

ESOL Skills for Life

Understanding Skills for Life results

This document provides information on how to understand the results and results slips for the Skills for Life exams.

If you would like to know more about how to prepare for the exam, please refer to the teaching and learning resources on the web page for the level – go to trinitycollege.com/SfL-resources.

General information

ESOL Skills for Life qualifications assess all four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

These skills are assessed in three modules: Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening.

Each Skills for Life award is a qualification in its own right. The overarching Trinity ESOL Skills for Life certificate is awarded when individual certificates have been awarded at the same level.

ESOL Skills for Life assessment method and scoring

The reading assessment is objectively marked using an answer key, so candidates' answers can be marked as either 'correct' or 'incorrect'. The writing and speaking and listening tasks are assessed by specially trained examiners and markers using the assessment criteria amplifications in combination with generic performance descriptors. Trinity examiners and markers undergo rigorous training and standardisation which informs how they come to their decisions when applying these marks. The assessment criteria are specific to each Skills for Life level and are closely aligned to the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum. The generic performance descriptors are used by examiners and markers to measure and describe the candidate's performance according to the assessment criteria and amplification for the level. The assessment criteria and generic performance descriptors at each level can be found in the specifications for each level at trinitycollege.com/SfL.

Trinity is committed to ensuring that the standard of each qualification remains consistent over time and so reserves the right to make appropriate adjustments to published grade thresholds and/or methods of aggregating marks.

Marks available for each skill

All the Skills for Life levels have marks allocated for each skill (reading, writing, and speaking and listening). The table below shows the maximum scores candidates can achieve in each skill.

Maximum scores for each skill

Skills for Life level	Reading	Writing	Speaking & Listening
Entry Level 1	24	36	36
Entry Level 2	24	52	44
Entry Level 3	27	56	44
Level 1	30	72	52
Level 2	30	76	56

Pass mark at each level

The table below shows the pass mark for each level.

Skills for Life level	Reading	Writing	Speaking & Listening
Entry Level 1	16	24	24
Entry Level 2	16	35	29
Entry Level 3	18	37	29
Level 1	20	48	35
Level 2	20	50	37

Overall result

Candidates need to achieve at least the pass mark to be awarded a module certificate. Candidates need to pass all modules at the same level to receive the ESOL Skills for Life certificate.

Candidates do not need to achieve more than 2 marks for every assessment criterion to pass a module.

In some cases, candidates can get 2 marks for every criterion, which are then shown as 'achieved', but they have not got enough marks overall to reach the pass mark and so they fail.

Understanding results slips and assessment criteria

Below is an [example results slip](#) with commentary to help you understand results slips and areas for improvement.

Speaking & Listening Level 2

Centre: Sample Centre (012345)

Candidate name : Bajan Basara

Candidate number: 1-1238989891

Date: 13/05/2020

Order number: 1-123456767

Here you can see the overall score and overall result for the candidate.

Overall score	40/56
Overall result	Pass

Here you can see the score achieved for each assessment criteria. Some assessment criteria are assessed more than once and therefore the total score per assessment criteria may differ.

Assessment Criteria	Marks Scored
1.1 Obtain relevant detail from extended verbal communication	6/8
2.1 Use clear pronunciation to convey intended meaning	5/8
2.2 Use appropriate language in context according to formality	5/8
3.1 Present information in a logical sequence for a given purpose and audience	2/4
3.2 Convey relevant detail during communication	2/4
4.1 Contribute to discussion and express views constructively	7/8
4.2 Respond to others constructively to move discussion forwards	6/8
4.3 Obtain relevant information from others	7/8

Here you can see a visual bar chart reflecting the scores achieved by the candidate per assessment criteria.

Assessment Criteria	More Practice Required	Borderline Performance	Good	Excellent
1.1 Obtain relevant detail from extended verbal communication				
2.1 Use clear pronunciation to convey intended meaning				
2.2 Use appropriate language in context according to formality				
3.1 Present information in a logical sequence for a given purpose and audience				
3.2 Convey relevant detail during communication				
4.1 Contribute to discussion and express views constructively				
4.2 Respond to others constructively to move discussion forwards				
4.3 Obtain relevant information from others				

Comments: Bajan has passed Speaking & Listening Level 2 by exceeding the pass mark of 37 marks out of 56. Bajan achieved good scores across the majority of assessment criteria and he particularly excelled in assessment criteria 4.1 and 4.3.