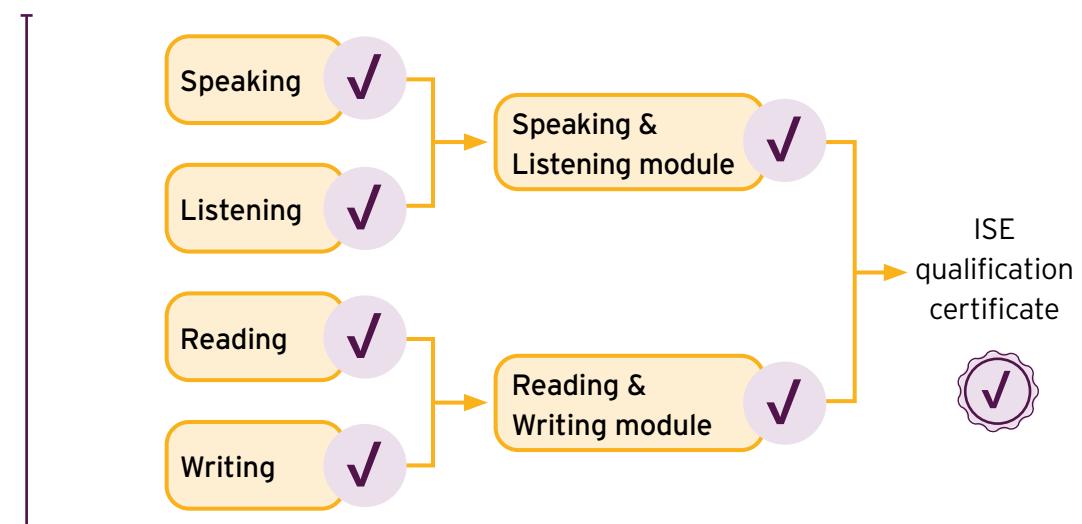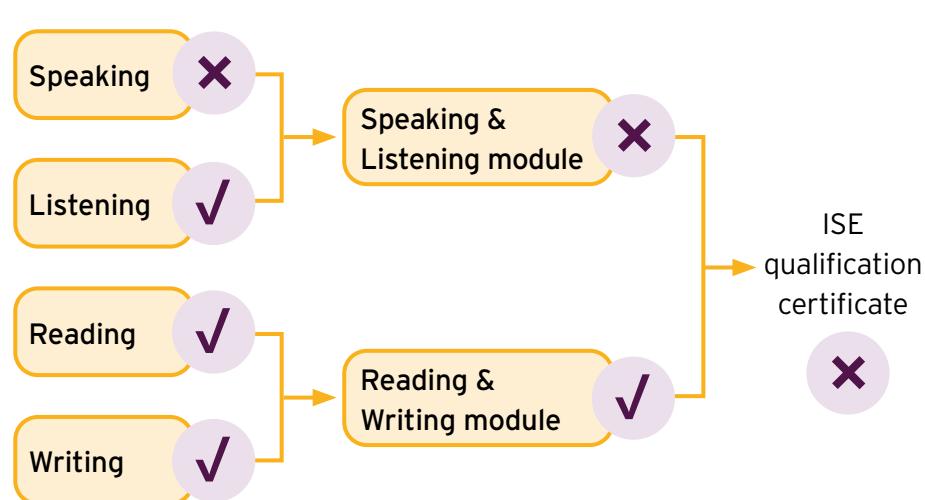# Understanding ISE (paper edition) results

This document provides information on how to understand the results and accompanying documents for ISE (paper edition) A1, Foundation, I, II and III. ISE IV has a different format and is not covered here – please visit **trinitycollege.com/ISEIV**.

General information

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English (ISE) qualifications assess all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. In the ISE (paper edition), these skills are assessed in two modules: Speaking & Listening and Reading & Writing.

The exam modules can be taken together, or at different times when students are ready (except when taken as a SELT in the UK, where they must be taken on the same day).

Candidates need to achieve at least the **minimum score required** in each skill to pass the module. Candidates need to pass both ISE (paper edition) modules to receive the ISE qualification certificate.

Results and certificates

The certificate states the ISE level and the overall CEFR level the candidate has been awarded as well as a scaled score (0-150) for each skill and overall.

How scores are reported

Scores for the ISE (paper edition) are reported on the Trinity Scale (0-150). Successful candidates receive a numerical score for each of the four skills, as well as an overall score.

The table to the right shows how these scores are reported. For more information, see Understanding the Trinity Scale.

Assessment method and scoring

Some tasks within the ISE (paper edition) exam are objectively marked using an answer key, so candidates' answers can be marked as either 'correct' or 'incorrect'. Other tasks are scored by specially trained examiners and markers using a rating scale.

Trinity examiners and markers undergo rigorous training and standardisation which informs how they come to their decisions when applying the rating scales. The rating scales are specific to each ISE level and reflect the level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

The rating scales for the skills assessed at each level can be found at trinitycollege.com/ratingscales. The table on the next page provides an overview of how each task is marked.

