

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

International exams in English language

GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

ISE: Integrated Skills in English

SEW: Spoken English for Work

Assessing English language since 1938

www.trinitycollege.com



Growing opportunities for people who can communicate effectively in English

As our 21st century world becomes increasingly competitive, interconnected and challenging, the opportunities for people who can communicate effectively in English for study and employment are growing.

It's not just the language you *know* that's important, it's what you can *do* with that language that will make the difference.

A Trinity qualification provides reliable evidence of language ability and real-life communication skills in English. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people turn to Trinity every year for internationally recognised qualifications to help achieve their personal, educational and career goals.

Trinity English language exams

GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

GESE is available at 12 grades (pre-A1-C2). It is a one-to-one oral assessment of speaking and listening skills with a Trinity examiner.

ISE: Integrated Skills in English

ISE is available at five levels (A2-C2). It is a four-skills exam taken in two modules*: Reading & Writing and Speaking & Listening.

SEW: Spoken English for Work

SEW is available at four levels (B1-C1). It is a one-to-one oral assessment of work-related speaking and listening skills with a Trinity examiner.

* ISE IV (C2) has a different format.



Communicate effectively in English

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 10.

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
- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Resources:** Trinity provides clearly defined specifications and guidance for teachers preparing students
- ▶ **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) and 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)

“At every stage of the student’s development there is a chance to mark success”



A level for every learner

Assessment summary

Grade 1 (Pre-A1)		Grade 2 (A1)		Grade 3 (A2.1)		Grade 4 (A2.2)		Grade 5 (B1.1)		Grade 6 (B1.2)		Grade 7 (B2.1)		Grade 8 (B2.2)		Grade 9 (B2.3)		Grade 10 (C1.1)		Grade 11 (C1.2)		Grade 12 (C2)	
5-7 minutes						10 minutes						15 minutes						25 minutes					
Conversation						Topic discussion						Interactive task						Listening task					
Initial stage						Elementary stage						Intermediate stage						Advanced stage					

ISE: Integrated Skills in English

Trinity's Integrated Skills in English (ISE) is a contemporary four skills exam designed to assess communicative English language skills.

Recently revised and updated, ISE promotes the development of English language communication skills in the context of academic study and employability.

ISE is available at five levels, from A2 to C2 and consists of two modules: Reading & Writing and Speaking & Listening.

ISE: Key features

- ▶ **Assesses integrated use of four skills** – reflecting how English is used in real life
- ▶ **Builds real-life communication skills** – and transferable skills required for study and employability
- ▶ **Contemporary** – ISE reflects and supports modern teaching strategies
- ▶ **Flexible** – modules can be taken together, or at different times, when students are ready
- ▶ **Achievement levels for each skill** – shown on certificates
- ▶ **Detailed diagnostic report for each skill** – shows strengths and areas for improvement
- ▶ **Examiner feedback** – is provided to teachers on student performance with suggestions for development
- ▶ **Personalised discussion with an expert speaker** – included in a one-to-one speaking and listening exam
- ▶ **Allows students to perform at their best** – with motivating personalised tasks that build confidence

Assessment summary

	ISE Foundation (A2)	ISE I (B1)	ISE II (B2)	ISE III (C1)
Reading & Writing	4 tasks with the same structure across all 4 levels: 2 x Reading tasks, 1 x Reading into writing task, 1 x Writing task = 2 hours			
Speaking & Listening	2 x Speaking tasks 2 x Listening tasks 13 minutes	2 x Speaking tasks 2 x Listening tasks 14 minutes	3 x Speaking tasks 1 x Listening task 20 minutes	3 x Speaking tasks 1 x Listening task 25 minutes

Note: ISE IV (C2) has a different format – see www.trinitycollege.com/ISE for details.

Who is the exam for?

ISE is intended for young people and adults who need to develop and use English language skills for study and in preparation for employment – typically students at secondary school, college or university.

It is also suitable for teachers who require a respected English language qualification.

Assessment

The revised ISE exam consists of two modules:

