

ISE 0 DVD 2011 Assessments & rationales

ISE 0 - Maria Vittoria	Result: Distinction	
Topic	Grade awarded: A	Key area: -

In the Topic phase Maria Vittoria initially appears to be reciting which has a negative effect on her communicative skills and pronunciation. However, when the examiner interrupts the recitation she is able to continue discussing her topic and is able to interact naturally with the examiner. There is a comprehensive coverage of language functions and lexis items of level and the candidate responds promptly and fluently with no need for support. Maria Vittoria asked a relevant question in a natural way, responded well to the examiner's answer and managed to maintain the discussion well.

Conversation Grade awarded: B Key areas: -

The candidate responds well to questions about her portfolio and shows a good coverage of the communicative skills of the level throughout this phase. She has a good range of the functions and language items of the level but this is not comprehensive. Inaccuracies do occur but generally the meaning is unaffected. The interaction generally progresses well although it is occasionally affected by some hesitancy whilst the candidate searches for language.

ISE 0 - Francesca	Result: Pass	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Communicative Skills

Francesca is moderately effective but only partially fulfils the task. There is some coverage of the relevant communicative skills, although frequent comprehension problems lead to some inappropriate responses. Francesca uses isolated samples of language items of the level but lack of control leads to several inaccuracies in simple structures. The candidate occasionally resorts to some memorised material and L1 lexis to maintain the interaction. Intelligibility is affected by intrusive L1 pronunciation interference even in the pronunciation of topic specific-lexical items. The flow of the interaction is halted by hesitancy and the candidate needs some support.

Conversation Grade awarded: C Key areas: Communicative Skills

Coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the level is minimal and the candidate is hesitant but generally manages to maintain the interaction with examiner support. The candidate's failure to understand the examiner impairs the interaction and poor pronunciation often hinder the communication.



Assessments & rationales

ISE I - Damir	Result: Merit	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Pronunciation

The candidate shows signs of recitation in this part of the exam and as a result his delivery is not always natural. He hesitates both while thinking of his learned material and when searching for the words he needs. His connected speech at sentence level is hard to follow and problems with word stress and intonation impede comprehensibility and cause strain on the listener. Although the candidate responds well and clearly understands the examiner, this is only one of the communicative requirements of the task. Damir's output is generally comprehensible with coverage of the language items of the level however problems with accuracy, failure to use the communicative skills and incomplete phrases result in a C grade.

Grade awarded: C Conversation Key areas: Grammar

With the examiner's support the candidate partially fulfils the task although the flow is at times affected by some hesitancy and the candidate shows only isolated samples of the functions and language items of the level. Unfortunately, the candidate doesn't attempt to play a part in initiating or maintaining the conversation - something an ISE I candidate should be able to do to a limited degree.

ISE I - Diego	Result: Merit	
Topic	Grade awarded: B	Key area: -

The candidate participates effectively in an informal discussion by asking questions and responding appropriately to the examiner's questions and answers. The candidate contributes confidently and engages the examiner. The candidate has a good range of the functions and language items of the level, and maintains accuracy for much of the interaction. Some inaccuracies do occur but these do not impede communication. However, features of good intonation patterns and connected speech are lacking, making the candidate's pronunciation flat and a little difficult to follow.

Grade awarded: C Kev areas: Grammar Conversation

The candidate starts to play a limited part in initiating and maintaining the conversation by asking questions and offering opinions, however there is some hesitancy as the candidate struggles to express himself. The candidate's contributions are moderately effective. There is some control over the accuracy of the language of the level but there are errors in language of lower levels. The candidate hesitates often before and during utterances. Although the communication doesn't break down the candidate needs support to maintain the interaction.

ISE I - Martina	Result: Pass	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Communicative Skills

The candidate gives information about the topic in extended turns and eventually responds to the examiner's requests for information. There is an over-reliance on recitation of memorised chunks and, as a result, the flow is affected slightly by hesitancy - possibly caused by the candidate searching for words or memorised phrases. The candidate does cover some of the communicative skills and language items of the level but with a very limited range, often using the simple present tense only and many incomplete sentences. Inaccuracies do occur and these, together with intonation and pronunciation problems, affect the communication of meaning.

Conversation Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

The candidate's contributions are moderately effective although she needs more support when discussing fashion and has difficulty in responding to the examiner's questions. The candidate doesn't initiate or maintain the conversation even in a limited way. There are isolated samples of the communicative skills and language items of the level however, the candidate's contributions are limited and where there is an attempt to contribute, this is usually using language below the level. Pauses in the flow of communication occur frequently while the candidate searches for language. Because of the above, she only partially fulfils the task.

