

## ISE I (B1) Speaking & Listening

### Topic task self-study activities

Welcome to Trinity's ISE I self-study worksheet, which will help you understand how to do the Topic task of the Speaking & Listening exam. There are activities that will guide you through the exam. 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](http://trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy)

### The Topic task

We're going to look at what you need to do in the Topic task. Before we do, think about the next question.

#### Activity 1

How much do you know about the Topic task? Read the sentences about the Topic task, and decide if they are true or false.

Facts about the Topic task	True or false?
A You choose a topic to talk about.	
B You complete a topic form before the exam.	
C You also ask the examiner questions about your topic.	
D You can ask the examiner to repeat what he or she said if you don't understand something.	

### Information

The Topic task is an opportunity for you to talk about something that you like talking about. It's also important to think about the following points when choosing a topic:

- ▶ Will I feel comfortable talking about this with the examiner?
- ▶ Will I have lots to say about the topic?
- ▶ Will it be easy for me to talk about it?
- ▶ Will I show that I have the four abilities the examiner assesses (communicative effectiveness, interactive listening, language control, delivery)

Don't worry if you don't know how to answer all four questions yet. This worksheet will help you answer all four questions.

Before the exam, you must complete a topic form with some of the points you want to discuss. You take the topic form into your exam. The examiner uses this to start the discussion. You can find a blank topic at [trinitycollege.com/ISEItopicform](http://trinitycollege.com/ISEItopicform)

**Activity 2**

Look at the completed topic form about cricket below and answer the questions:

- a) How many sentences do I write on the form?
- b) Do I write long sentences?

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**Example topic form**

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**Integrated Skills in English Topic Form – ISE I**

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*How long I've been interested in cricket*

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*Why I love my team*

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.....

**Title of topic:**

*Cricket*

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*My next match*

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.....

*What's better – playing or watching?*

.....

.....

The information on this form must be presented to the examiner during the exam.

### Activity 3

Watch the sample video of Haresh at [trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy](http://trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy). As you watch, think about the following questions.

- a) Does Haresh seem confident talking about his topic?
- b) What is the examiner like? Is he friendly?

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### Activity 4

Watch the video again. This time, look at Haresh's topic form on page 2 as you listen, and think about the following questions.

- a) Who looks at the topic form during the exam?
- b) What does the examiner do with the topic form? Does he use exactly the same words? What order does he work through the points?

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### Information

Haresh's topic form is a good example. It was a good topic task because he spoke about something he is very interested in. He also thought about the language functions he should use at ISE I. It's important for you to think about this when preparing your topic. These functions are:

#### 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

### Activity 5

Look back at Haresh's topic form. Each point on the form helps him use the functions at ISE I. For example, when talking about his first point (how long I've been...), he will describe past actions in the indefinite past. What language functions do his other three points focus on?

Topic points	Language functions
Why I love my team	
My next match	
What's better – playing or watching?	

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### Activity 6

The examiner will assess you (mark your exam) on your ability to use these functions in all speaking tasks in the exam. He or she will ask you questions that will help you use them. What other things do you think he or she will assess you on? Look at the list below. Five statements are true and two are false.

	True or false?
A How easy it is to understand your pronunciation	
B If you smile or not	
C How much you pause and hesitate when you speak	
D If they agree with your opinions	
E If you understand what the examiner says	
F If you ask the examiner a question	
G If you use interesting vocabulary related to your topic	

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### Information

When you have prepared your topic form, it's a good idea to practise the task with a friend or family member. Give them the form and ask them to think about different questions they could ask you about your topic. Remember, each exam will be different so you can't prepare for this task by writing a script. Start thinking about what you would like to talk about in the Topic task. When you complete your topic form, think carefully about the points you write. Look at the list of functions and try to choose points that will help you use the functions.

For more examples of ISE I topic tasks, watch the videos at [trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy](https://trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy)

## Answers

### Activity 1

- A True – you can talk about anything that interests you – a hobby, your job, your family, a holiday, music, and many other topics
- B True – You will learn more about this in the rest of this worksheet
- C True – You need to ask them at least one question about your topic in this task
- D True – Don't worry if you don't understand something they say – just ask them to repeat it

### Activity 2

- a) 4
- b) No – short sentences

### Activity 3

- a) Haresh seems well-prepared and confident about his topic
- b) The examiner is friendly

### Activity 4

- a) The examiner looks at the topic form as Haresh gives it to the examiner.
- b) The examiner uses it to ask Haresh questions about his topic. He doesn't always use exactly the same words as the form. He doesn't work through the points in any particular order.

### Activity 5

Topic points	Language functions
Why I love my team	Giving reasons, opinions and preferences
My next match	Describing the future, informing and expressing intention
What's better – playing or watching?	Giving reasons, opinions and preferences

### Activity 6

What will the examiner assess?	True or false?
A How easy it is to understand your pronunciation	True
B If you smile or not	False
C How much you pause and hesitate when you speak	True
D If they agree with your opinions	False
E If you understand what the examiner says	True
F If you ask the examiner a question	True
G If you use interesting vocabulary related to your topic	True