Reading & Writing

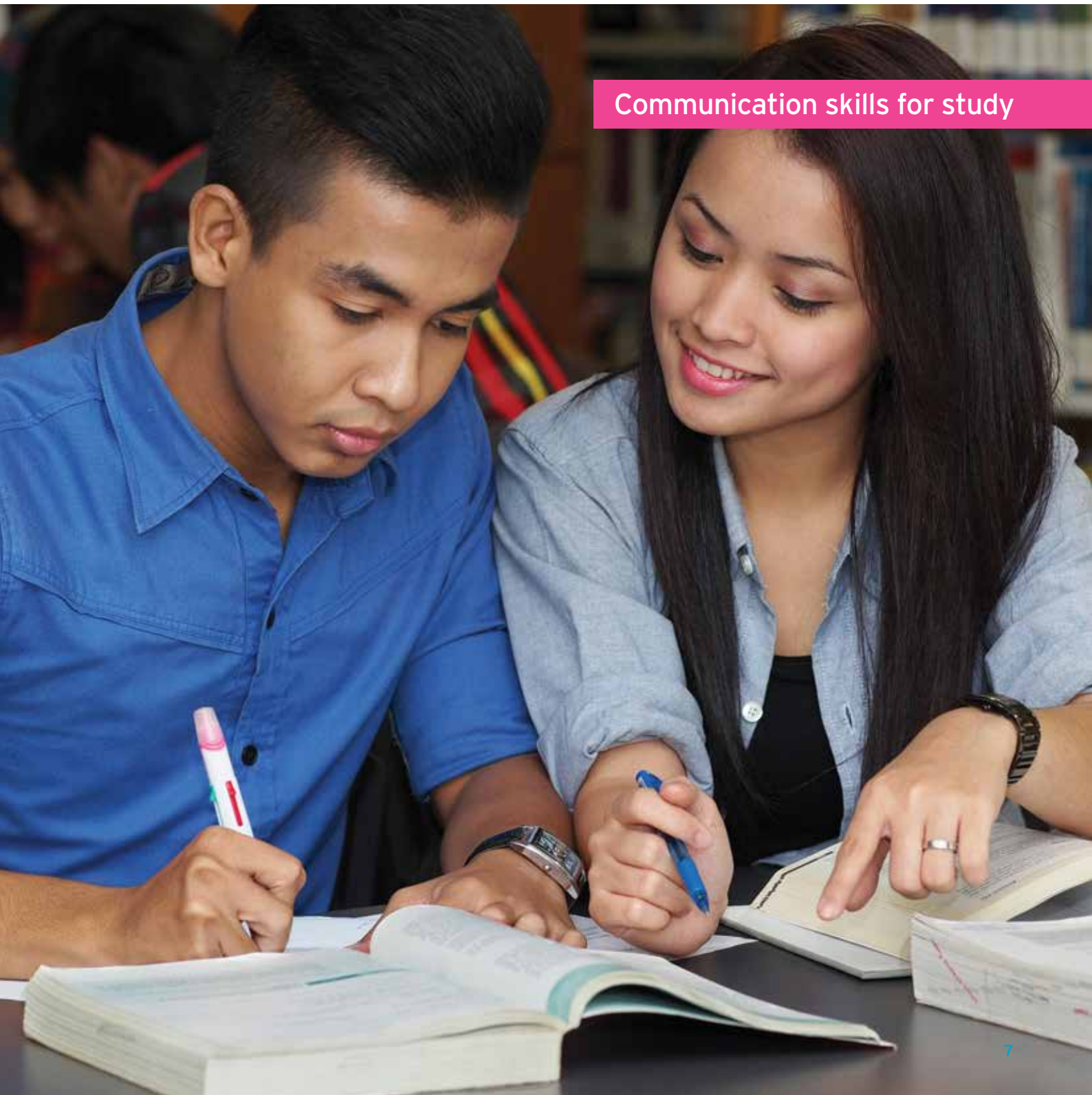
This module is taken under exam conditions at a registered exam centre at a set time. Candidates must complete a reading task, a multi-text reading task, an integrated reading into writing task and an extended writing task.

Speaking & Listening

This is a one-to-one, face-to-face speaking and listening exam with a Trinity examiner. Tasks include a topic discussion, a collaborative task (at higher levels) and a conversation featuring students' own experiences, interests and opinions. Interactive listening is assessed and there is also an independent listening task.

Students receive module certificates showing separate results for reading, writing, speaking and listening skills as relevant, plus a detailed diagnostic report showing areas for improvement within each skill. When both modules at the same level have been passed, an ISE qualification is awarded and a certificate is issued.

Communication skills for study



Recognition

Mapping levels to frameworks

Trinity's qualifications are aligned to internationally recognised frameworks. These frameworks enable candidates, employers, teachers and institutional authorities to compare the levels of qualifications from different countries.

Trinity's ISE and GESE qualifications have been independently calibrated to the Common European Framework of Reference as part of an extensive and award-winning study led by Lancaster University, a world leader in the field of evaluation.

CEFR	Pre-A1	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
NQF		Entry 1	Entry 2	Entry 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
GESE grades	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grades 3, 4	Grades 5, 6	Grades 7, 8, 9	Grades 10, 11	Grade 12
ISE levels			ISE Foundation	ISE I	ISE II	ISE III	ISE IV
SEW levels				SEW B1	SEW B2 SEW B2+	SEW C1	

CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference

NQF: UK National Qualifications Framework

Quality assurance

The review and revision process for updating Trinity's ISE exams involved extensive research and consultation. To help develop and quality assure the process, Trinity worked in close partnership with the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment (CRELLA) at the University of Bedfordshire.

In 2012, Trinity's GESE, ISE and Skills for Life qualifications were awarded Q-mark status by ALTE, having met all 17 of its stringent quality standards.



