

English language skills for study

Assessing English language since 1938

trinitycollege.com

Trinity College London is an international exam board known for its cultural heritage and academic rigour. Operating in over 60 countries, Trinity has over 75 years' experience in the assessment of English language proficiency. Our exams and qualifications are recognised by universities, employers and regulatory bodies.

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English (ISE) multi-skills language qualification is recognised worldwide as reliable evidence of the ability to communicate in English.

Assesses communication skills needed for study

In a competitive world, students are highly focused on their future and looking to acquire the skills they need to compete in the 21st century. ISE is the contemporary multi-skills qualification that evidences the effective English language communication skills that they need, while also promoting the development of transferable study skills.

Internationally available

With Trinity's growing presence around the world, universities, employers and governments will encounter increasing numbers of candidates holding Trinity qualifications, in particular from Spain, Italy, Turkey, UAE, India, China, Hong Kong and the Americas.



ISE: A valid and reliable indicator of competence across multiple language skills

Integrated skills with an academic focus

Trinity's ISE exam is set in an educational context and uses the type of activities and tasks that students come across in their studies.

For example, ISE:

- ▶ tests students' ability to use reading and writing skills, and speaking and listening skills in combination – to reflect how people use English in real life
- ▶ supports academic process writing such as planning and reviewing, reading across multiple texts, and making notes to inform further writing
- ▶ tests spontaneous, authentic, interactive and communicative speaking and listening skills that are essential for tutorials and seminars
- ▶ tests the interactive and independent listening skills needed for study
- ▶ promotes the development of language learning strategies which are important for students who are learning English language in parallel with other subjects.

Assessment summary

	ISE Foundation (A2)	ISE I (B1)	ISE II (B2)	ISE III (C1)
Reading & Writing module	4 tasks with the same structure across all four levels: 2 x Reading tasks, 1 x Reading into writing task, 1 x Writing task 2 hours			
Speaking & Listening module	2 x Speaking tasks 2 x Listening tasks 13 minutes	2 x Speaking tasks 2 x Listening tasks 18 minutes	3 x Speaking tasks 1 x Listening task 20 minutes	3 x Speaking tasks 1 x Listening task 25 minutes

Note: ISE IV (C2) has a different format – see trinitycollege.com/ISE for details.



Promotes transferable skills for academic study

Achievement levels

Achievement levels for each of the skills reflect the extent to which the level was achieved as below:

Distinction	Excellent achievement – upper end of corresponding CEFR level
Merit	Appropriate achievement – at middle of corresponding CEFR level
Pass	Acceptable achievement – is of the corresponding CEFR level
Fail	Non-achievement – not of the corresponding CEFR level

Results and certificates

Students receive module certificates showing separate results for reading, writing, speaking and listening skills as relevant, plus a detailed diagnostic profile report for each skill showing strengths and areas for improvement. When both modules at the same level have been passed, an ISE qualification is awarded and a four-skills certificate is issued.

When taken as a Secure English Language Test (SELT) in the UK, all students receive a detailed diagnostic profile report for each skill, and successful students receive a four-skills ISE qualification certificate.

Certificate verification

Trinity has an online qualification verification system in place and institutions can request access via an online portal to check results. Find out more at trinitycollege.com/verification



Exam tasks prepare students for study using English

Framework alignment

Trinity College London is an exam board regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Our English language qualification levels are mapped to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). They are also calibrated to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), enabling people to compare different qualifications across countries fairly and consistently.

ISE Foundation	ISE I	ISE II	ISE III	ISE IV
A2 CEFR	B1 CEFR	B2 CEFR	C1 CEFR	C2 CEFR
RQF Entry 2	RQF Entry 3	RQF Level 1	RQF Level 2	RQF Level 3
EQF Entry 2	EQF Entry 3	EQF Level 1	EQF Level 2	EQF Level 3

CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference

RQF: Regulated Qualifications Framework (UK)

EQF: European Qualifications Framework

Quality assurance

Trinity's ISE and GESE qualifications have been independently calibrated to the Common European Framework of Reference as part of an extensive and award-winning study led by Lancaster University, a world leader in the field of evaluation.

In 2012, Trinity's GESE, ISE and Skills for Life qualifications were awarded Q-mark status by ALTE, having met all 17 of its stringent quality standards.

Trinity's ISE exams in their current format were developed following extensive research and consultation. Trinity worked in close partnership with the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment (CRELLA) at the University of Bedfordshire, who helped develop and quality assure the process.





Evidence of effective English
language communication skills

Government and institutional

Trinity liaises with education authorities around the world to ensure that our candidates' achievements are recognised. These arrangements vary from country to country, depending on the subject area and the type of qualifications concerned. For example:

United Kingdom

- ▶ Trinity's GESE and ISE qualifications are accepted by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) as evidence of English language proficiency for visa purposes. Visit trinitycollege.com/UKvisa for details
- ▶ Trinity's ISE qualifications are recognised by most UK universities. Check proficiency level requirements with institutions before applying

Spain

- ▶ Trinity collaborates with regional governments on bilingual projects at both primary and secondary levels in the state, state-subsidised and private sectors through various agreements across the whole country
- ▶ Trinity ISE certificates are accredited by CRUE (Council of Spanish University Rectors) and ACLES (Association of Language Centres in Higher Education)
- ▶ Virtually all Spanish institutions and universities officially accept ISE I (B1) and above, meeting Bologna, Erasmus and other public employment purposes
- ▶ Trinity is accredited by the regional education departments as a training provider for teachers

Italy

- ▶ Italian students can use Trinity qualifications to gain high school and university credits
- ▶ Currently over 1,500 university departments/courses throughout Italy award credits or give some type of recognition to Trinity qualifications – typically for levels ISE I and above
- ▶ Trinity is accredited by the Ministry of Education as a training institution for teachers

China

- ▶ Trinity's English language exams are recognised for the Hong Kong English in the Workplace Campaign, a government-led initiative to increase public awareness of the importance of English skills for the workplace
- ▶ Trinity exams are also used by the Chinese Athletes Education Foundation and GESE exams are used and recognised by the Beijing Education Examinations Authority and the Hubei Education Examinations Authority

India

- ▶ Trinity has worked closely with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in India to develop a communicative test of English for students in secondary schools – this test is now taken by two million students in India and beyond
- ▶ Trinity has helped CBSE deliver a teacher development programme in communicative methodology and assessment to over 30,000 teachers

International professional recognition

Trinity is an active member of leading international testing associations, including:

- ▶ Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)
- ▶ European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA)
- ▶ International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL)
- ▶ Evaluation & Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS)






Trinity College London is an international exam board offering a unique range of qualifications in English language, drama, music and the arts.

Contact us

To find out more about our qualifications and to download guidance visit:
trinitycollege.com/ISE

To find the contact details for your local Trinity representative visit:
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