



## The world of communication is growing – be part of it.

English is the language of international communication for study, research, business and industry. It's no wonder then that, every year, hundreds of thousands of people are turning to Trinity for an internationally recognised qualification to help achieve their personal, educational and career goals.

Trinity has been setting standards and testing English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) since 1938. Our exams are available at every level from first steps in English to full proficiency. They cover a wide range of topics and tasks which are inclusive and relevant to every learner – regardless of nationality or culture.

### **Trinity offers three suites of international exams in English language:**

#### **GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English**

GESE is available at 12 progressive grades and focuses on speaking and listening skills. It is a one-to-one oral assessment with a Trinity examiner.  
(pages 4-5)

#### **ISE: Integrated Skills in English**

ISE is available at five levels and assesses all four language skills – speaking, listening, writing and reading. Candidates prepare a portfolio of their written work, have an oral assessment with a Trinity examiner and sit a Controlled Written exam paper.  
(pages 6-7)

#### **SEW: Spoken English for Work**

SEW is available at four levels, is relevant for any employment sector and examines workplace English through a one-to-one oral assessment with a Trinity examiner.  
(page 8)





## GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

### What is GESE?

GESE is an assessment of two language skills – speaking and listening. It is a one-to-one, face-to-face oral exam with a Trinity examiner.

There are 12 grades which are mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) from pre-A1 to C2 – see page 12.

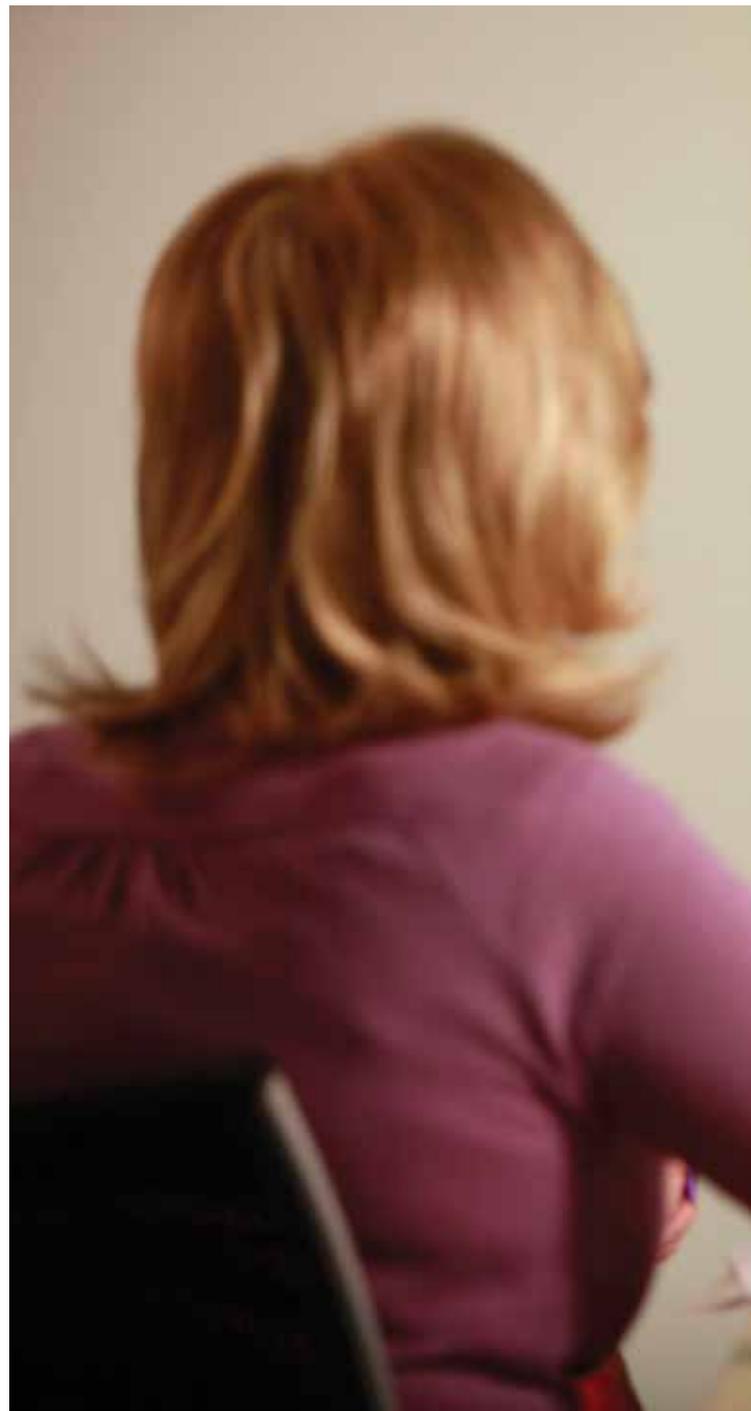
The exams encourage students to develop and progress by rewarding achievement at each step forward; at every stage of the student's development there is a chance to mark success.

