

ISE level descriptors

The following descriptors give details of what a candidate can do by the end of each of the four stages of Trinity's **Integrated Skills in English (ISE)** exams.

ISE Foundation (A2)

- Understand enough to be able to meet needs of a concrete type provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated.
- Understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- Communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- Describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

This profile is based on the level Basic User, A2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment (2001)*.

ISE I (B1)

- Understand straightforward factual information about common every day or job-related topics, identifying both general messages and specific details, provided speech is clearly articulated in a generally familiar accent.
- Understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc, including short narratives.
- Produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.
- Describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

This profile is based on the level Independent User, B1, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment (2001)*.

ISE II (B2)

- Understand standard spoken language, live or broadcast, on both familiar and unfamiliar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life.
- Understand the main topics of propositionally and linguistically complex speech on both concrete and abstract topics delivered in a standard dialect, including technical discussions in his/ her field of specialisation.
- Follow extended speech and complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar, and the direction of the talk is signposted by explicit markers
- Understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.

- Interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with speakers of the target language quite possible without strain for either party.
- Produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

This profile is based on the level Independent User, B2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment, (2001)* and the *Companion volume with new descriptors* (February 2018).

ISE III

- Understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics beyond his/her own field, though he/she may need to confirm occasional details, especially if the accent is unfamiliar.
- Recognise a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, appreciating register shifts.
- Follow extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly.
- Understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning.
- Express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions.
- Use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.
- Produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

This profile is based on the level Proficient User, C1, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment* (2001) and the *Companion volume with new descriptors* (February 2018).

ISE IV

- Understand with ease virtually any kind of spoken language ... delivered at fast natural speed.
- Understand virtually all forms of the written language including abstract, structurally complex, or highly colloquial literary and non-literary writings.
- Summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.
- Express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

This profile is based on the level Proficient User, C2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment, (2001)* and the *Companion volume with new descriptors* (February 2018).