

Portfolio tasks for ISE 0, I, II, III & IV

January-December 2011

1. These are the only acceptable tasks for candidates taking the ISE examination during **January-December 2011**. Your portfolio tasks **must** come from this list.
 2. Your portfolio must contain a total of **three** tasks. You must present one task from each section:
 - One from **Section 1** - Correspondence
 - One from **Section 2** - Factual writing
 - One from **Section 3** - Creative and descriptive writing (ISE 0-III) or Critical and analytical writing (ISE IV)
 3. Please select your tasks from the appropriate ISE level you are taking. You **must not** mix levels.
 4. Please write the task question number on each piece of work.
 5. At the end of each task, write the number of words you have used to complete the task. You **must not** exceed the stated maximum word length range.
 6. Please present your completed portfolio in the colour-coded file (as provided by Trinity) along with the Portfolio cover sheet and Student portfolio feedback forms.
-

ISE 0 – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2011

SECTION 1

ISE 0 – Correspondence (word length range: 40-60 words)

1. You are on holiday in Australia with your family. Write a postcard to your English friend saying what the weather is like, what you did yesterday and what you are going to do for the rest of your holiday.
2. Last month you started a new school. Write a letter to your Irish penfriend telling him about some of the differences between your old school and your new school. Say which school you like the best.
3. Last Saturday you went to a fantastic disco. Write an email to your English friend telling her how you spent your evening and what you enjoyed the most. Invite your friend to go to the disco with you next weekend.
4. Your American penfriend wants to know about the sports you like. Write a letter to your penfriend telling him about a sport you play. Say what you like about this sport, how often you play it and what special equipment you need.
5. You are going to school or work early this morning. Write a note for your English visitor saying what he can eat for breakfast and where to find the food. Say what time you are going to return home.

Remember – you must choose your ISE 0 correspondence task from the above list.

SECTION 2

ISE 0 – Factual writing (word length range: 80-100 words)

1. Your English friend is coming to your home for dinner tonight. Write some directions for your friend telling her how to find your home from the train station. Say what time to arrive and what you are going to eat.
2. You are going mountain climbing next weekend with your Irish friend, Mary. Write some instructions for Mary saying what clothes to wear, what food and drink to bring and what special equipment she needs.
3. Your American friend is visiting you and wants to go swimming. Write some directions for your friend telling him how to find the swimming pool from your home. Say what times and days it is usually open.
4. You are going to a theme park (e.g. Disneyland) with a group of English friends on Saturday. Write some instructions for the group saying when and where to meet, what to bring and what souvenirs you can buy at the theme park.
5. You are going to watch a volleyball match with your English friend on Saturday. Write some directions for your friend telling him how to find the sports stadium from the bus station. Tell your friend when and where to meet you.

Remember – you must choose your ISE 0 factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE 0 – Creative and descriptive writing (word length range: 80–100 words)

1. Write a story for a writing competition about a boy who entered an important sports competition. Say what happened, who won and what the boy enjoyed the most.
2. Last week your Scottish friend came to visit you. Write your diary saying what you liked about her, what you did together and when you are going to visit her in Scotland.
3. Write a description for a family magazine of two different activities people can do in the summer. Compare the two activities and say which one you like the best.
4. Write a short story for a writing competition ending with the words, *'I'm never going to visit that place again'*. Say where you went, who you were with and what happened.
5. Imagine you had the chance to do your favourite job for one day. Write a description of your day for a family magazine saying what job you did, how you spent your day and what you liked about the work.

Remember – you must choose your ISE 0 creative and descriptive writing task from the above list.

ISE I – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2011

SECTION 1

ISE I – Correspondence (word length range: 70-80 words)

1. You are planning to spend six months travelling the world. Write an email to your English friend saying which places you intend to visit and what you will see there. Invite your friend to come with you.
2. You recently started playing a musical instrument. Write a letter to your Irish penfriend saying why you like this instrument and what kind of music you prefer to play. Tell your penfriend what you will need to do if you want to improve.
3. You have decided to run a marathon in six months' time. Write an email to your American friend saying what exercise you are planning to do, how long you will have to train every day and how you will need to change your diet.
4. Your grandparents want to buy you a birthday present and have asked what you want. Write a letter to your grandparents telling them about a camera you have seen and giving reasons why you want it. Ask what they think about your idea.
5. Your family has just won a luxury car in a competition. Write an email to your English friend to tell her the good news. Say what you had to do to win the car and explain where you will drive next month.