### Who is the exam for?

GESE is suitable for all students, whatever their level, from absolute beginner to full mastery. Typically, learners range from school or college students to mature learners wanting to improve their English skills for educational and professional purposes.

### GESE: Key features

- **Motivational:** Tests assess what candidates can actually do rather than just what they know – inspiring them to progress to the next level
- **Inclusive:** There is a grade for every learner whatever their level – suitable for all nationalities and in all cultural contexts
- **Individual:** Candidates are able to discuss a topic of their own choice
- **Supportive:** Exams are designed to support classroom work, mapping to the curriculum of English language study
- **Early results:** Provisional results are indicated straight after the exam session – in advance of final certificates
- **Resourced:** Trinity provides clearly defined specifications and guidance resources for teachers preparing students for the exams
- **High quality:** GESE exams have been audited by the Association of Language Testers in Europe and carry the ALTE Quality mark





## Assessment

The 12 GESE grades are organised into four development stages:

- Initial** (Grades 1-3)
- Elementary** (Grades 4-6)
- Intermediate** (Grades 7-9)
- Advanced** (Grades 10-12)

At each stage the candidates carry out a number of realistic speaking and listening tasks that show their fluency, accuracy and ability to communicate in spoken English. Depending on the level being assessed, task components include:

- **The Topic:** Before the exam, the candidate prepares a topic of their choice – this is used as a basis for discussion, and as the basis of a presentation at Advanced stage
- **The Interactive task:** A prompt from the examiner initiates candidate-led speaking and listening interactions – requiring an authentic exchange of information and opinions
- **The Conversation:** An opportunity to demonstrate a realistic exchange of information, ideas and opinions at an appropriate level for the grade
- **The Listening task:** Short spoken passages prompt the candidate to demonstrate prediction, deduction and inference skills (only at Advanced stage)

### Assessment summary

Stage	Initial			Elementary			Intermediate			Advanced		
GESE Grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
CEFR	n/a	A1	A2.1	A2.2	B1.1	B1.2	B2.1	B2.2	B2.3	C1.1	C1.2	C2
Time	5-7 minutes			10 minutes			15 minutes			25 minutes		
Tasks										Listening task		
										Topic presentation		
							Interactive task			Interactive task		
				Topic discussion			Topic discussion			Topic discussion		
	Conversation			Conversation			Conversation			Conversation		

## ISE: Integrated Skills in English

### What is ISE?

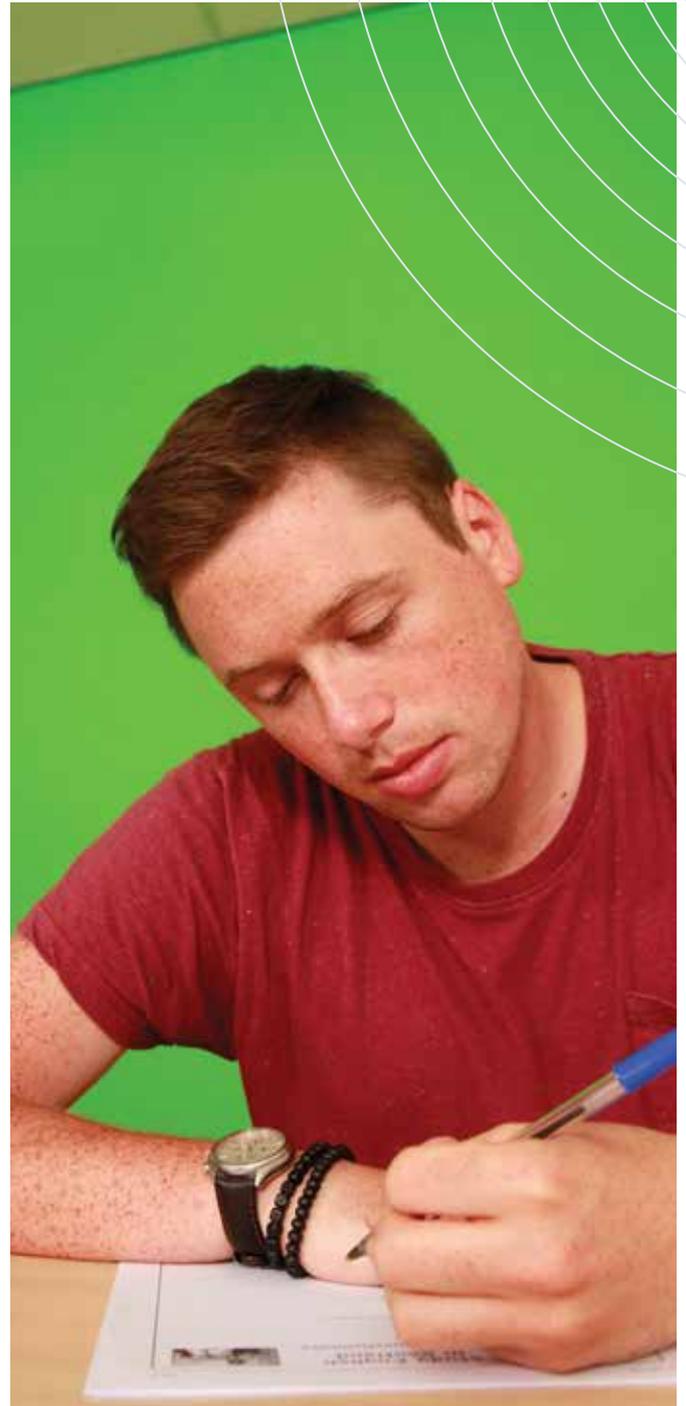
ISE is an assessment of all four language skills – speaking, listening, writing and reading. It includes a portfolio of written work, a writing and reading exam as well as a one-to-one oral exam with a Trinity examiner.

