

The Interview: General information – ISE IV

Overview of the Interview:

The third and final component of the ISE IV exam is an oral interview with a Trinity examiner. The ISE IV Interview replicates real-life exchanges in which the candidate and the examiner pass on information, share ideas and opinions and debate topical issues. In the Interview the candidate is expected to display their ability to use the functional, grammatical, lexical and phonological items specified for ISE IV and the preceding levels.

Structure

The ISE IV interview consists of five assessed tasks.

Formal presentation of a topic prepared by the candidate (the Formal topic presentation)	Up to 5 minutes
Discussion of the topic presentation with the examiner (the Topic discussion)	Up to 5 minutes
Interactive task	Up to 5 minutes
Listening task	Up to 3 minutes
Conversation with the examiner including a discussion of the Portfolio and one subject area selected by the examiner (the Conversation task)	Up to 6 minutes

Interview procedure

The examiner begins by greeting the candidate, trying to set him or her at ease and asking to see the candidate's identification.

The examiner invites the candidate to deliver his or her **Formal topic presentation**. The candidate provides the examiner with a written outline of the topic in note form.

The candidate then gives a formal oral presentation of the prepared topic. This is in the form of a well-structured presentation with an effective logical structure which helps the examiner to notice and remember significant points. The examiner makes notes during the presentation to facilitate the following discussion. The examiner does not interact with the candidate in this task of the Interview. This task lasts up to five minutes.

After bringing the Formal topic presentation to a logical conclusion, the candidate initiates the **Discussion of the topic presentation** by inviting questions and comments from the examiner. During this task, the candidate and examiner participate in an authentic discussion of the ideas and opinions raised in the presentation. This task lasts up to five minutes.

The **Interactive task** is then introduced by the examiner who informs the candidate of what he or she is required to do. The examiner provides an oral prompt to which the candidate has to respond by questioning the examiner in order to find out more information and by making comments. Once the examiner has set up the situation, the candidate takes full responsibility for maintaining the interaction. This task lasts up to five minutes. If the candidate fails to initiate or to maintain the interaction, the task will not extend to the full five minutes and the candidate's performance will not be rated highly.

The examiner then introduces the **Listening task** and informs the candidate of the requirements for the two different task types. The examiner orally presents three short pieces of discourse. The candidate is required to suggest possible endings for the first two texts, and to identify participants, contexts or settings related to the third text. Only short verbal responses from the candidate are required. This task lasts up to three minutes.

The examiner then introduces the **Conversation task**. Firstly, the candidate's portfolio is discussed and the candidate should take full responsibility for maintaining the interaction and engaging the examiner. Following this the examiner initiates a conversation on one subject area he or she deems appropriate for the individual candidate. There are no specified subject areas for this level. This task lasts up to six minutes.

The examiner indicates the end of the Conversation task and Interview.

Communicative skills for the Interview

The candidate is expected to demonstrate the following communicative skills during the Interview:

In the Formal topic presentation

- ▶ Present a complex topic with a high degree of linguistic formality to the examiner, who will probably be unfamiliar with it.
- ▶ Present a clear argument with an effective logical structure which helps the examiner to notice and remember significant points.
- ▶ Bring the presentation to a logical conclusion by inviting questions and comments from the examiner.

In the Topic discussion

- ▶ Initiate the discussion and actively seek ways in which to engage the examiner in a meaningful exchange of ideas and opinions.
- ▶ Take full responsibility for the maintenance of the discussion.
- ▶ Be able to deal effectively with the examiner's input by responding to a variety of conversational gambits and handling in-depth questioning.

In the Interactive task

- ▶ Control and sustain the discussion at all times.
- ▶ Actively encourage the examiner's collaboration in the task.
- ▶ Direct the interaction towards a successful conclusion.

In the Listening task

- ▶ Understand texts on abstract and complex topics which may be of a specialist nature beyond his or her own field.
- ▶ Understand virtually everything heard when delivered at natural native speaker speed.
- ▶ Identify implicit meaning.

In the Conversation task

- ▶ Take full responsibility for the maintenance of the conversation.
- ▶ Hold a discussion unconstrained by linguistic limitations, without showing signs of having to restrict what he or she wants to say.
- ▶ Introduce his or her contribution into the joint discourse with natural turn-taking and referencing.
- ▶ Demonstrate the ability to make an unobtrusive substitution for a word or expression he or she is unable to recall.
- ▶ Discuss fully and precisely not only the content of the Portfolio but also the process of writing it.

For full details of the exam, see:

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