ISE Qualification	CEFR level	Minimum scaled score
ISE IV*	C2	130
ISE III	C1	105
ISE II	B2	80
ISE I	B1	55
ISE Foundation	A2	30
ISE A1	A1	5

* ISE IV has a different format and is not covered here – please visit trinitycollege.com/ISEIV. ISE IV will transition to the Trinity Scale in due course.

Overview of assessment methods

Skill	Level	Task	Assessment method	Scoring	Overall score
Speaking	ISE A1 to ISE III	All tasks of the speaking exam	Speaking & Listening rating scale	A score (0-4) is awarded for each of the four criteria	Scores from the different criteria are combined to make an overall speaking score
Listening	ISE A1	Task 1	Objectively marked using a task-specific answer key	1 mark for each correct response	Scores from both tasks are combined to make an overall listening score
		Task 2	Objectively marked using a task-specific answer key	1 mark for each correct response	
	ISE Foundation & ISE I	Task 1	Objectively marked using a task-specific answer key	1 mark for each correct response	Scores from both tasks are combined to make an overall listening score
		Task 2	Independent listening rating scale	A score (0-4) is awarded for overall performance on this task	
	ISE II & ISE III	Task 1	Independent listening rating scale	A score (0-4) is awarded for overall performance on this task	The score awarded for the task
Reading	ISE A1 to ISE III	Task 1 & 2	Objectively marked using a task-specific answer key	1 mark for each correct response	Marks for all correct answers are tallied
Writing	ISE A1	Task 3	Reading into writing scale	A score (0-3) is awarded for each of the four criteria	Scores from both tasks are combined to make an overall writing score
		Task 4	Extended writing scale	A score (0-3) is awarded for each of the three criteria	
	ISE Foundation to ISE III	Task 3	Reading into writing scale	A score (0-4) is awarded for each of the four criteria	Scores from both tasks are combined to make an overall writing score
		Task 4	Extended writing scale	A score (0-4) is awarded for each of the three criteria	

Understanding diagnostic profile reports

Trinity's diagnostic profile report goes beyond overall language competence and focuses on the detailed performance of each subset of skills. It provides a valuable personalised tool for candidates and their teachers by identifying areas for progression and improvement.

Diagnostic profile reports are issued to the centres once the results are finalised, so students can see where improvements are needed, if necessary. One report is issued for each candidate, showing each part of the exam, ie the skills and sub-skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Please note, the diagnostic profile does not provide an explanation or justification for the candidate's numerical score or overall ISE outcome. It is a developmental scale designed to support teaching and learning.

Explanation of categories in the diagnostic report

▶ Incorrect or not attempted – a candidate does not yet have sufficient language skills in this area or did not provide a response

▶ More practice required – the candidate has some skills in this area, but their performance is borderline and may not yet be consistent enough to meet the standard required for the level, therefore more practice is recommended

▶ Adequate performance – the candidate's language skills in this area securely meet the standard required for the level

▶ Skilled in this area – the candidate has well-developed language skills in this area and performs consistently across tasks at the standard required for the level

▶ Highly skilled in this area – the candidate's language skills in this area are very well developed and show confident, consistent performance across a range of tasks at the top end of the level.

The outcomes shown on the scale for each sub-skill should be the basis for future study of English language.

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

Diagnostic profile report

Jo Bloggs — Candidate number: 1-446605990

ISE I — Exam date: August 2023

Centre: Abi Test (30779)

			Incorrect or not attempted	More practice required	Adequate performance	Skilled in this area	Highly skilled in this area
Reading: Merit		Reading for the main idea	▬				▬
	Task 1 – Long reading	Reading carefully for facts or information	▬		▬		
		Reading carefully for details, working out meaning of unknown words	▬				▬
		Reading for the main ideas or the purpose, skim reading	▬			▬	
	Task 2 – Multi-text reading	Reading carefully for facts or information	▬			▬	
		Reading carefully for details, working out meaning of unknown words, summarising what you have read	▬				▬

Using skills development tables

Skills development tables are available online, with practical advice on how to develop the sub-skills required to achieve at least a pass for each skill.

An example of an ISE III Reading profile is shown below. Although this candidate's sub-skills in reading for the main idea and reading carefully for details are good (ie the bars correspond to 'adequate performance'), the sub-skill of reading carefully for facts or information needs further development (ie corresponds to 'more practice required').

		Incorrect or not attempted	More practice required	Adequate performance	Skilled in this area	Highly skilled in this area
Task 1 – Long reading	Reading for the main idea	██	██			
	Reading carefully for facts or information	██				
	Reading carefully for details, working out meaning of unknown words	██	██			

▶ In this case, the candidate should refer to the **Skills Development Tables for Reading** for how to improve this particular sub-skill.

▶ Skills Development Tables for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening can be found here.

Using Trinity Results Verification

Trinity Results Verification (TRV) allows approved users to verify qualifications against Trinity's central database.

Users request access using an online form. These requests are approved/rejected accordingly by Trinity.

Once access has been granted, users can search for existing exam records using the Trinity ID and Candidate number which is found on the bottom left hand side of the certificates.

When a search exactly matches a record in the Trinity database, the below fields will be presented to the user:

▶ Candidate's first, middle and last name

▶ Candidate's date of birth

▶ Exam taken

▶ Date the exam was taken

▶ Result for each skill.