We offer exams at five levels which are mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) from A2 to C2 – see page 12.

The assessment is designed to promote integrated use of the four skills and increase candidates' confidence in performing them in combination. This helps them prepare for academic study or work, where they will need to be able to read written text, listen and respond to another person and take notes – all at the same time.

### Who is the exam for?

ISE is suitable for young to adult learners from basic to advanced level. Typically, learners may be school, college or university students who need to prove their English language skills for educational purposes, or learners who need to show evidence of English language proficiency in all four language skills.



### ISE: Key features

- **Contemporary:** A learner-centred exam in tune with the learner-centered classroom and with global trends in the use of English
- **Integrated skills:** Uses all four language skills in an integrated approach – just as you would in real life
- **Communicative:** Encourages teaching to become communicative. Students must become active participants in their learning to succeed in the exam – showing that they can actually communicate in English
- **Useful:** Teachers can use the portfolio as part of their normal teaching course
- **Recognised:** ISE III and ISE IV are accepted by universities worldwide as evidence of English language proficiency
- **High quality:** ISE exams have been audited by the Association of Language Testers in Europe and carry the ALTE Quality mark



### Assessment

Each ISE level has the same overall assessment structure. There are three components to the exam.

- **Portfolio:** A collection of the student's written work, the portfolio is an opportunity for candidates to present to Trinity examiners the best work they can produce rather than the best they can produce on a single occasion in the exam room. The portfolio is learner-led – students are able to refer to a number of resources, and are free to use facilities such as dictionaries and the internet
- **Controlled written exam:** A reading and writing exam paper taken under formal exam conditions at a Registered Exam Centre at a set time. The tasks are relevant to a range of learners – young and mature – and are appropriate in multiple cultural contexts
- **Interview:** This is a one-to-one, face-to-face oral interview with a Trinity examiner. This component is very similar to the Trinity GESE exam. The Interview includes discussion of a topic that the student has prepared and a conversation with the examiner about their portfolio. At the higher levels it also includes interactive and listening tasks

### Assessment summary

Level	ISE 0	ISE I	ISE II	ISE III	ISE IV
CEFR	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Components:					
Portfolio	3 tasks	3 tasks	3 tasks	3 tasks	3 tasks
Controlled Written exam	2 tasks (45 minutes)	2 tasks (1.5 hours)	2 tasks (2 hours)	3 tasks (2.5 hours)	3 tasks (3 hours)
Interview	2 tasks (8 minutes)	2 tasks (8 minutes)	3 tasks (12 minutes)	5 tasks (20 minutes)	5 tasks (25 minutes)

## SEW: Spoken English for Work

### What is SEW?

SEW is a unique assessment designed to prepare learners for the world of work. It is an accurate assessment of speaking and listening skills in a work-related context. It includes a one-to-one exam with a Trinity examiner.

We offer exams at four levels which are mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) from B1 to C1 – see page 12.

At each proficiency level, the exam contains three types of tasks: telephone task, a topic presentation and a discussion. The tasks reflect situations that occur in a variety of workplace contexts.

