Trinity Integrated Skills in English (ISE) at the London College of Business

Programme Title	Trinity Integrated Skills in English (ISE)
Awarding Body	Trinity College London
Teaching Institution	London College of Business
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Trinity College London

Trinity College London is an international exam board, fully accredited in the United Kingdom as an independent awarding body. Trinity provides accredited qualifications in English language, music, and the performing and creative arts throughout the world. Trinity has been conducting exams since 1877 and now over half a million people take one of our exams every year. Trinity College London is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Integrated Skills in English (ISE)

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English (ISE) exams assess all four language skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening — interacting with each other as they do in the real world. An ISE exam forms a natural part of any course of English study, undertaken in a group or individually. The exams include a portfolio approach. By assessing classroom work as well as tasks carried out under exam conditions, a wide and varied sample of learner work is taken into account.

A four-skill exam

Language skills do not operate in isolation and in most real circumstances, in education and work, a language user is likely to use all four language skills in combination. In the classroom a student may be listening to the group, giving an opinion, reading a textbook, downloading from the internet or writing down some new vocabulary, all in the space of half an hour. In the work environment a language user may be reading from a computer screen, listening and speaking on the telephone and simultaneously taking notes. This is why the ISE exams assess integrated language skills across a range of exam components.

Component	Range of skills involved	Skills assessed
A portfolio of a candidate's written work put together during class time or individual study	Writing with reading	Writing
A reading and writing exam taken under controlled conditions	Writing with reading	Writing and reading
An oral interview (including a discussion of the portfolio) between a candidate and an examiner	Writing with reading with speaking and listening	Speaking and listening

Framework

ISE exams are available at five key levels which are mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). They are also linked to Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE), and each of the five ISE levels represents an integrated skills alternative to GESE.

Trinity's decision to provide ISE at five levels of the CEFR — A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2 — is based on our understanding of the certification needs of language learners throughout the world.

The five levels

- ISE 0 is at level A2, the second stage of the Basic User level of the CEFR
- ISE I is at level B1, the first stage of the Independent User level of the CEFR
- ISE II is at level B2, the second stage of the Independent User level of the CEFR
- ISE III is at level C1, the first stage of the Proficient User level of the CEFR
- ISE IV is at level C2, the second stage of the Proficient User level of the CEFR.

Candidates who obtain a pass at ISE 0 will normally need a further year of continuous English language study before proceeding to ISE I. Candidates who pass ISE I will normally need to study for a further 18 months to two years before proceeding to ISE II. Candidates who pass ISE II will normally need to study for a further two years before reaching the standard required at ISE III. Candidates who pass ISE III will normally need to study for at least two more years before proceeding to ISE IV.

Entry requirements:

- Trinity College London's Integrated Skills in English exams are intended for candidates who have learnt English as a foreign, second or additional language. There is no minimum age limit, although Trinity recommends that candidates are aged 10 years and above at the time of the exam. There is no upper age limit.
- Candidates may enter at any level without having previously taken any other Trinity exam at a higher or lower level.
- Candidates cannot enter for more than one level in the same exam session.
- Once candidates have been submitted for an exam no changes to the entries are permitted. Should an exceptional circumstance arise after this time, for example a natural disaster, health issue or bereavement, please contact your National/Area Representative or Trinity's London office. Written evidence may be required.
- If a candidate does not reach the level required to pass and wishes to re-sit an exam, a minimum of one month must elapse before the candidate may enter again.
- A minimum period of a month must elapse between a candidate attempting a Trinity ISE exam at one level and the same exam at another level. Failure to observe this rule may result in both exams being voided with no refund payable.
- Candidates must take the Controlled Written exam before the Interview takes place. The Interview must be taken no later than six weeks after the Controlled Written exam.

Learners with special learning requirements will be accommodated as much as is possible for the college to do so. It is the responsibility of every such learner to make the college aware of their requirements at the earliest opportunity to do so. No learner will be discriminated against in accordance with LCB's Equal Opportunities Policy available at http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/ Equal_Opportunity_Policy.pdf.

Recognition of Prior Attainment
No prior attainment is recognized as part of this certification process.

Teaching and Learning
An extract from the LCB Teaching and Learning Strategy reads:

"students should leave the college inspired and capable of life-long learning building upon the foundations and structure built through the college's programmes. Various approaches to learning have been adopted to achieve the above:
- Direct contact (e.g. lectures, seminars, tutorials, guest speakers, external visits, case studies, or workshops),
- Collaborative learning (e.g. group projects, discussion forums, or debate),
- Independent learning."

This is a classroom based course, with some extra online resources and activities accessible using the college's online managed learning environment.

Please read the college Teaching and Learning Strategy in full, available at
http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Teaching_and_Learning_Strategy.pdf

Assessment

Each ISE exam in the five-level suite has the same overall structure consisting of three components.

ISE level	Portfolio component	Controlled Written exam component	Interview component
ISE 0	3 Tasks	2 Tasks	2 Tasks
ISE I	3 Tasks	2 Tasks	2 Tasks
ISE II	3 Tasks	2 Tasks	3 Tasks
ISE III	3 Tasks	3 Tasks	5 Tasks
ISE IV	3 Tasks	3 Tasks	5 Tasks

The Portfolio is a collection of a candidate's best written work.

The Controlled Written exam is a test of a candidate's reading and writing skills taken under exam conditions.

The Interview is a one-to-one, face-to-face interview between a candidate and a Trinity examiner

Any assessment suspected of unfair practice will trigger the Unfair Practice Procedure available at http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Unfair_Practice_Procedure.pdf.

This Programme Specification is based upon the Trinity College London Exam Information: Integrated Skills in English (ISE) found at http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/ISE_Exam_Information_doc_Sept_2013.pdf