

Trinity ISE II – Get to Know the Exam

Talk to your classmates and find people who can answer these questions about the Trinity ISE II exam. When you find someone, write their name.

Find someone who knows...

	Name
1. ...where Trinity College is located.	
2. ...when Trinity started doing English language exams.	
3. ...what CEFR is.	
4. ...why Trinity exams are popular.	
5. ...what level the ISE II exam is.	
6. ...what ISE stands for.	
7. ...how many modules there are in the ISE II exam.	
8. ...if you need to pass all the parts of the exam.	
9. ...how long the Reading & Writing lasts.	
10. ...how long the Speaking & Listening lasts.	
11. ...how much time you have for the Writing.	
12. ...how many questions there are in the Reading.	
13. ...how the two writings are different.	
14. ...what types of writings are possible.	
15. ...how many words you have to write.	
16. ...who you do the Speaking & Listening with.	
17. ...what part of the Speaking people normally like.	
18. ...how long the Speaking lasts.	
19. ...how many times you listen to the audio.	
20. ...how you give your answers in the Listening.	

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TEXT A

The Trinity ISE II exam is organised by Trinity College London, where they have been assessing English language since 1938. In recent years, the ISE II exam has been redesigned and rebranded as a contemporary exam with a focus on the English you will need for academic study or your professional life. The ISE II exam evaluates your English at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), an internationally recognised language achievement scale.

It has become a popular exam because its certifications are accepted by many educational, governmental and professional institutions both in the UK and abroad. One of the main focusses of the Trinity ISE exams is real-life situations. Trinity wants their candidates to finish their exams with the skills necessary to communicate in the real world.

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TEXT B

ISE stands for Integrated Skills in English. The ISE II exam has two different modules, Reading & Writing and Speaking & Listening. There is no grammar section and no vocabulary section. However, these elements are evaluated throughout the exam. The two modules can be taken separately or together at the same time. In order to receive your Trinity ISE II certificate, you must pass both modules. However, if you fail one module and pass the other, you only need to repeat the failed module to receive your full certificate.

The Reading & Writing module lasts 2 hours and consists of 2 reading tasks and 2 writing tasks. The Speaking & Listening module lasts 20 minutes and consists of 3 speaking tasks and 1 listening task. The modules generally happen on different days. The Reading & Writing is paper-based and your score is calculated by the number of correct answers in the reading activities and the quality of your writing. The Speaking & Listening is done individually and the examiner gives you marks in both parts based on your performance.

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TEXT C

You have 2 hours to complete the Reading & Writing module of the ISE II exam. Trinity recommends you spend 20 minutes on each reading task and 40 minutes on each writing task. Each reading task consists of 3 different activities which are designed to assess your ability in different types of reading like reading for a general idea and reading for specific information. Between the two reading tasks there are a total of 30 questions.

The two writing tasks in ISE II are quite different. The first task is called Reading into Writing. In this task you must use the information from the previous reading task and include that information in your writing. The second task is called Extended Writing and you have more freedom to answer the question with your own ideas. They can ask you to write a letter/email, an article, a review, an essay or a report. These writings might be formal or informal in style. The types of text can appear in any combination and you can't choose what you write about. You have to write between 150-180 words for each task.

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TEXT D

The Speaking and Listening module of the ISE II exam lasts for approximately 20 minutes. Unlike other exams, in Trinity exams you are alone with the examiner. Many candidates like the first speaking task, the Topic Task, because you prepare a topic and have a conversation with the examiner about it for 4 minutes. The second speaking task is called the Collaborative Task and you have to discuss a situation with the examiner, asking questions and giving opinions or advice for 4 minutes. The final task is more traditional, where you answer conversation questions for 2 minutes.

During the listening you only have 1 task. You give your answers orally, not on paper. You listen to the audio twice. The examiner introduces the task and the candidate listens first for the general idea, then again taking notes of more details. After each time that you listen, you tell the examiner what you have understood of the general idea and then details from the audio.