Remember – you must choose your ISE I correspondence task from the above list.

SECTION 2

ISE I – Factual writing (word length range: 110-130 words)

1. Write an article for an international magazine with the title, '*Learn a new language*'. Give your opinion on the best ways to learn a foreign language. Say what you have done personally and how it has helped you.
2. Many people today do not take enough exercise. Write a report for a health and fitness group saying what you think will happen if this continues, what people need to do to get fit and why it is important to take regular exercise.
3. Write a review of two popular television game shows for an entertainment guide. Say what you have to do to win each game show and what the prizes are. Explain which game show you prefer.
4. Write an article for a travel magazine describing the rules people have to follow when they travel by plane. Say what happens if people break the rules and give your opinion on them.
5. Write a report for a youth group about teenagers and money. Explain how young people can earn money and save money. Say what most teenagers prefer to spend their money on.

Remember – you must choose your ISE I factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE I – Creative and descriptive writing (word length range: 110-130 words)

1. You recently saw a photo of your parents when they were teenagers. Write a description for a fashion magazine describing the clothes they were wearing and giving your opinion on them. Say if you think these fashions will return in the future.
2. Write a story for a music magazine about four teenagers who formed a band and appeared on television. Explain what music the band played, what they had to do on television and how it helped them become famous.
3. Write your diary for a day when something very exciting happened to you. Explain what happened, what you were doing at the time and why it was so exciting.
4. Write a description of your favourite film star for an entertainment magazine. Describe what roles this person prefers to play, explain why you think he/she is a popular actor and say what you think he/she will achieve in the future.
5. Write a story for a writing competition about two friends who found a valuable object when they were walking on the beach. Explain what they found, how much it was worth and what they did with it.

Remember – you must choose your ISE I creative and descriptive writing task from the above list.

ISE II – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2011

SECTION 1

ISE II – Correspondence (word length range: 120-150 words)

1. Your local council is planning to erect a statue of a well-known public figure in your area. Write a letter to the council explaining why you disagree with the person suggested and persuading them to reconsider the plan. Recommend a more suitable public figure for the statue.
2. Your Irish friend has decided to work as a volunteer for a charity in a developing country. Write him a letter highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of his decision and saying how you feel about it. Ask for more information about the charity.
3. Your friend, John, refuses to recycle anything. Write an email to John encouraging him to start recycling. Explain what he should do and say what might happen to the planet if everyone behaved like him.
4. Some people in your area claim to have seen a UFO recently. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper reporting what they say they have seen. Give your opinion on how likely it is that they did see a UFO and offer a possible explanation.
5. Your friend is planning to open a shop for tourists in your area. Write an email to your friend suggesting some local products that he could sell and saying why you think they would be popular with tourists. Say how successful you think the shop will be.

Remember – you must choose your ISE II correspondence task from the above list.

SECTION 2

ISE II – Factual writing (word length range: 170-200 words)

1. *'Many national customs are no longer relevant in today's society'.* Write an article for an international magazine saying to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. Support your point of view with relevant examples of customs from your own country.
2. Your area has been suffering from the effects of pollution. Write a report for an environmental committee explaining how the local landscape and lives of residents have been negatively affected by pollution. Make some suggestions to improve the situation.
3. Write a review for a culture magazine of a film which has influenced your personal values. Summarise the plot and give your opinion on the actors' performances. Explain how the film has influenced the person you are today.
4. You recently read your grandmother's diary from when she was a teenager. Write an article for a history magazine explaining when the diary was written and describing some of the things your grandmother used to do. Say whether you would have liked to be a teenager at that time.

5. You have been investigating living standards in your country. Write a report for a government committee saying what factors affect people's living standards and whether or not they have improved in the last 5 years. Suggest what could be done to ensure a good standard of living for all.

