Questions 21-25

Choose the **five statements** from A-H below that are **TRUE** according to the information given in the texts above. **Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).**

- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.

- A The most common reason for learning a language is to understand films and music.
- B More people learn another language because of their studies rather than their family.
- C People who speak more than one language are often better at subjects with numbers.
- D Language learning boosts the brain when you speak the second language often.
- E The University of Edinburgh tested different ways of learning music.
- F It is easier to remember words when you sing them.
- G Reading words on a screen can help you learn a language.
- H Any website can be a good place for language learning.

To answer these questions, you have to find the part of the text where the information is. When you read through the list of statements, it's a good idea to underline key words. These are words which are specific to the statement and should be easy to look for in the text. Look at statement A and choose the key words from the list below. Why did you choose them?

- ▶ most common reason
- ▶ for
- ▶ language
- ▶ films

Activity 7

You can find information about statement A in text A. Read the text quickly to find the words 'most common reason' or 'films'. You might not find the exact same word but you might find words with the same or similar meaning. Try to decide if the statement is true or false.

Information

It can take a long time to do this for every question so some people prefer to read all the statements first and try to remember which ones they think are true. They then identify the key words in these statements and try to find information about them in the texts. If not, you can work through them from A-H. Try both ways and see which one works best for you.

Information

Let's look at questions 26-30.

Questions 26-30

The summary notes below contain information from the texts on pages 4 and 5. Find an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from texts A-D to complete the missing information in gaps 26-30.

Summary notes

The benefits of studying a second language:

- pleasure – something enjoyable and interesting to learn
- the language is required in order to study for a **(26.)**
- get a better job and progress in a career
- **(27.)** is increased by learning languages
- foreign language students often get higher marks in **(28.)**

Effective ways of learning:

- listen to a **(29.)** to help learn new language
- **(30.)** and practise with native speakers
- use technology, eg language learning websites
- television, eg practise reading and listening with subtitled films

Just like questions 21-25, you need to find the key words in each sentence and then read the text quickly to find them, or words with similar meanings.

You then need to find words in the text which fit exactly into the gap. To do this, you need to think about the grammar of the word, eg what type of word could fit into the gap (verb/noun/adjective), and also what you think would sound logical.

For example, look at question 30. It is clear that the missing word is a verb, and something people can do to learn effectively.

Activity 8

Look at question 29. What number, word or phrase would you expect to fill the gap with? Think about grammar and logic.

Activity 9

What do you think the key word in question 29 is?

Activity 10

Read the texts for the key words, or words with a similar meaning and try to find the number, word or phrase to complete the gap.

Information

Now that you've learnt about all three question types in this exam, why don't you try and do all of task 2? You can find it on the exam paper at trinitycollege.com/ISEIsamplepaper1

Remember to time how long it takes you to do it so you know if you need to improve your reading speed. Remember to only do task 2. You can find information about how to complete the other tasks in the exam here. A lot of the work we have done on this worksheet will help you prepare for Task 1 – Long reading too.

Answers

Activity 1

How many reading texts are there for this task? Four short texts.

In total, how many words are there in the reading texts? In total, the four texts are about 400 words. One of the texts is an infographic.

How many questions are there? 15 questions.

What type are the questions? There are three types of question:

- ▶ questions 16-20 – choose which text matches a description – there are five questions which describe the main purpose or idea of the texts.
- ▶ questions 21-25 – decide which five statements from a list of eight are true according to the text – three are false
- ▶ questions 26-30 – complete summary notes with words from the texts – the notes are a summary of the four texts.

Activity 2

Learning a second language

Activity 3

Text A/D

Both titles are useful and tell us what the main idea of the text is.

Activity 4

No, because in text D, Cara says 'my friends listen to English music but I don't think that's a very good way to learn'.

Activity 5

The text actually contains three sentences that confirm that music helps us learn:

- ▶ 'learners' memory skills are much better when learning language to music'
- ▶ 'The singing group was able to remember far more Greek than the other two groups'
- ▶ 'Learning language in a song does help you remember language more easily'

Activity 6

'Most common reason' and 'films'

- ▶ these words are only used in statement A
- ▶ they are both important words in the statement that have a lot of meaning.
- ▶ notice that 'most common (reason) is essential here. This has a different meaning than just 'a reason'

Not 'for' or 'language'

- ▶ both are used in many of the statements and throughout the text
- ▶ it would take a long time to check every sentence with them in it
- ▶ 'for' doesn't carry much meaning

Activity 7

- ▶ The word film is not used
- ▶ The title contains the word 'reason'
- ▶ Statement A is not true because personal interests/enjoyment have the highest percentage on the pie chart

Activity 8

Grammar – a noun because it comes after ‘a’ like ‘a bag’ or ‘a doctor’

Logic – it must be a thing you can listen to, like a song or the radio.

Activity 9

‘listen’

Activity 10

‘song’

How to find the answer:

Read quickly to find the word ‘listen’ or a word with a similar meaning and you find the sentence highlighted in blue in text C below. ‘Heard’ is the past of ‘hear’, which means the same thing as listen to. In the next sentence it says that hearing language in a song helps people remember the language, so it’s a logical answer.

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