ISE I - Luigi	Result: Pass	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Grammar

There is some evidence of recitation characterised by the candidate's poor intonation and pronunciation patterns which make his language difficult to follow. However, the candidate is able to respond well to interruptions and requests for clarification. There are isolated samples of the communicative skills, language functions and language items of ISE I but much of the language used is of ISE O level and contains inaccuracies and a restricted range. The flow of the interaction is hesitant and, although the communication doesn't break down, the candidate needs support. Overall this phase is awarded a low C.

Conversation Grade awarded: C Key areas: Communicative Skills

The candidate doesn't attempt to initiate or maintain the conversation. The candidate doesn't ask questions and his contributions are limited. There are few instances of ISE I language and errors in language of lower levels are frequent. Although the candidate's understanding is good, his hesitancy often interrupts the flow of the interaction and he requires support from the examiner to fulfil the task.



ISE II DVD 2011 Assessments & rationales

ISE II - Leonardo	Result: Merit	
Topic	Grade awarded: B	Key area: -

Leonardo's contributions are generally effective even though initially they appear to be recited. The candidate responds appropriately to requests for further information and handles interruptions from the examiner. However, he doesn't effectively engage the examiner. The candidate makes good use of the language and functions of the level and although inaccuracies do occur, including frequent low level errors, the interaction generally progresses well.

Interactive Task Grade awarded: B Key areas: -

The candidate generally manages to maintain the interaction with some support from the examiner, however he tries to resolve the situation immediately and as a result uses only limited language functions of the level.

Conversation awarded: B Key areas: -

The candidate discusses the portfolio process and content well, and develops the conversation by following up on the examiner's comments and questions. This feels like a natural discussion. The candidate shares the responsibility for the conversation and uses an adequate range of language functions and items, which are used with reasonable accuracy and appropriacy. Overall there are good features of connected speech beyond sentence level and effective stress and intonation patterns. However, the coverage of the items of the level are not comprehensive enough to be awarded an A grade.

ISE II - Eros	Result: Pass	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Communicative Skills

Eros's contributions are moderately effective and although he asks questions, he rarely responds to the examiner's replies. He struggles to respond appropriately to some of the questions and doesn't really engage the examiner in the discussion. The candidate seems unprepared for a discussion and he appears to rely on memorised chunks of information. There is some evidence of organisation of the discourse, but there is also quite a lot of repetition. There is some coverage of the language functions of the level (e.g. *expressing feelings and emotions* and *expressing agreement and disagreement*) however there is limited use of the grammar of level.

Interactive Task Grade awarded: C Key areas: Communicative Skills

The candidate manages to maintain the interaction with support from the examiner. He responds well to the prompt by asking for information but only just manages to use other relevant functions of the level. His lack of grammatical and lexical range causes the candidate problems with expressing the specified functions and with making appropriate comments on the examiner's contributions.

Conversation Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

Eros's contributions are moderately effective but only partially fulfil the task. There are several examples of the candidate not understanding the examiner's questions and instead of asking for clarification, he guesses at what is meant and talks about something unrelated to the question or doesn't answer it appropriately. The candidate uses only isolated examples of the ISE II language items. Accuracy and range are both limited despite an apparent confident delivery.

ISE II - Frederica	Result: Fail	
Topic	Grade awarded: D	Key area: Communicative Skills
		& Grammar

The candidate relies heavily on describing and giving information in the form of memorised chunks, rather than actually listening and responding to the examiner with appropriate responses. At times it's hard to tell if the candidate has understood the examiner or is simply focusing on 'key words' and then responding to what she thinks is being asked. When not relying on memorised chunks, the candidate responds appropriately to the examiner, despite persistent errors in the use of the functions of the level. There are frequent grammatical errors in language of preceding levels and the candidate's range of ISE II functions and lexis is very limited. There are isolated samples of topic related vocabulary but this is often mispronounced causing problems with intelligibility.

Interactive Task Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

In this task the candidate asks questions but doesn't comment on the examiner's responses; she simply responds by making other suggestions or adding her own anecdotes. Communication doesn't actually break down, but the candidate's range of language functions is very limited and again, basic errors affect understanding. The candidate needs support to fulfil the task. This is a weak C grade.

