

ISE I (B1) Speaking & Listening

Conversation task self-study activities

Welcome to Trinity's ISE I self-study worksheet, which will help you understand how to do the Conversation 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

The Conversation task

In the Conversation the examiner will choose one of six possible topics and ask you some questions about it. You also need to ask the examiner at least one question about the topic.

Activity 1

Look at the list of ISE I subject areas below. Which one is **not** a possible conversation subject at ISE I?

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

Information

Don't worry if you don't know much about one of the subject areas. You are not being assessed on your knowledge of the subject, you just need to be able to talk about it.

Activity 2

Which of the questions about fashion below could the examiner ask in the exam?

- a) Are you interested in fashion?
- b) Do you prefer comfortable clothes or clothes which look good?
- c) What do you think of Gucci's latest collection?
- d) Have you ever bought designer clothes?

Activity 3

Look at the list of questions below. What subject areas are the questions about?

Question	Subject area
A Do you agree with people who say 'travel broadens your mind'?	
B Are all people who eat fast food unhealthy?	
C Do schools have too many rules and regulations for children to enjoy them?	
D Do you agree that it is more important to earn money than enjoy your job?	
E Do you think it is harder to learn a foreign language when you don't live in that country?	
F Does the fashion industry put too much pressure on young people?	

Information

It's a good idea to practise talking about the conversation subjects, but remember you can't memorise a script because you don't know what subject the examiner will select or what questions they might ask.

Activity 4

The examiner will assess you on four abilities in the exam:

- ▶ Communicative effectiveness
- ▶ Interactive listening
- ▶ Language control
- ▶ Delivery

What do you think each ability refers to?

Activity 5

Look at the information below. Each question is an example of something the examiner will think about when assessing you on one of the four abilities listed in activity 4. Try to match them. An example has been done for you.

What the examiner thinks about	Ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How clear is your pronunciation? ▶ How fluent are you? ▶ How well does the examiner understand you? 	Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How well do you follow the conversation? ▶ Do you understand the examiner? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is it a good conversation? ▶ How well do you respond to the examiner? ▶ How do you cope with problems? For example, can you ask the examiner to repeat when you don't understand? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How well do you use the language functions of ISE 1? ▶ Do you use a good range of vocabulary and grammar? ▶ How accurate is your use of vocabulary and grammar? 	

Activity 6

It's important to study and practise the language functions of ISE I before the exam to help you get a good score for language control. The examiner will help you use these functions by asking questions that give you the chance to use the functions.

Look at the examples of questions an examiner might ask about fashion below. Match them to the ISE function. Remember these are just examples. You don't know what questions the examiner might ask. One has been done for you as an example. One function has two questions. One function does not have a question.

Question	Functions
A Why do you think young people are interested in fashion?	Describing past actions in the indefinite and recent past
B Do you have any plans to buy any clothes soon?	Describing the future, informing and expressing intentions
C Have you ever bought something really fashionable?	Predicting and expressing certainty and uncertainty
D Do you prefer high street brands or designer labels?	Giving reasons, opinions and preferences
E Is it necessary to be fashionable at work?	Expressing obligation
F Do you think fashion will become more or less important in the future?	Asking for opinions and information

Information

There is no question for the 6th function (asking for opinions and information) because you need to do this yourself. Think about questions you could ask the examiner about each subject. Remember to prepare more than one possible question because you don't know exactly what you will talk about in the conversation.

You can watch examples of the Conversation task at trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy

Answers

Activity 1

Politics is not a subject area for the Conversation task

Activity 2

a), b), and d) are questions an examiner could ask

c) is too difficult because you need to have specific knowledge to answer it

Activity 3

Question	Subject
A Do you agree with people who say 'travel broadens your mind'?	Travel
B Are all people who eat fast food unhealthy?	Health and fitness
C Do schools have too many rules and regulations for children to enjoy them?	Rules and regulations
D Do you agree that it is more important to earn money than enjoy your job?	Money
E Do you think it is harder to learn a foreign language when you don't live in that country?	Learning a foreign language
F Does the fashion industry put too much pressure on young people?	Fashion

Activities 4 and 5

What the examiner thinks about	Ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How clear is your pronunciation? ▶ How fluent are you? ▶ How well does the examiner understand you? 	Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How well do you follow the conversation? ▶ Do you understand the examiner? 	Interactive listening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is it a good conversation? ▶ How well do you respond to the examiner? ▶ How do you cope with problems? For example, can you ask the examiner to repeat when you don't understand? 	Communicative effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How well do you use the language functions of ISE 1? ▶ Do you use a good range of vocabulary and grammar? ▶ How accurate is your use of vocabulary and grammar? 	Language control

Activity 6

- A Giving reasons, opinions and preferences
- B Describing the future, informing and expressing intention
- C Describing past actions in the indefinite and recent past
- D Giving reasons, opinions and preferences
- E Expressing obligation
- F Predicting and expressing certainty and uncertainty

There is no question for the 6th function (asking for opinions and information) because you need to do this yourself.