### Who is the exam for?

SEW qualifications are aimed at anyone aged 16 or over who is either preparing for work or already has some experience of work. The SEW exams are suitable for anyone wishing to demonstrate their communicative abilities within a work context but they are not reliant on professional experience.

### SEW: Key features

- **Relevant:** Preparing for the test helps learners develop and practise their communication skills for employment
- **Individual:** Students present on a topic that is relevant to their area of work interest – which is also shown on successful candidates' certificates
- **Language development:** Candidates are motivated to develop true communication skills rather than simply to learn by rote – increasing their confidence and preparing them for real-life English speaking situations

### Assessment

Four SEW exam levels (B1, B2, B2+, C1) allow candidates to be assessed at the right level of proficiency for their needs and ability. Progressive levels are characterised by increasing demands on linguistic and communication skills, along with higher degrees of independence. Assessment tasks include:

- **Telephone task:** Candidates have a telephone conversation with a Trinity examiner to discuss and resolve a typical work-related issue
- **Topic presentation:** Candidates prepare a work-related topic in advance, for presentation and interactive discussion in the exam
- **Discussion:** An opportunity for a realistic exchange of information, ideas and opinion based on a work-related subject selected by the examiner

### Assessment summary

SEW B1	SEW B2	SEW B2+	SEW C1
CEFR B1	CEFR B2	CEFR B2+	CEFR C1
Telephone task 1 (3 mins)	Telephone task 1 (3 mins)	Telephone task 1 (3 mins)	Telephone task 1 (4 mins)
	Telephone task 2 (4 mins)	Telephone task 2 (4 mins)	Telephone task 2 (4 mins)
Interactive topic presentation (5 mins)	Topic presentation (3 mins)	Topic presentation (5 mins)	Formal topic presentation (8 mins)
	Topic discussion – examiner led (4 mins)	Topic discussion – examiner led (5 mins)	Topic discussion – candidate led (5 mins)
Discussion – work-based topic (4 mins)	Discussion – work-based topic (5 mins)	Discussion – work-based topic (5 mins)	Discussion – work-based topic (5 mins)



## Recognition

### Government and institutional

In the UK Trinity College London has corporate recognition from the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and its respective partners in Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, Trinity's language qualifications are accredited to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) – please see the table on page 12.

Trinity is in contact with education authorities around the world to ensure that our candidates' achievements are recognised globally. These arrangements vary from country to country, depending on the subject area and the type of qualifications concerned. For example:

**Italy:** Trinity is recognised by the Ministry of Education as a training institution for teachers. In the past, Trinity has signed memorandum of agreements for special projects with the Italian Department for Education and the Conference of Italian Universities Rectors, which is why Italian students can use these qualifications to gain high school and university credits. The current number of university departments/courses throughout Italy awarding credits or giving some sort of recognition to Trinity qualifications (mainly ISE I and above) is currently over 1,400.

**Spain:** Trinity works directly in collaboration with several regional governments at both primary and secondary levels on bilingual projects in the state sector, where Trinity is the leading English exam provider. Both GESE and ISE are used, with choice depending on the region in question. Trinity also leads on bilingual projects in the state-subsidised sector through different agreements across the whole country. ISE is accepted by virtually all Spanish universities for Bologna purposes.

**China:** Trinity's language exams are recognised for the Hong Kong English in the Workplace Campaign, a government-led initiative to increase public awareness of the importance of English skills for the workplace. Trinity exams are also used by the Chinese Athletes Education Foundation and the GESE exams are used and recognised by the Beijing Education Examinations Authority and the Hubei Education Examinations Authority.

**UK border authorities:** Trinity's International language qualifications will help your migrant students get their visa to study or work in the UK. Visit [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/ukvisa](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/ukvisa) to see which exams are accepted by the UK border authorities in the UK points-based system, helping migrants meet the Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 4 requirements.

### UK university recognition

Trinity's ISE and GESE qualifications are recognised by universities and colleges as suitable evidence of English language proficiency. The list of universities recognising ISE and GESE can be found at [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/esolrecognition](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/esolrecognition)

UCAS, the UK Universities and Colleges Admission Service, confirms GESE Grade 7 and ISE II (or above) as suitable benchmarks in English language proficiency for entry to higher education.

[www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/international](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/international)

### International professional organisations

Trinity is an active member of a number of professional language organisations worldwide including the European Association for Quality Language Services (EAQUALS), the European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA), and the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL). Trinity is also a full member of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE).

Trinity's GESE, ISE and Skills for Life language qualifications achieved ALTE Quality mark status in 2012. These qualifications have been audited by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), meeting all 17 of its stringent quality standards.





