

Sample ISE O Controlled Written examination tasks

Candidate answers, assessments and rationale

ISE O – Task 1 – Reading into writing task

You want to join a new sports centre in your area. The Manager asks you to complete this questionnaire. Read the questions below and then, **in your own words**, write your answers (approximately 75 words) **on the form** in the space provided.



Jubilee Sports Centre User's Questionnaire



This questionnaire is to be completed by all new members of the centre. Please write clearly in pen.

Name: Any Candidate

1. Tell us about the sports you play.

I play football, tennis and paddle. These are the most popular sports in my area

2. How often do you play these sports?

I play these sports three times a week. Monday I play football, Wednesday tennis,
and Friday paddle

3. Which new sports do you want to learn?

I want to learn polo. I think it is a fantastic sport to do in my free time. Also, I want
to learn basketball. I am fan of Manuel Ginobili

4. Which days and times do you want to use the centre?

I want to use the centre from Monday to Saturday. Also I ~~prefer~~ want to use it in the
morning because it's better than the afternoon

Signature: Any Candidate

Date: November 14th 200X

ISE O – Task 1 – Reading into writing task
Rationale for ISE Controlled Written assessment

TASK FULFILMENT Grade: B
Overall achievement of communicative aim
<p>The candidate adequately fulfils the requirements of this task, providing appropriate answers to the questions on the form. The candidate clearly indicates what he wants to learn and says which days he wants to use the new centre. However, there are some minor omissions. In question 4, the candidate has not mentioned the specific times he wants to use the centre.</p> <p>The text is over the required word length (75 words) by more than 10%. This could have been avoided if some irrelevant details had been omitted e.g. 'I am a fan of Manuel Ginobili'.</p> <p>★ Tip – In the Controlled Written exam, a 10% tolerance above and below the stated word length is applied. It is important that candidates do not exceed the word length by more than this as any additional text is not assessed.</p>
Text organisation
The writing is well-organised. It is clear and easy to follow.
Appropriacy of format, style and register
The candidate has completed the questionnaire in an appropriate way. The style and register are entirely suitable for a questionnaire.
Effect on reader
In general, the task has a very positive effect on the reader.

ACCURACY AND RANGE Grade: B
Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level
<p>The candidate covers a range of ISE O language functions e.g. giving personal information, stating simple facts, expressing likes and describing frequency.</p> <p>There is a good range of the grammatical items of ISE O e.g. Present simple tense, prepositions of time and link words. However, these are not always used consistently. For example, prepositions are used with 'times of the day', but not with 'days of the week'. The text would have benefited from a wider range of link words to avoid repetition e.g. 'I want to learn polo', 'I want to learn basketball', 'I want to use'.</p> <p>There is a good range of lexis including adverbs of frequency and 'sports' vocabulary, with only occasional interference from the candidate's native language e.g. 'paddle'.</p>
Spelling and punctuation
There are no spelling mistakes. Punctuation is mainly suitable with only occasional errors e.g. some full stops have been omitted.

ISE 0 – Task 2 – Writing task

Last weekend you went to a party with your friends. Write a letter (approximately 75 words) to your English penfriend telling him/her:

- i) what you did
- ii) what you wore **and**
- iii) what you ate and drank.

Hello Peter! How are you? Last weekend I went to a party with my friends. It was in Santa Fe.

When we arrived, the wheather was so nice, sunny. ~~There~~ It was in the morning. My classmate, the owner of the house, celebrated his birthday. In his house we played football and tennis with him. My present was a guitar, because I and my classmate are músicos. So, after the match, we played music, national rock, folk, etc. At mid-day he prepared a big asado, the most traditional Argentine food. We drank wine, actually red wine. The girls drank orange juice and mineral water. I was with my car, so I ~~can~~ could not ~~drink~~ drink alcohol. It was a really good party. All my friends together. The ~~were~~ wheather was amazing. The food very taste. Next party will be in my house. I hope to see you in my party, my friend.

I see you.

Bye

Candidate X

ISE 0 – Task 2 – Writing task

Rationale for ISE Controlled Written assessment

TASK FULFILMENT Grade: D
Overall achievement of communicative aim
<p>The candidate has failed to read the question properly, with the result that his letter does not fulfil all the requirements of the task. Although the candidate says what he did and what he ate and drank, there is no mention of what the candidate wore to the party as required. This is considered to be a major omission. ★ Tip – It is vital that all parts of the task are covered. Failure to do so will have a detrimental effect on the grade awarded.</p> <p>The candidate has also exceeded the required word length (75 words) by more than 10%. This could have been avoided as the text contains some irrelevant information about the present and the weather. ★ Tip – In the Controlled Written examination a 10% tolerance above and below the stated word length is applied. It is important that candidates do not exceed the word length by more than this as any additional text is not assessed.</p>
Text organisation
<p>The letter begins and ends appropriately, with a suitable salutation, greeting and closing. However, the task has not been divided into appropriate paragraphs, which makes it difficult for the reader to follow. ★ Tip – The text should be well-organised into appropriate paragraphs. The writer uses a few simple link words.</p>
Appropriacy of format, style and register
<p>The style and register are quite appropriate for an informal letter to a friend, with the use of an exclamation mark emphasising the informal nature of the communication. The format is appropriate with a suitable salutation, greeting and ending. Addresses and a date have not been included. However, these are optional for an informal letter at this level.</p>
Effect on reader
<p>The overall effect on the reader is quite negative as parts of the task have not been addressed.</p>

ACCURACY AND RANGE Grade: B
Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level
<p>The candidate is able to employ such language functions as talking about past events, stating simple facts and talking about future plans.</p> <p>There is a good range of the grammatical items of the level which are used accurately and appropriately e.g. Past simple tense, prepositions of place, link words, articles and possessive pronouns. However, there are a few non-impeding errors e.g. 'in my party'.</p> <p>The candidate has used some interesting and appropriate vocabulary to describe the party and the food and drink. However, there is no 'clothes' lexis as this part of the task has not been addressed.</p>
Spelling and punctuation
<p>Spelling is very good and punctuation mainly suitable, with occasional over-use of commas.</p>