Government and institutional

Trinity College London is an exam board regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Trinity liaises with education authorities around the world to ensure that our candidates' achievements are recognised. These arrangements vary from country to country, depending on the subject area and the type of qualifications concerned. For example:

United Kingdom

- ▶ Trinity's GESE and ISE qualifications are accepted by the UK Home Office as evidence of English language proficiency for visa purposes. Visit www.trinitycollege.com/UKvisa for details
- ▶ Trinity's ISE qualifications are recognised by most UK universities. Check proficiency level requirements with Institutions before applying

Spain

- ▶ Trinity collaborates with regional governments on bilingual projects at both primary and secondary levels in the state, state-subsidised and private sectors through various agreements across the whole country
- ▶ Trinity ISE certificates are accredited by CRUE (Council of Spanish University Rectors) and ACLES (Association of Language Centres in Higher Education)
- ▶ Virtually all Spanish institutions and universities officially accept ISE I (B1) and above, meeting Bologna, Erasmus and other public employment purposes
- ▶ Trinity is accredited by the regional education departments as a training provider for teachers

Italy

- ▶ Italian students can use Trinity qualifications to gain high school and university credits
- ▶ Currently over 1,500 university departments/courses throughout Italy award credits or give some type of recognition to Trinity qualifications – typically for levels ISE I and above
- ▶ Trinity is accredited by the Ministry of Education as a training institution for teachers

China

- ▶ Trinity's English 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 GESE exams are used and recognised by the Beijing Education Examinations Authority and the Hubei Education Examinations Authority

India

- ▶ Trinity has worked closely with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in India to develop a communicative test of English for students in secondary schools. This test is now taken by two million students in India and beyond
- ▶ Trinity has helped CBSE deliver a teacher development programme in communicative methodology and assessment to over 30,000 teachers

International professional recognition

Trinity is an active member of leading international testing associations, including:

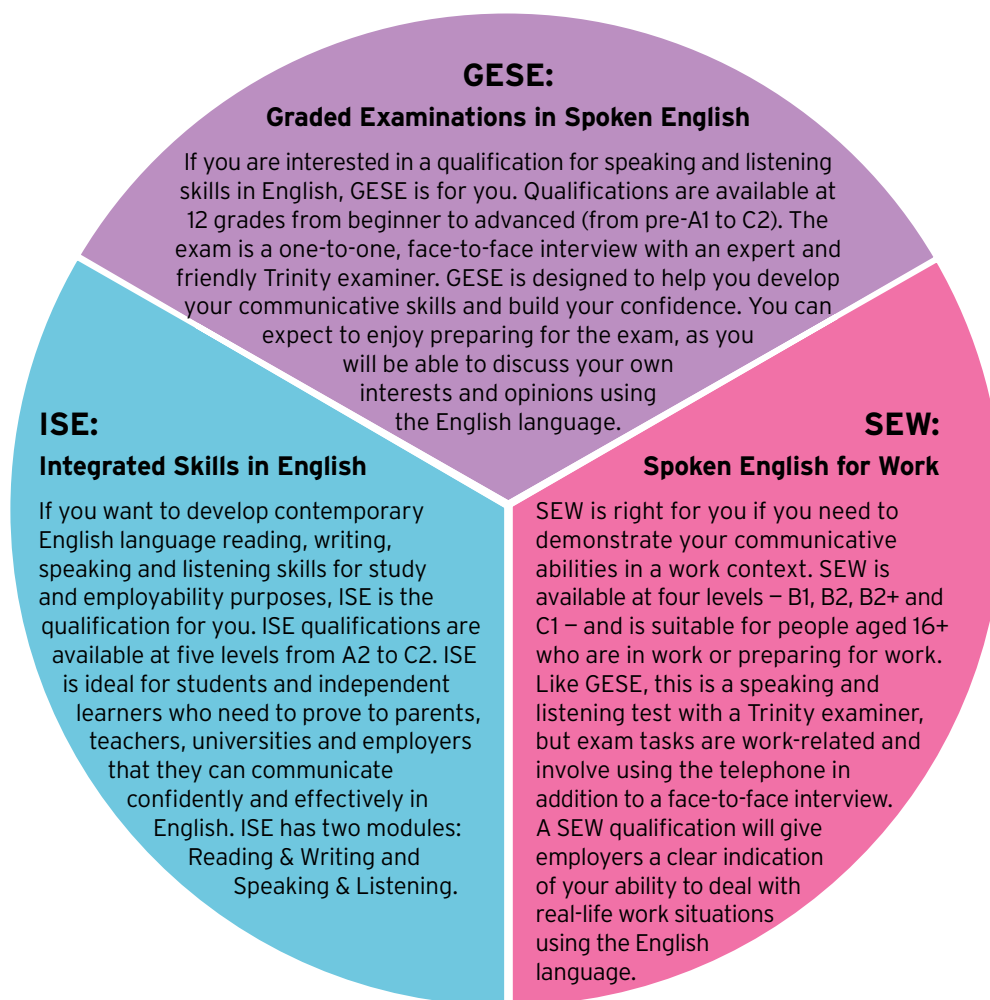
- ▶ Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)
- ▶ European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA)
- ▶ International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL)
- ▶ Evaluation & Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS)

Help for candidates

A choice of qualification pathways

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

With Trinity exams you can enter or exit the levels and move between exams at any point, collecting qualifications along the way. Building your own personal portfolio of achievement can help you secure a place at college, university or work.





Trinity offers a choice of pathways