Conversation	Grade awarded: D	Key areas: Communicative Skills
		& Grammar

In this phase Federica makes some attempt at the task but with very little evidence of the communicative skills. She doesn't share responsibility for the interaction or follow up on the examiner's comments. There is very limited coverage of the language and functions of the level and there are persistent errors in both the language ISE II and that of preceding levels. Her performance is compromised by too many inaccuracies and her comments are also sometimes repetitive.

ISE II - Luca	Result: Pass	
Topic	Grade awarded: C	Key area: Pronunciation

There are many samples of ISE II language which are used both accurately and appropriately. However, Luca's Topic discussion is hampered by recitation. He appears to be have memorised large chunks of information which he is reluctant to deviate from. His pronunciation and intonation require a sympathetic listener as there is heavy reliance on L1 intonation and speech patterns, as well as patterns typical of recitation and memorisation. His contributions are moderately effective and he manages to ask the examiner two questions, although he then ignores the examiner's responses and returns to reciting his topic.

Interactive Task Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

Although the candidate attempts to take control of the interaction and initially plays a part in maintaining the discourse, he seems unaware of the requirements of the task and tries to talk about the subject in general rather than respond to the task. There are only isolated examples of use of the relevant language functions of the level and the quality of the language of preceding levels suffers when the candidate is uncertain of which direction to take the conversation. As the interaction develops, the candidate relies more and more heavily on the examiner to take control and maintain the interaction.

Conversation Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

When discussing the portfolio, the candidate responds appropriately to the examiner and invites interaction. However, in the second part of this phase, the candidate uses simplistic structures of lower levels with little evidence of production of the functions and grammar of ISE II, although he has a good range of lexis related to the subject area. The candidate doesn't share responsibility for the interaction or develop the conversation. He shows a reluctance to use opportunities to produce appropriate language and his restricted range of language and lexis make the conversation hard to follow. However, with support, the task is partially fulfilled.



ISE III DVD 2011 Assessments & rationales

ISE III - Lorenzo	Result: Fail	
Topic Presentation	Grade awarded: D	Key area: Communicative Skills
		& Grammar

The Topic presentation is informative in nature and not particularly discursive. There are few subsidiary points or sub-themes, making it difficult for the candidate to demonstrate many of the language functions of the level. There is no structured introduction or presentation outline and little, if any, evidence of an identifiable structure. Signposting language, discourse connectors and cohesive devices are minimal and the presentation doesn't conclude appropriately. Much of the language used is that of much lower levels - he simply describes the slides on the laptop, often using only the present simple tense, and occasionally with errors. The discourse is laboured, lacking in fluency and there are instances of incorrect pronunciation of topic-specific vocabulary. The candidate does not demonstrate a wide range of complex language structures.

Topic Discussion Grade awarded: C Key areas: Grammar

The Topic discussion phase is perhaps where the candidate's communicative skills are best demonstrated. Generally he communicates well and relatively accurately and appropriately. He handles most examiner contributions well, but rarely encourages or challenges the examiner to debate or takes responsibility for maintenance of the interaction. The candidate's contributions are moderately effective and there are samples of the language of the level. However, perhaps because the Topic presentation was not discursive, the discussion never really develops or allows the candidate to use the language functions of the level.

Interactive Task	Grade awarded: D	Key areas: Communicative Skills
		& Grammar

The Interactive phase proves challenging for the candidate. He fails to listen to what is being said and simply grasps one or two ideas and repeats them throughout. He does not respond appropriately to several prompts and although there are occasional attempts at language of the level, these are the same phrases repeated, often incorrectly. The candidate struggles to take full responsibility for maintaining the interaction and seems to be unable to follow the examiner's prompts and ideas. He doesn't negotiate towards a successful ending and there is no successful outcome as the discussion dries up when the candidate can't develop the discourse. There is very little evidence of the functional language of the level.

Listening Task Grade awarded: D Key areas: -

The candidate answers two texts incorrectly and his third answer is close to the correct response but shows an underlying lack of understanding. This results in a D grade for this phase.

Conversation Grade awarded: D Key areas: Communicative Skills & Grammar

In the final phase of the exam the candidate's responses are limited. The candidate does not engage the examiner in meaningful discussion or influence the direction of the interaction. There is very little evidence of ISE III functions, grammar and lexis, and language usage is poor and well below the level. The task is not fulfilled even with support. Throughout this phase, the candidate fails to express himself fluently or spontaneously and the interaction is laboured. The candidate is quite difficult to follow, due to a lack of fluency and stress, rhythm and intonation patterns heard.