Understanding the Trinity Scale
Transition to numerical scores for ISE (paper edition)

Trinity has transitioned to reporting results for the Integrated Skills in English (ISE) (paper edition) using a numerical score from 0-150 based on the Trinity Scale. This scale provides a consistent and transparent way of showing candidate performance in each of the four language skills – speaking, listening, reading, and writing – as well as the overall result.

Previously, module certificates (Speaking & Listening and Reading & Writing) and overarching certificates displayed only the grade candidates received for each skill (Pass, Merit, or Distinction) without showing the underlying numerical scores. Now, all ISE certificates display the numerical scores for each skill as well as an overall average score, providing a clearer and more detailed view of performance and progress.

This transition ensures consistency across Trinity's qualifications while maintaining the same trusted CEFR alignment and performance standards, as evidenced in **Linking the Revised ISE Exam to the CEFR: Setting Cut Scores and Performance Standards**.

The assessment methods, CEFR alignment and pass thresholds remain unchanged as described in **Understanding ISE (paper edition) results**. This update modernises result reporting and enhances transparency without altering how results are determined or how a passing score is awarded.

What has changed

◗ Certificates now display numerical scores (0-150) for each skill and for the overall result.

◗ The grade labels Pass, Merit, and Distinction are no longer shown on certificates.

◗ The grade bands (in the table below) are included for reference only, to help teachers, centres, and candidates interpret results during the transition period to the Trinity Scale.

◗ Centres are encouraged to refer only to numerical scores when discussing results.

The Trinity Scale (0-150)

Each ISE skill is reported on the same 0-150 scale. The overall score for **successful candidates** is calculated as the average of the scaled scores across the four skills. The table below shows how the previous grade categories correspond to the new scale, included here for reference only.

ISE Qualification	CEFR level	Reference (previous grade)	Trinity Scale range
ISE IV*	C2	Distinction	146–150
		Merit	140–145
		Pass	130–139
ISE III	C1	Distinction	121–129
		Merit	115–120
		Pass	105–114
ISE II	B2	Distinction	96–104
		Merit	90–95
		Pass	80–89
ISE I	B1	Distinction	71–79
		Merit	65–70
		Pass	55–64
ISE Foundation	A2	Distinction	46–54
		Merit	40–45
		Pass	30–39
ISE A1	A1	Distinction	21–29
		Merit	15–20
		Pass	5–14

How to interpret the Trinity Scale

◗ Numerical results make performance clear across all four skills.

◗ Pass boundaries and CEFR standards remain unchanged.

◗ Diagnostic profile reports have not changed and continue to highlight strengths and areas for further development, as detailed in Understanding ISE (paper edition) results.

◗ Centres and teachers are encouraged to use numerical scores when discussing results with learners and parents, rather than the former grade labels.

This transition reflects Trinity's ongoing commitment to clarity, fairness, and transparency in assessment reporting, ensuring that learners, teachers and institutions can interpret results with greater confidence and detail.

* 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.