

# Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE) – Regulatory information

## REGULATED TITLES AND QUALIFICATION NUMBERS

| Qualification   | Regulated title  | Qualification number |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) A1 Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1) (ISE) (A1) | 610/3190/2           |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) Foundation Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing | TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 2) (ISE) (A2) | 601/5514/0           |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) I Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing          | TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 3) (ISE) (B1) | 601/5515/2           |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) II Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | TCL Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (ISE) (B2)               | 601/5516/4           |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) III Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing        | TCL Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (ISE) (C1)               | 601/5517/6           |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) IV Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | TCL Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (ISE) (C2)               | 500/3827/8           |

## QUALIFICATION TYPE

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English (ISE) assesses the four main language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. ISE tests students' ability to interact in English through the use of integrated reading and writing tasks and integrated speaking and listening tasks.

ISE has six levels corresponding with CEFR levels A1 to C2: A1, Foundation (A2), ISE Level I (B1), ISE Level II (B2), ISE Level III (C1) and ISE Level IV (C2).

ISE Speaking & Listening is assessed via a one-to-one, face-to-face oral assessment between the candidate and an examiner.

ISE Reading & Writing is assessed via an externally assessed exam sat under exam conditions; Level IV also has a portfolio component.

## OBJECTIVES

To provide evidence of the candidates' proficiency across four skills in English language: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Candidates may use an ISE qualification to provide evidence of their English language ability across Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) levels A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. ISE is suitable for any candidate (young person or adult) either in or entering into an educational context. ISE has been designed to reflect the type of tasks and texts students encounter within the educational domain.

## TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME

The time it takes each candidate to prepare for these qualifications is dependent on where the learning is taking place and on the needs and experience of the individual candidate. The total qualification time (TQT) is a guide and is split as follows:

| Qualification   | Guided Learning Hours (GLH) | Independent Learning Hours (ILH) | Total Qualification Time (TQT) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) A1 Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | 200                         | 40                               | 240                            |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) Foundation Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing | 200                         | 40                               | 240                            |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) I Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing          | 200                         | 60                               | 260                            |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) II Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | 200                         | 80                               | 280                            |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) III Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing        | 200                         | 100                              | 300                            |
| Integrated Skills in English (ISE) IV Speaking & Listening; Reading & Writing         | 200                         | 120                              | 320                            |

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

ISE A1 to ISE III Reading & Writing is assessed using dichotomous scoring and rating scales.

ISE A1 to ISE III Speaking & Listening is assessed using rating scales. Both Independent Listening tasks in ISE A1 as well as one Independent Listening task in ISE Foundation and ISE I are scored.

The overall result for each unit is taken by converting the total score into one of the following results:

- Distinction
- Merit
- Pass
- Fail

ISE IV Reading & Writing and Speaking & Listening is assessed by means of one overall criterion, Task fulfilment. This is assessed in each phase of the Interview using a four-point scale (A-D). The examiner assesses the candidate's performance

in each phase of the exam by awarding a letter grade A, B, C or D:

- A – Distinction (reflects an excellent performance)
- B – Merit (reflects a good performance)
- C – Pass (reflects a satisfactory performance)
- D – Fail (reflects an unsatisfactory performance).

## ATTAINMENT LEVELS

Achievement of ISE A1 to ISE IV aligns with the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages (Council of Europe, 2001).

## RECOGNITION

Trinity College London is an awarding organisation recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) in England and Northern Ireland, and by Qualifications Wales. Trinity's Integrated Skills in English are regulated by these authorities within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), and are recognised by other education authorities in many countries around the world.

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English are also audited by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE). The levels, ISE Foundation – ISE IV hold the ALTE Q Mark.

Trinity ISE exams conducted at registered SELT centres are accepted by the UKVI for some UK visa categories.

## MINIMUM AGE AND OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The intended candidate is a young person or adult, typically at secondary school or college who is using English as a second or foreign language as part of their studies to develop their skills and improve their knowledge of a range of subject areas. The typical ISE candidate is aged between 11 and 19, but may be older. The candidates taking ISE A1 may be as young as 10 years old and have been studying English in school for a year or so.

Students do not need to have taken any prior exams in order to take any level of ISE. Entry for a higher level of ISE does not require candidates to have passed lower levels and candidates may enter at the level they feel is appropriate for their needs and experience.

Trinity is committed to making its exams accessible to all, and each candidate is treated individually when considering how assessments can be adapted for those with special needs.

## PROGRESSION

While, for some learners, Integrated Skills in English exams represent personal goals and objectives, they can also be used as a progression route towards entrance to university where a specified level in English is required for study, progression to a higher level of English study, preparation for further or higher education, where English-medium teaching or Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) methodology may be in use, to provide proof of language level to prospective employers, or for immigration.

## EXAM CENTRES

Exams take place at registered exam centres throughout the world.

Tests for UK Visas, British Citizenship or Leave to Remain have to take place in a registered Secure English Language Test (SELT) centre in the UK.