

ISE I (B1) Speaking & Listening

Independent listening tasks self-study activities

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

Read the information below and then tick the correct statements about the listening tasks (activity 1).

Information

Task 1 (4 minutes 30 seconds)

- ▶ You listen to a recording twice and take some notes if you want to.
- ▶ The examiner asks you six questions about facts in the recording.

Task 2 (5 minutes 30 seconds)

- ▶ The examiner asks you six questions.
- ▶ You listen to a recording twice. After the first time you tell the examiner what the talk is about in a few words.
- ▶ You listen again and take some notes if you want to. Then you tell the examiner six facts you heard in the recording.
- ▶ After this, the examiner asks you four questions about the recording.

Activity 1

Tick the true statements (a-d) below.

- You listen to both recordings twice.
- You have to take notes in both tasks.
- The examiner asks you six questions in both tasks.
- In task 2, you tell the examiner what the talk is about after the first listen.

Activity 3

Look at the three examples of notes taken on the first section of the recording about giraffes. Which one is the most useful? Why? What is good and bad about the other two options?

Example 1

Giraffes five a metres are animals on the
 Their height is for from trees but is difficult for Fortunately
 giraffes do not to everyday as they most of the they
 need from the they eat.

Example 2

5 ½ m tall tallest anim on the planet
 height useful for eat trees, drinking diffi
 not need drink everyday — most water they need from plants

Example 3

1. Giraffes are five-and-a-half
2. are the tallest animals on the.
3. but drinking is difficult for giraffes.
4. giraffes do not need to the water from the plants they eat.

Activity 4

Listen to the recording again and add to your notes. Try to think about your answer to activity 3.

Activity 5

Look at your notes. Which example are they more similar too? What do you think you could do to improve your note-taking? Look at the statements below about good note-taking and decide which ones are true.

	True or false?
A Try to use short versions of long words, eg 'diffi' instead of 'different'.	
B Don't write down words which are easy to remember, eg 'giraffe'.	
C Don't number your notes.	
D Try to write down words which come together, eg adjective and noun (tallest animal).	
E Try to write down words which carry more meaning, eg nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs.	

Activity 6

Listen to the recording again and add to your notes. Try to think about the suggestions in activity 5.

Activity 7

In task 1, after you have listened to the recording two times, the examiner will ask you six questions about the information you heard. Look at the questions below. Can you answer them from memory or looking at your notes?

1. Where do giraffes get water from?
2. How fast can giraffes run?
3. After how long can a baby giraffe stand up?
4. What happens to baby giraffes after 10 hours?
5. How long do giraffes live for?
6. How do you know the age of a giraffe?

Information

It's important to get lots of practice of listening and note-taking to prepare for this part of the exam. You can find more practice activities at trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy. It's also a good idea to listen to the radio and watch TV programmes in English so you can listen to lots of different accents.

Information

Task 2 is quite similar to task 1 but there are some important differences:

- ▶ The first time you listen without taking notes
- ▶ After the first listen, you need to tell the examiner what the recording is about – you only have a short time for this so you need to be quick
- ▶ After the second listen, you need to tell the examiner six facts, then the examiner will ask you four questions

You can prepare for listening and note-taking for this task in exactly the same way as task 1. The only extra things to practise are summarising what the recording is about, and reporting facts instead of answering questions.

Watch the videos of the ISE I Speaking & Listening exam at trinitycollege.com/TfLstudy to see some examples of candidates taking this exam.

Answers

Activity 1

- a) True
- b) False – only if you want to but it is a good idea
- c) False – in task 1 the examiner asks you six questions, and in task 2, you tell the examiner six facts and then they ask you four questions
- d) True

Activity 3

A is the best option because:

- ▶ The candidate didn't waste time writing down the word 'giraffe', which is used many times in the recording
- ▶ The candidate used shorter versions of words, like 'anim' for 'animal' / 'diff' for 'difficult'
- ▶ They wrote numbers in numeric form, eg 5 1/2 not five and a half
- ▶ It's easy to remember six facts when reading the notes

B is not very useful because:

- ▶ The candidate tried to write full sentences – it's too difficult to do this so they missed important words like 'metres'
- ▶ They numbered their notes – this is a waste of time
- ▶ They didn't use any shorter versions of words
- ▶ They wrote the word giraffe three times, which is a waste of time because it's easy to remember
- ▶ They can report some of the facts but they might make mistakes with the height because they didn't write metres – they probably won't be able to report the information from their 4th sentence

C is not useful because:

- ▶ The candidate only wrote down single words
- ▶ It's very difficult to make sense of the notes as the candidate has written down many words which don't carry much meaning eg 'is', 'the', 'do', 'to'
- ▶ They wrote the word giraffe two times, which is a waste of time because it's easy to remember

Activity 5

All statements are true

Activity 7

1. From plants/the plants they eat
2. (Up to) 55 kilometres an hour
3. 30 minutes
4. They can run around (with their mothers)
5. (Up to) 25 years
6. (By/from) its spots