Remember – you must choose your ISE II factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE II – Creative and descriptive writing (word length range: 170-200 words)

1. Write a story for a writing competition beginning with the words, *'If I hadn't overslept and been late, I would never have had such an exciting encounter'*.
2. Write a description for the website www.scary-moments.com of a frightening experience (real or imaginary) you have had. Describe what happened including details of where you were, who was involved and how you felt.
3. Last week you moved from a small village to a big city. Write your diary explaining how your life has changed and describing how you have been feeling. Speculate as to whether or not you will enjoy city life.
4. Write a description for a family magazine of a place you used to visit as a child that has special associations for you. Describe the place, say what you used to do there and explain why it is so memorable.
5. Write a story for a writing competition about a lazy school boy who eventually became a successful businessman. Describe how he used to behave, what happened to change him and the effect it had on his life.

Remember – you must choose your ISE II creative and descriptive writing task from the above list.

ISE III – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2011

SECTION 1

ISE III – Correspondence (word length range: 180-210 words)

1. Your teenage relative is about to take her university entrance exams and she has been feeling stressed and anxious. Write her an email empathising with her situation and telling her about some practical solutions for managing exam stress.
2. You recently read a newspaper article that says young people nowadays disrespect their elders and ignore the law. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper challenging the views expressed in the article, supporting your argument with relevant examples.
3. Your friend has recently become withdrawn and unsociable. You believe that overuse of the internet is to blame. Write an email to your friend expressing your concern about his behaviour and warning him about the dangers of spending too much time on the internet.
4. A local school is planning to remove studies of the arts, such as music and drama, from the school curriculum. Write a letter to the head teacher explaining why you believe these subjects are important and saying what the consequences will be if the arts are no longer taught.
5. The company you work for is proposing to make a large number of the workforce redundant due to a continual loss in profits. Write an email to the Chief Executive protesting about the redundancies and proposing some alternative solutions to the company's problems.

Remember – you must choose your ISE III correspondence task from the above list.

SECTION 2

ISE III – Factual writing (word length range 220-250 words)

1. *'Life is competitive therefore competition should be encouraged from an early age.'* Write an article for a child development journal evaluating this statement and expressing how far you agree with its hypothesis.
2. The world's elderly population is growing rapidly. Write a report for a social issues committee outlining the current situation in your country and saying how best to provide for an increasingly elderly population.
3. You recently attended an exhibition of a well-known artist. Write a review of the exhibition for an arts guide describing the artist's work and offering your reaction to it. Evaluate the success of the exhibition.
4. In 2010, a catastrophic oil spill caused damage to wildlife and destroyed people's livelihoods. Write an article for an international magazine expressing your concern at the severity of this incident and urging the need for closer regulation in future.

5. Print newspapers are struggling to compete with electronic media. Write a report for a newspaper editor summarising the reasons for the decline in newspaper sales and saying what could be done to address the situation.

Remember – you must choose your ISE III factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE III – Creative and descriptive writing (word length range: 220-250 words)

1. Write a short story for a writing competition ending with the words, *'She couldn't believe the audience's reaction. Applause was ringing in her ears. It had been a struggle, but looking back she knew it had been worth it'.*
2. You recently visited some new acquaintances for the first time and were surprised to find that their lifestyle was totally different from yours. Write a description for a lifestyle magazine of the main differences you encountered and say how they made you look at your own lifestyle in a new light.
3. You were the successful candidate in a local election recently. Write your diary for the day the results were announced describing your reaction to your success and saying what you hope to achieve in your first year.
4. Write a story for a teenage magazine about an independent young man who decided to leave home at the age of eighteen. Describe his initial expectations and the realities he experienced.
5. Imagine you are a scientist who has just made an exciting new discovery. Write a description of your discovery for a popular science magazine discussing its importance and evaluating the different applications it may have.

Remember – you must choose your ISE III creative and descriptive writing task from the above list.

ISE IV – PORTFOLIO TASKS 2011

SECTION 1

ISE IV – Correspondence (word length range: 300-350 words)

1. **Women are still under-represented in national and international politics. Breaking the glass ceiling remains a daunting challenge.**

Write a formal letter to a political organisation citing the current situation as evidence of the problem and putting forward your ideas for improving the gender balance in political life.

AND

Write an informal email to a female friend, who is considering running for political office, affirming your belief in her suitability for the role and pledging to drum up support for her campaign.

