

## ISE I (B1) – Guidance for candidates

### Speaking & Listening

When you enter the exam room 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](http://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)

#### Important

- Choose a topic you are interested in.
- Ask the examiner some questions about your topic.
- This is not a presentation but a conversation – try to relax and talk as you would with a friend.

## 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.