## GESE, ISE and SEW – Framework alignment

GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English	ISE: Integrated Skills in English	SEW: Spoken English for Work	Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)	National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF)
Grade 1			Pre-A1		
Grade 2			A1	E1	
Grades 3, 4	ISE 0		A2	E2	
Grades 5, 6	ISE I	SEW B1	B1	E3	1
Grades 7, 8, 9	ISE II	SEW B2 SEW B2+	B2	L1	2
Grades 10, 11	ISE III	SEW C1	C1	L2	3
Grade 12	ISE IV		C2	L3	4

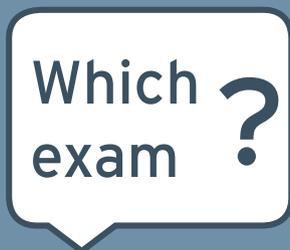
## Qualification frameworks

Qualifications regulated by Ofqual are assigned two level references on the Register of Regulated Qualifications – one for the UK National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and one for the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF).

The EQF relates different European Member states' national qualification systems to a common European reference framework.

Trinity's qualifications are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) as evidenced by research conducted in 2006 and submitted to the Council of Europe. The research report can be downloaded from [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/recognition](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/recognition)

The EQF and CEFR structures enable learners, employers, teachers and institutional authorities to compare the levels of qualifications from one country with those from another.



### **A choice of pathways**

Trinity College London offers a choice of paths towards English language qualifications. Which one of them is right for you?

### **GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English**

If your main focus is speaking and listening, GESE is for you. Twelve levels of attainment mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), from pre-A1 to C2, offer a series of manageable graded steps with internationally recognised qualifications achieved along the way.

### **ISE: Integrated Skills in English**

By opting for ISE you will earn an internationally recognised qualification that demonstrates your writing and reading skills as well as your speaking and listening abilities at this level. ISE tests all four language skills in an integrated approach, so you can be sure that you are still continuing to improve your speaking and listening skills at the same time as writing and reading.

### **SEW: Spoken English for Work**

SEW exams are suitable for anyone wishing to demonstrate their communicative abilities within a work context. A SEW qualification is an excellent addition to any candidate's skills set, giving a clear indication of their ability to deal with real-life work situations using the English language.

With Trinity exams you can enter or exit your chosen pathway at any point, gathering qualifications along the way. Building your own personal portfolio of achievement will help you stand out from the crowd and secure a place at college, university or work.

## Professional support

### Support for teachers

Trinity offers a wide range of valuable resources for teachers to help prepare learners for the assessments.

**In print:** Details of each exam can be found in the Exam Information booklets\* and specifications, which are available freely to teachers. These are an essential tool for teachers, guiding them through each exam level and outlining the format, procedures and criteria for assessment. In addition, Trinity exam preparation books for teachers and students are available from a number of publishers.

**Online:** The Trinity website [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/esol](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/esol) contains a wide range of valuable resources including lesson plans for teachers, past papers, practice tasks, practical tips and videos. We also provide Registered Exam Centres with DVDs of example speaking and listening assessments at each level of the exams.

**Face-to-face:** Trinity can often provide individual visits to help new exam centres get started with the exams. We also offer periodic teacher support workshops. Your local Trinity representative will have more details of events happening in your area.

### Support for administrators

**Convenient exam sessions:** Trinity's English language exams are available all year round and can be held at your school, college or workplace. Centres are advised to contact their local representative as early as possible to arrange an exam date to suit them and their candidates.

**Trinity Online:** gives administrators direct access to their own candidate information held on Trinity's central database. Features include tracking of results, candidate statistics, examiner information, and access to timetables and materials.

**Direct contact:** Registered Exam Centres have direct communication with an appointed Trinity representative, to help with any questions about administering the exams.

\* previously called 'syllabus'.

### How to become a Registered Exam Centre

If you are a teacher or institution wanting to offer Trinity English language qualifications you will need to become a Registered Exam Centre. The registration process is simple and free – all you need to do is complete the necessary forms on our website and return them as instructed. These documents can be found on the Trinity website at [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/register](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/register) or you can contact us directly to request them in hard copy.

After your application has been approved, we will send you a Trinity Registered Exam Centre pack which will include copies of the relevant Exam Information booklets/specifications and exam posters, and after your first exam session you will also have access to your own Trinity Registered Exam Centre logo for use on your centre materials.

To find the contact details for your local Trinity country representative, visit [www.trinitycollege.co.uk/locator](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/locator)

**Trinity College London**

providing assessments and qualifications  
worldwide since 1877

Trinity qualifications are available in:

English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)  
Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL)

Music

Drama

Dance

Arts

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