

Preparing for the Formal topic presentation – ISE IV

Aims:

- ▶ To review the format of the task
- ▶ To identify suitable topics
- ▶ To review ISE IV functions

Activity 1: Knowing the Formal topic presentation

What do you know about the Formal topic presentation?

Look at the following statements and circle True or False:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. You choose your topic from the list of subject areas for ISE IV. | True / False |
| 2. This task lasts for up to 5 minutes. | True / False |
| 3. The examiner will ask you questions about your topic in this task. | True / False |
| 4. You need to demonstrate the ISE IV functions in your presentation. | True / False |
| 5. The topic needs to be discursive not descriptive. | True / False |
| 6. You need to give the examiner a written copy of your full presentation. | True / False |
| 7. The examiner will make some notes during your presentation. | True / False |

Look at the ISE IV Exam Information booklet to check your answers:
trinitycollege.com/ISE-IV-exam-information

Activity 2: Choosing a topic for your presentation

What is a discursive topic?

A discursive topic is one which involves discussion and argument. Making your presentation discursive means that you will be able to express your views, defend your beliefs and develop your arguments. Put the following presentation titles in the correct column in the chart. Why are they suitable/ not suitable topics?

Discursive	Descriptive

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| ▶ My wonderful family | ▶ Mixing business with politics | ▶ Vitamin supplements – are they worth it? |
| ▶ Testing on animals | ▶ My job – being a teacher | |

Brainstorm topic ideas

As well as being discursive, your topic should be personalised, and something you will be interested to research and feel comfortable talking to an examiner about. It could be related to your work or studies or it could be an issue that concerns you in the news.

Write down two possible topic choices.

Possible topic choice 1

Possible topic choice 1

Activity 3: Thinking about ISE IV functions

What are the functions you need to demonstrate at ISE IV?

Refer to the ISE IV Exam Information booklet and check that you understand the language functions of ISE IV. Now match the functions below to the example sentences used in a topic presentation about animal testing for beauty products.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Asserting | a) In my country, there are a lot of people who believe most beauty products are cruelty-free but it's just not true. |
| 2. Denying | b) Even though I think testing in some form should be done, I still don't think animals should be used. |
| 3. Softening and downplaying | c) There is no doubt in my mind that most testing on animals is unnecessary. |
| 4. Contradicting | d) We all know the priority for people buying beauty products. |
| 5. Implying | e) I'm not saying it would change the industry, but I do think tougher regulations could at least make a small difference. |
| 6. Affirming | f) This situation is not going to get any better. People just make informed choices. |

Look at your possible choices above. Can you link each functions to an aspect of your topic?

Preparing for the Formal topic presentation – ISE IV | Answers

Activity 1

1. False – there are no topic areas at ISE IV
2. True
3. False – they will only ask you questions in the next task - the Topic discussion
4. True
5. True
6. False – you should give the examiner notes not a full script
7. True

Activity 2

Discursive	Descriptive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Testing on animals (<i>people have opposing views, you can talk about testing for cosmetic or medical purposes</i>) ▶ Mixing business with politics (<i>people can have mixed views on this, there are various aspects, eg lobbying or corruption</i>) ▶ Vitamin supplements – are they worth it? (<i>people can have differing views, medical evidence</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ My wonderful family (<i>too simple and descriptive</i>) ▶ My job – being a teacher (<i>likely to be too subjective</i>)

Activity 3

(suggested answers)

1. c
2. a
3. e
4. b
5. d
6. f