

Spoken English for Work (SEW) revision Summary of changes - March 2013

1. Background

The Trinity Spoken English for Work (SEW) exams have been revised. This document gives a brief summary of the changes. All SEW exams from March 2013 will be according to the [revised format and specifications](#).



2. SEW level titles



The titles of the four SEW levels have been changed to reflect the CEFR stage that the exam represents, giving test takers and test users, e.g. employers, a clear indication of ability.

3. Who SEW is for



The SEW suite is for anyone aged 16 or over who is either preparing to enter the world of work or already has some work experience. The exams are now completely accessible to pre-service candidates. The prompts for the telephone tasks have been updated to reflect this. Some of the subject areas for the discussion task have also changed.

4. Communication skills for work - Telephoning



To reflect speaking and listening skills that are required for day-to-day communication, the second telephone task (at B2–C1, previously called the Interactive phase) has been changed. In Telephone task 2 the examiner now calls the candidate and gives a prompt over the phone. The task content is the same and the candidate then takes responsibility for the interaction.

5. Communication skills for work - Presenting

Presentation skills at
higher levels

Presentation Skills
at **all** levels

To improve the balance of skills being assessed and for the exam to better reflect real-life work communication, presentation skills are now assessed at all four levels. At SEW B1 the Topic discussion has changed to the *Interactive topic presentation* and at SEW B2 there is now a separate presentation task, as there is with SEW B2+ and C1.

6. What are the practical implications?

SEW 2 = 4 tasks

SEW B2 = 5 tasks

SEW B2 now has 5 tasks: a presentation task AND a Topic discussion task. All other levels have the same number of tasks and same timings as before.

7. What's the same?

Language requirements, timings, topic
categories, procedures etc...

Apart from the changes detailed above the exam remains the same. Candidates need to prepare in the same way as with 2010 SEW, noting the changes made.

8. Why change the exam?

The revisions detailed above were introduced as part of the ongoing development of Trinity College London exams. Trinity revises its exams regularly to ensure that the content and tasks reflect real-life situations.

Please note SEW specifications 2013 replace the SEW syllabus 2010.

Candidates and teachers should refer to the [SEW specifications](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/SEW) for full details of the SEW exams: www.trinitycollege.co.uk/SEW