

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

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 and in all cultural contexts
- ▶ **Individual:** Candidates choose a topic of their choice to prepare in advance for discussion with the examiner
- ▶ **Expert examiners:** Examiners are trained to put students at ease and encourage them to perform at their best
- ▶ **Supports teachers:** Exams are designed to support classroom work, mapping to a curriculum of English language study
- ▶ **Diagnostic feedback:** 30-minute examiner feedback session on students' overall exam performance
- ▶ **Early results:** Provisional results are indicated soon 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

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 a:

- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Interactive task:** A prompt from the examiner initiates candidate-led speaking and listening interactions – requiring an authentic exchange of information and opinions
- ▶ **Conversation:** An opportunity to demonstrate a realistic exchange of information, ideas and opinions at an appropriate level for the grade
- ▶ **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 profile report for each skill** – shows strengths and areas for improvement within each skill
- ▶ **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 18 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 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 adults 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



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 is 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 10.

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 opinions based on a work-related subject selected by the examiner

Assessment summary

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



English language speaking skills for the world of work

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
RQF	–	Entry 1	Entry 2	Entry 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
EQF	–	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

RQF: Regulated Qualifications Framework (UK)

EQF: European 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 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) as evidence of English language proficiency for visa purposes. Visit 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:

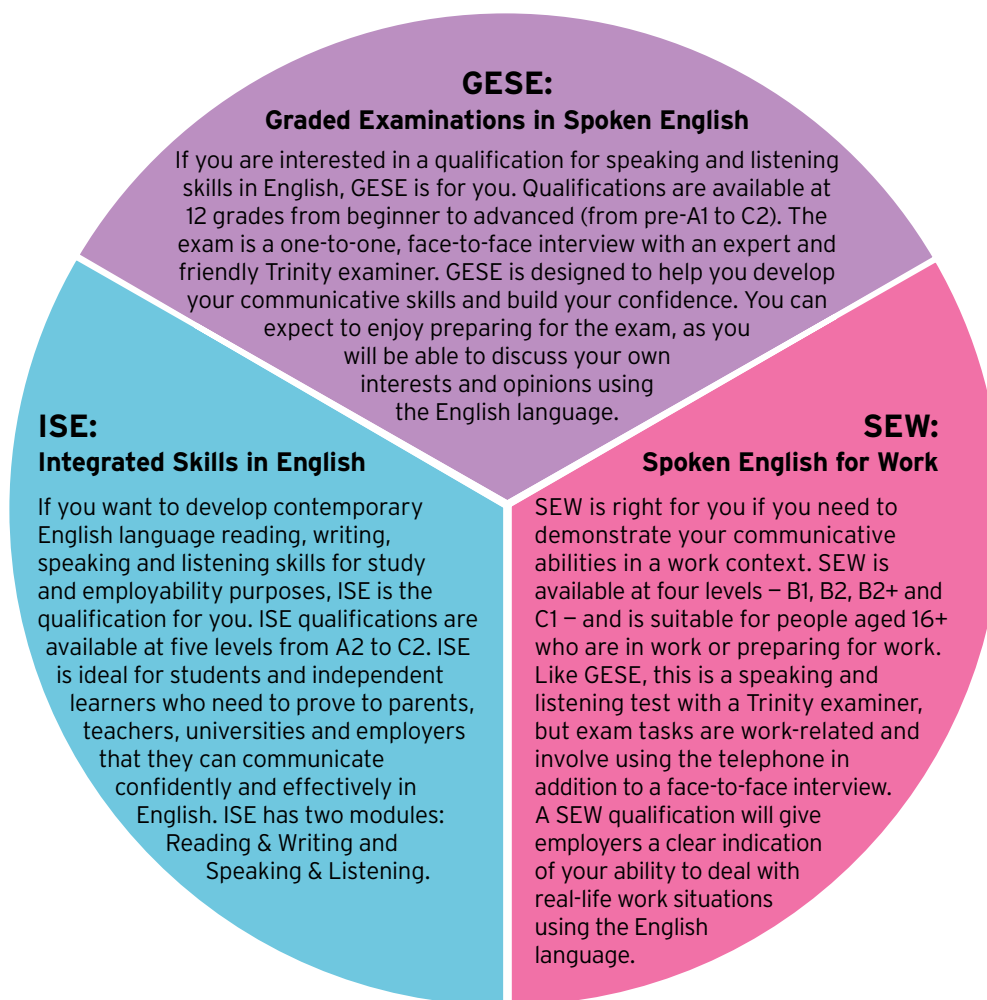
- ▶ Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)
- ▶ European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA)
- ▶ International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL)
- ▶ Evaluation & Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS)

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

Professional support

Professional support for teachers

We offer a range of resources to help teachers prepare candidates for the tests:

Online

- ▶ Exam specifications
- ▶ Guides for teachers
- ▶ Sample videos
- ▶ Sample papers

In person

- ▶ Dedicated contact for academic and general queries
- ▶ Visits are often offered to new exam centres to help get them started with Trinity
- ▶ Your Trinity representative will tell you if periodic workshops and seminars are available in your area

Links

Trinity does not publish or require you to use specific classroom textbooks. However, a number of publishers have produced books that may be useful in preparing for Trinity exams. A list of these is available on our website at trinitycollege.com/ESOLbooks

Professional support for centres

We provide support:

Online

- ▶ How to book exam sessions
- ▶ Best practice guidebook for administrators
- ▶ Quick reference documents

Registered centres have access to Trinity Online, our exam administration system, featuring:

- ▶ Results tracking
- ▶ Examiner information
- ▶ Access to timetables and materials

In person

- ▶ Registered centres are assigned a dedicated Trinity contact

Become a registered exam centre

To offer Trinity exams you need to be a registered exam centre. Apply online at trinitycollege.com/register
To find out more, speak to your local Trinity representative. Find contact details at trinitycollege.com/worldwide






Reliable evidence of English language skills

Trinity College London is an international exam board offering a unique range of qualifications in English language, drama, music and the arts.

Contact us

To find out more about our qualifications and to download guidance visit:
trinitycollege.com/ESOL

To find the contact details for your local Trinity representative visit:
trinitycollege.com/worldwide

 /TrinityCollegeLondon
 @TrinityC_L
 /TrinityVideoChannel

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

Registered UK company number: 02683033.
Charity number: 1014792.

ESOL-BROC-01 (GIS-03)