Integrated Skills in English (ISE)

Video at: www.trinitycollege.com/TESOL-AL

This video looks at Trinity ISE exams and what they involve.

00:09 – 03:10	ISE overview		10:30 – 13:39	Reading component
03:11 – 07:20	Speaking component		13:40 – 16:20	Writing component
07:21 – 10:29	Listening component			

1. Before watching the video

a. Make a mindmap below with features you believe make a good English exam.

Features of good exams

b. How do the ISE exams differ from the GESE exams?

c. Which is more reflective of real world tasks - the items found in integrated skills exams or items found in discrete skills exams?

d. What other advantages do integrated skills exams have over discrete skills exams?

2. During the video

ISE Overview (00:09)

Now watch the ISE overview and check your answers to the pre-watching questions and answer the questions below.

> a. What ISE levels are mentioned in the overview section of the video?

> b. In relations to the CEFR, how does the ISE exam differ from many other exams?

Speaking component (03:11) and Listening component (07:21)

Now watch the Speaking component and complete the task below.

> Complete the gaps with either 'The candidate', 'The examiner' or 'Both'
>
> a. _____ chooses the topic for the discussion.
> b. _____ can ask questions about the topic.
> c. _____ may respond to comments about the topic.
> d. _____ should take control of the conversation.
> e. _____ can ask for clarification.

Now watch the Listening component and answer the questions below.

> a. What is the listening component called?
>
> b. What is the candidate required to do in the listening part?
>
> c. How many pieces of information do candidates at ISE I need to report?
>
> d. Why might the answers of two candidates who have performed equally well be different?
>
> e. What are the advantages of the candidate responding to the examiner's questions as opposed to answering multiple choice type questions?
>
> f. What are candidates required to do at higher ISE levels?

Reading component (10:30) and Writing component (13:40)
Now watch the Reading component.

a. Make a mindmap with the different subskills required for the reading.

Reading subskills assessed

b. What is the multi-text task and what is the rationale for having an infographic?

Now watch the Writing component and answer the questions below.

c. What are the two different types of writing task in the ISE exam?

d. What types of genre are being assessed?

e. What type of approach to writing does the exam promote?

f. What good practice is promoted in the exam?

g. Where can resources for the writing and the other parts of the exam be found?

3. Discussion points

How do you think exams will change in the future? Comment on the following points:

    a) exams that assess skills in an integrated way

    b) testing that reflects real-life tasks

    c) online/digital testing

With more people now reading online and writing with technology (computers and mobile phones), how do you think this will impact the way reading and writing will be assessed?

4. Further learning

If you want to learn more about this topic, look at these resources:

Books
Hughes, A. (2002). *Testing for Language Teachers*. Cambridge: CUP

Website
www.trinitycollege.com/ise
www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/source/framework_en.pdf

Journal article
Lee, I. (2007). 'Assessment for learning: integrating assessment, teaching, and learning in the ESL/EFL writing classroom'. *Canadian Modern Language Review,* 64(1), pp199-213.