

## Sample ISE I portfolio tasks

### Candidate answers, assessments and rationale

#### ISE I - Section 1 - Correspondence (70-80 words)

You receive an email from a friend saying that she always feels tired and unwell. Write your friend an email telling her what she needs to eat and what physical activities she has to do to feel better.

Hello Susie!!

How are you today??

I have just read your email...and for me you only need of a holiday for resting!!

But now there is the school and you can't do a holiday, so my idea is that you can begin to drink every evening before going to sleep an herbal tea and you will say that you'll be more relaxed!!

Another thing for feeling better is a swim to the swimming pool..

You listen to me..

Bye..

Love Violetta

**ISE I - Section 1 - Correspondence (70-80 words)**

<b>Rationale for ISE I Portfolio assessment</b>
<b>Grade: D</b>
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
The candidate has failed to read the question properly, with the result that her email does not sufficiently fulfil the task. There is no mention of what her friend needs to eat and only one physical activity (swimming) is mentioned. <b>★Tip - It is vital that candidates are trained to underline key words in the question and check that all of them have been covered before handing in their Portfolios.</b> The writing is of the correct length (81 words).
<b>Text organisation</b>
The writer has started a new paragraph for every sentence and a general lack of organisation makes the text quite difficult to follow. <b>★Tip - When candidates plan their writing, they need to think about how to structure it appropriately.</b> A logical sequence would have an initial greeting and commiseration, a paragraph about eating, a paragraph about physical activities and a hopeful conclusion. The writer does use the linking words 'and', 'so' and 'but', though the sentence beginning, 'But now ...' is too long and loses coherence.
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
The candidate has attempted to use an appropriate format for an email. However, style and register are uneven, with contractions used irregularly, as in 'you will say that you'll be'. The repeated exclamation marks suggest a very informal style, but the language does not match it. <b>★Tip - Style and register should be consistent.</b>
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level</b>
The functions of expressing obligation and necessity are not exemplified accurately or appropriately, i.e. there are no modal verbs of obligation. 'Will' is used correctly to predict future events and there is accurate use of the Present perfect tense. However, inaccuracies are evident with prepositions and word order. The vocabulary range is restricted by the failure to comply with the requirements of the task, and there are inaccurate collocations such as 'do a holiday'. <b>★Tip - as candidates have the opportunity to edit and correct their work, a high level of accuracy is expected.</b> The final injunction, 'You listen to me' is unsuitable ('Please listen to me' would have been more appropriate).
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
Spelling is entirely accurate. However, the double exclamation and question marks are unsuitably exaggerated in view of the situation of the writer's friend.
<b>Effect on reader</b>
The task does not have a very positive effect on the reader.

**ISE I - Section 2 - Factual writing (110-130 words)**

Write an article for a website called *www.unusualtravel.com* about an unusual holiday destination. Include details of how to get to the place, where to stay and what activities there are for the day and night.

Dear members of [www.unusualtravel.com](http://www.unusualtravel.com):

I listened about an unusual place, I have been searching information about that place, it is in Mexico, a little town in Jalisco named *Tapalpa*, it is a beautiful landmark and you can do many things in Tapalpa, it has some rocks but these ones are bigger as a building and you can go camping beside of the big rocks or camp in the wonderful forest, you can enjoy all typical food as birria that is delicious or stay in they wonderful hotels, the only form to arrive at that place is by bus, we can take it in Guadalajara and the tickets are not expensive, Tapalpa could be a good option for people who want rest.

ISE I - Section 2 - Factual writing (110-130 words)

<b>Rationale for ISE I Portfolio assessment</b>
<b>Grade: D</b>
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
An unsatisfactory execution of the task. The candidate fails to address the main points of the task in sufficient detail. Furthermore there are some omissions (what activities there are for the night) and some irrelevant details (what food to eat). <b>★Tip - It is vital that candidates are trained to underline key words in the question and check that all of them have been fully covered with no irrelevant details.</b> The task is within the stated word length range (121 words).
<b>Text organisation</b>
The writer shows no awareness of the need for structure. The text is not divided into sentences or paragraphs and as a consequence it is extremely difficult to follow. <b>★Tip - Texts should be well-organised into appropriate paragraphs and with natural use of cohesive devices.</b>
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
The task is not in the appropriate format for an article. There is no heading, introduction, appropriate paragraphs or conclusion. In fact, it begins as though were a letter with the greeting 'Dear members'. <b>★Tip - It is important that candidates learn the standard conventions for different text types.</b> The style and register are inconsistent and inappropriate and on occasion it reads more like a letter to a friend e.g. <i>we</i> can take it in Guadalajara.
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level</b>
The candidate does not have control over the language items of or below the level and errors are quite frequent. Furthermore, there is little coverage of the language items of ISE I, as the text is mostly written in the Present simple tense. <b>★Tip - Candidates should include a wide range of the relevant language items of the level, to show the examiner what they <i>can</i> do. Refer to the syllabus for the specified language items of ISE I.</b> There is some good vocabulary, such as 'beautiful landmark' and 'wonderful forest', but lexis is also used inappropriately ('I listened about', 'the only form to arrive').
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
Spelling is satisfactory and generally consistent with only one error e.g. building. However, the text is poorly punctuated with the over-use of commas and a lack of full stops and capital letters.
<b>Effect on reader</b>
The task does not have a positive effect on the reader.

ISE I - Section 3 - Creative and descriptive writing (110 - 130 words)

Write a story that begins with the words: *'Anna never really believed her horoscopes, until one day she read something that made her change her mind.'* Now finish the story.

Anna never really believed her horoscopes, until one day she read something that made her change her mind. She read that she will meet her boyfriend in a romantic place. In fact one day she went to a restaurant during her holiday. There she met a boy, who had invited her to dance. He kissed her. So she began to believe her horoscopes, which told her that she had to win a great prize. One month later she won £1000 in a competition, that was organised by her school. She was very excited and happy because her life is changed. Her boyfriend was very nice and he also never really believed his horoscopes, before meeting Anna. In Fact two years later he had married to Anna and they had two children. They were happy and lucky.

**ISE I - Section 3 - Creative and descriptive writing (110 - 130 words)**

<b>Rationale for ISE I Portfolio assessment</b>
<b>Grade: C</b>
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
This is a satisfactory execution of the task, with the main points covered. The candidate adequately explains why Anna started to believe in her horoscopes. The task is within the stated word length range at 136 words. <b>★Tip -Please note the story starter sentence are not be included in the word count.</b>
<b>Text organisation</b>
The text has not been divided into paragraphs and as a consequence is quite difficult to follow. <b>★Tip - Texts should be well-organised into appropriate paragraphs.</b> A more effective structure would have included a paragraph about what Anna read in her horoscope, a paragraph about what happened and why it made her change her mind, and a logical conclusion to the story. However, the writer does include some suitable linking phrases e.g. 'one month later', 'two years later' which aids cohesion.
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
A suitable format has been used and the register is appropriate for a piece of creative writing. Possibly the addition of a title would have further enhanced it.
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level</b>
The required functions are covered (talking about events in the indefinite and recent past and giving reasons). She is also able to state the duration of events e.g. two years later. There is a satisfactory level of accuracy and appropriacy with the grammatical, lexical and functional items of the level. However, the range is quite restricted. <b>★Tip - Candidates should include a wide range of the relevant language items of the level, to show the examiner what they <i>can</i> do.</b>
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
Spelling is accurate and punctuation is generally consistent, though there are some unnecessary commas.
<b>Effect on reader</b>
In general, the text has the desired effect on the reader.