2. **You are the majority shareholder in a company which has been steadily losing money in recent years. You are convinced that only major management changes will enable the company to survive.**

Write a formal letter to the Company Chairman asserting your loyalty to the organisation, but sensitively presenting the case for bringing in new blood at the top level.

AND

Write a semi-formal email to the other shareholders in the company contradicting the notion that the situation is irreversible and implying that a united approach needs to be adopted.

3. **You want to apply for a travel scholarship to enable you to continue your postgraduate research abroad.**

Write a formal letter to the head of the funding organisation presenting the case for the importance of your research and asserting its usefulness to the wider community.

AND

Write an informal email to your tutor affirming your determination to find ways of funding further research and implying that if you are not successful in winning a scholarship you will seek other means of assistance.

4. **The European Union has recently relaxed its ruling on the growing of GM (Genetically Modified) crops, allowing national governments to make up their own minds on whether to permit their cultivation.**

Develop a blog in which two or more contributors present their case for and against GM crop cultivation, asserting or denying the rights of individual countries to make their own decisions on the issue.

5. What people are paid for their jobs rarely reflects their true worth. For example, an actor playing the part of a surgeon will be paid more than the real surgeon. By what criteria are people paid?

Develop a blog in which three contributors - an actor, a surgeon and a miner - assert their contrasting views on this moral question, in a range of different language styles.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV correspondence task from the above list.

Please note the word length range given above for ISE IV correspondence tasks is for the whole task e.g. letter and email. Dividing the word length between the individual pieces of correspondence is the responsibility of each candidate. However, you must not exceed the stated maximum word length range.

SECTION 2

ISE IV - Factual writing (word length range: 300- 350 words)

1. In the developed world many people buy more than they need. *'Faster, better, cheaper'* has become an economic mantra based on a relentless desire to buy and sell regardless of other less tangible costs.

Write an article for a consumer magazine discussing the underlying causes of this phenomenon and exploring the hidden costs of modern consumerism for the wider society.

2. Recent evidence suggests that heat wave conditions, devastating floods and prolonged droughts are becoming more prevalent in many parts of the world.

Write a report for an international environmental publication contradicting the view that these extreme conditions are man-made and implying that there is no need to curtail human and industrial activities.

3. In some countries compulsory military service is a well-established practice, while in others there is no such obligation.

Write an article for an international news publication examining the value of military service in the 21st century and asserting your views on the current system in your country as compared with other parts of the world.

4. An estimated 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today, but that number is expected to decline rapidly in the coming decades¹.

Write a report for an international quango investigating the death of languages. Discuss the root causes of this phenomenon and say what the implications will be if no action is taken.

¹ Source: www.bbc.co.uk

5. **Write a critical review of a recent book on how to achieve success in business for a corporate magazine.**

Discuss the extent to which the advice offered is valid and relevant in today's business world, including evidence to justify your opinion.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV factual writing task from the above list.

SECTION 3

ISE IV - Critical and analytical writing (word length range: 300 - 350 words)

1. **'A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody has read.'** (Mark Twain, Author)

Write an essay contradicting Mark Twain's statement and discussing which classic novels have influenced your own life and way of thinking.

2. **'No great genius has ever existed without some touch of madness.'** (Aristotle, philosopher)

Write an essay saying how far you feel Aristotle's statement is true, illustrating your viewpoint with pertinent examples. Conclude with your own definition of what constitutes a 'genius'.

3. **'Abuse is the currency of all reality shows.'** (Lynne Truss, writer and journalist)

Write an essay commenting on the merits of this statement, using examples from the current era to illustrate your assertions. Balance your opinion with alternative viewpoints.

4. **'Banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies.'** (Thomas Jefferson, U.S. President 1801-1809)

Write an essay commenting on the validity of this statement and asserting your opinion on the merits or demerits of big banking organisations. Illustrate your contentions with relevant examples.

5. **'It is always easier to fight for one's principles than live up to them.'** (Alfred Adler, psychologist)

Write an essay in which you critically evaluate the difficulties of living up to one's principles in today's society. Illustrate your contentions with examples from your own and your contemporaries' experiences.

Remember – you must choose your ISE IV critical and analytical writing task from the above list.