TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

Integrated Skills in English

ISE IV

2016 Portfolio tasks

1. These are the only acceptable portfolio tasks for candidates taking the ISE IV examination from **01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016.** Your ISE IV portfolio tasks must come from this list.

2. Your ISE IV Portfolio must contain a total of three tasks. You **must** present one task from each section:

   - One from Section 1 — Correspondence
   - One from Section 2 — Factual writing
   - One from Section 3 — Critical and analytical writing

3. Please write the task question number on each piece of work.

4. At the end of each task, write the number of words you have used to complete the task. You must not exceed the stated maximum word length range.

ISE IV Portfolio Preparation Rules

ISE IV candidates must follow these important rules when preparing their portfolio tasks:

1. The Portfolio must contain the candidate's own work and no one else's.

2. Nobody except the candidate personally should correct, add to or take anything out of a task.

3. Teachers (or any other person) must not correct a candidate's work.

4. Teachers are allowed to give one piece of feedback per portfolio task only. The ISE IV student portfolio feedback form should be used for this purpose. This must be the only form of feedback given.

5. No one except the candidate's teacher is permitted to give the candidate feedback on their work.

6. Candidates must not copy a piece of written text from any other source and present it as their own.

Please note if any of the above rules are broken, a U (Ungraded) grade is awarded by the examiner and the candidate will score zero in his/her portfolio.

Candidate disqualification warning!

Trinity will not tolerate any cheating, unfair practice or breach of its rules and regulations. Candidates found to have committed any such conduct will be disqualified.

ISE IV – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2016

SECTION 1

ISE IV – Correspondence (word length range: 300–350 words)

1. **Your town is well known for its programme of classical music concerts, but you are concerned that the needs of people with different tastes in music are not being met.**

    Write a letter to the organisers of the concerts affirming your support for the programme, but justifying why you believe that they should put on additional music events featuring a range of genres.

    AND

    Write an informal email to a local rock band encouraging them to approach the organisers with a proposal for a concert.

2. **Some research studies suggest that girls and boys do better in single-sex educational environments. In the interests of fairness, therefore, it would be advisable to always separate girls and boys for academic study.**

    Develop a blog with two or more contributors in which the value of single-sex education is affirmed, a counter-argument presented and a personal experience reflected upon.

3. **A night club owner has applied for permission to open an all-night disco next to your apartment block. You are strongly opposed to this.**

    Write a formal letter to the planning committee asserting your opposition to the proposal and disputing the night club owner's claims that the plans are a result of consumer demand.

    AND

    Write an informal email to the other apartment residents outlining how they could support you in opposing the proposal.

4. **A proposal has been put forward for all government employees to spend a weekend each month working unpaid in projects which would benefit their community.**

    Develop a blog with two or more contributors discussing the benefits of such a proposal and evaluating who would benefit most from the scheme. Examine whether there might be other, more effective ways of promoting social responsibility.

5.　**You wish to apply for a course of study at a university, but you do not have the formal qualifications required. The course specifies that alternatives to these qualifications will be considered. You have plenty of experience in the area of study.**

Write a formal letter of application to the university asserting the value of your experience and affirming your belief that you are adequately prepared for the course.

AND

Write a semi-formal email to your previous employer asking them if they would be willing to send a reference to the university to support your application.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV Correspondence task from the above list.

Please note the word length range given above for ISE IV correspondence tasks is for the whole task e.g. letter and email. Dividing the word length between the individual pieces of correspondence is the responsibility of each candidate. However, you must not exceed the stated maximum word length range.

SECTION 2

ISE IV – Factual writing (word length range: 300-350 words)

1. **Nowadays there is an app for everything and the concept of 'app usage' on smartphones has become an important part of the user experience.**

    Write a report for a software development company summarising which kinds of apps are the most popular and evaluating to what extent these apps improve people's lives. Conclude with a proposal for developing a new app.

2. **Plans have been drawn up to clear a nature reserve on the edge of your town to make way for a new housing development.**

    Write an article for a local newspaper presenting a range of conflicting views on the proposal. Analyse the implications of the plans and put forward a possible alternative.

3. **According to William Shakespeare the purpose of a play is 'to hold a mirror up to nature'.**

    Write a review of any play you know well, evaluating to what extent the play successfully reflects society. Comment on the ways in which this was or was not achieved and identify the themes of the play.

4. **The Generation Gap: Myth or Reality?**

    Write an article for a current affairs magazine summarising the current state of relationships between older and younger people in your country and giving examples to support your viewpoint. Evaluate to what extent these relationships have changed over the past fifty years.

5. **Many newspapers have gone out of business in the digital age and few have made a profit in recent years. Are we witnessing the death of the newspaper?**

    Write a report for an international media group evaluating to what extent you believe the newspaper is dead and giving your prediction on how the industry will evolve in the future. Support your arguments with relevant examples.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV Factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE IV – Critical and analytical writing (word length range: 300–350 words)

1. 'The traveller sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see.' (GK Chesterton, writer, 1874 – 1936)

    Write an essay giving your own interpretation of what is implied by this statement and assessing how far the distinction made between travellers and tourists is a valid one. Provide examples to illustrate your views.

2. 'Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.' (Gertrude Stein, writer, 1874 – 1946)

    Write an essay demonstrating what you understand by this statement and assessing whether you think it might be more relevant today than in the past. Support your assertions with appropriate examples.

3. 'Others have seen what is and asked why. I have seen what could be and asked why not.' (Pablo Picasso, artist, 1881 – 1973)

    Write an essay giving your own interpretation of this statement, analysing its relevance to artistic creation and discussing how far the statement is relevant to other fields.

4. 'I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.' (Albert Einstein, Scientist, 1879-1955)

    Write an essay discussing the meaning behind this statement, evaluating the difference between talent and curiosity and considering whether it is possible for someone who has no special talents to be considered a genius.

5. 'Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product.' (Eleanor Roosevelt, social activist, 1884-1962)

    Write an essay exploring the themes behind this statement, considering its value as a principle by which to live your life and giving examples to support your line of reasoning.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV Critical and analytical writing task from the above list.