

Integrated Skills in English

ISE IV

2018 Portfolio tasks

1. These are the only acceptable portfolio tasks for candidates taking the ISE IV examination from 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018. 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 work.

Please note if any of the above rules are broken, a U (Ungraded) grade will be 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 2018

SECTION 1

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

1. **Your local bus company has just announced it is planning to reduce their weekend services as part of a programme of cost-cutting measures. You are strongly opposed to this plan.**

Write a formal letter to the editor of your local newspaper affirming why bus services are indispensable and calling on local residents to join a 'Save our Buses' campaign.

AND

Write an informal email to your friend seeking their support in planning the 'Save our Buses' campaign strategy.

2. **Modern art is a great divider: people either love it or loathe it.**

Develop a blog with various contributors in which the value of modern art is affirmed and a counter-argument presented. Support both sides of the debate with relevant examples.

3. **You are a manager and have agreed to support a member of your team who has complained about the lack of training opportunities at your organisation.**

Write a formal email to the director of your department tactfully enquiring why a training programme is not available for employees and justifying a range of suitable courses.

AND

Write a semi-formal email to your team member affirming your support for his /her professional development.

4. **Plans have recently been announced in your country to restrict car ownership in a bid to tackle air pollution. According to the new policy, only one car will be permitted per household.**

Develop a blog with two or more contributors debating the merits of this policy and evaluating the effects it may have. Consider whether there may be other, more preferable solutions.

5. **The Ministry of Education has just announced that sport is to be withdrawn from the school curriculum so more time can be dedicated to academic subjects.**

Write a formal letter to the Ministry of Education expressing your strong dismay at this decision and asserting the value of participating in sport at school.

AND

Write a semi-formal email to the sports teachers at your local school outlining how they could assist you in opposing this change to the curriculum.

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. **A recent report argued that public spending on the arts cannot be defended while so many social issues are yet to be addressed.**

Write an article for a current affairs magazine asserting your own position on the report's findings, giving examples to support your viewpoint. Evaluate to what extent it is possible for governments to meet both cultural and social needs.

2. **Technology has altered working practices dramatically over the last ten years.**

Write a report for an employment agency outlining in what ways the workplace has changed in the last ten years as a result of the increased use of technology and evaluating to what extent these changes are beneficial. Conclude with your predictions on how working practices will continue to evolve in the future.

3. **The greatness of a novel is increasingly judged by the prizes it has won, but are these coveted books always 'great'?**

Write a review of an award-winning novel assessing to what extent you consider the book to be a great piece of literature and commenting on the ways this has or has not been achieved. Conclude with your own view on the value of book prizes.

4. **Many people are concerned that the growth of social media, virtual classrooms and telecommuting will cause face-to-face communication to all but disappear from many spheres of society.**

Write an article for a sociology magazine downplaying people's fears, outlining the benefits these ways of interacting offer society and affirming that the unique features of face-to-face communication could never be replaced.

5. **A large factory in your area has fallen into disuse. The local authorities have asked residents for their views on how to redevelop the site.**

Write a proposal for the local authorities outlining your idea for redeveloping the building. Assert the benefits of your plan for the community and counter any possible objections.

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 saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.** (Isaac Asimov, writer and professor of biochemistry, 1920-1992)

Write an essay demonstrating your understanding of this statement and assessing to what extent the history of scientific advances has exemplified this view. Give examples to support your line of reasoning.

2. **'We don't have to sacrifice a strong economy for a healthy environment.'** (Dennis Weaver, actor, 1924-2006)

Write an essay evaluating to what extent you believe there is a conflict between economic prosperity and environmental protection. Support your arguments with relevant examples and balance your own opinion with an alternative point of view.

3. **'It is our choices, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.'** (J.K. Rowling, author, born 1965)

Write an essay exploring the meaning behind this statement and considering its value as a principle by which to live your life. Support your assertions with relevant examples.

4. **'The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to the idealised past.'** (Robertson Davies, writer, 1913-1995)

Write an essay considering the reasons why people are naturally resistant to change and commenting on the validity of an idealised view of the past. Illustrate your contentions with relevant examples.

5. **'Beware the bareness of a busy life.'** (Socrates, philosopher, 470-399 BC)

Write an essay giving your own interpretation of Socrates' statement and assessing whether it is more relevant today than in the past. Provide examples to illustrate your views.

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