

**FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS  
AND OTHER TEST SCORE USERS**



# **ISE: Integrated Skills in English**

An English language test for the 21st century

# Why choose Trinity?



DELIVERING  
ASSESSMENTS  
SINCE  
**1877**



EACH YEAR  
**850,000**  
PEOPLE TAKE A  
TRINITY TEST



CANDIDATES  
IN OVER  
**60**  
COUNTRIES

Trinity College London, established in 1872, is a leading internationally recognised awarding organisation (exam board), publisher and independent education charity, known for its rich cultural heritage, academic rigour and pioneering spirit. We have over 85 years' experience delivering assessments in English language proficiency.

- ▶ Trinity qualifications and tests are **accepted by over 4,600 courses and programmes at universities and institutions worldwide** as evidence of English language proficiency.
- ▶ Trinity College London is recognised by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), and all of its regulated English language qualifications are listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).
- ▶ Trinity works with educational and government bodies around the world. Find out about these projects [here](#).



**ISE is a truly state-of-the-art exam.**

Dr John Morley, Director, University-wide  
Language Programmes, University of Manchester

## Working with us



# ISE: Integrated Skills in English

Trinity's **Integrated Skills in English (ISE)** is a contemporary four-skills qualification (speaking, listening, reading, and writing), available on paper or digitally, designed to develop communicative skills.

- ▶ Trinity's ISE qualification is formally calibrated to the [Common European Framework of Reference \(CEFR\)](#).
- ▶ ISE carries the **ALTE Q-mark** from the [Association of Language Testers in Europe \(ALTE\)](#), having met their stringent quality standards.
- ▶ ISE qualification is available in two variations: **ISE (paper edition)** and **ISE Digital**.

## Assessing 4 skills:



Speaking



Listening



Reading



Writing

## Assessing skills in an integrated way

ISE assesses students' ability to interact in English in an authentic and meaningful way, through integrated reading into writing exam tasks and integrated listening into speaking tasks. This approach reflects communication in real-life interactive settings – where we use more than one language skill at a time.

Skills assessed include synthesising information, participating in interactive discussions and presenting on topics of personal interest.

## Why ISE?

### Builds real-life communications skills

Candidates develop their integrated, transferable English language skills within real-life contexts. The exam tasks challenge candidates to be flexible in applying their language knowledge. These skills are essential in a range of environments – from study to employment.

### Empowering candidates to excel

Candidates can choose and prepare their own personalised topic for the Speaking module. This task prepares students for the demands of giving presentations at school, work and university. This approach not only encourages their learning but also instils the confidence needed for them to perform at their best.

### Contemporary approach

ISE supports contemporary teaching strategies such as Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) activities, and develops cognitive processes from understanding overall meaning and catching specific points through to synthesis and evaluation.

# What skills does ISE test for student success?

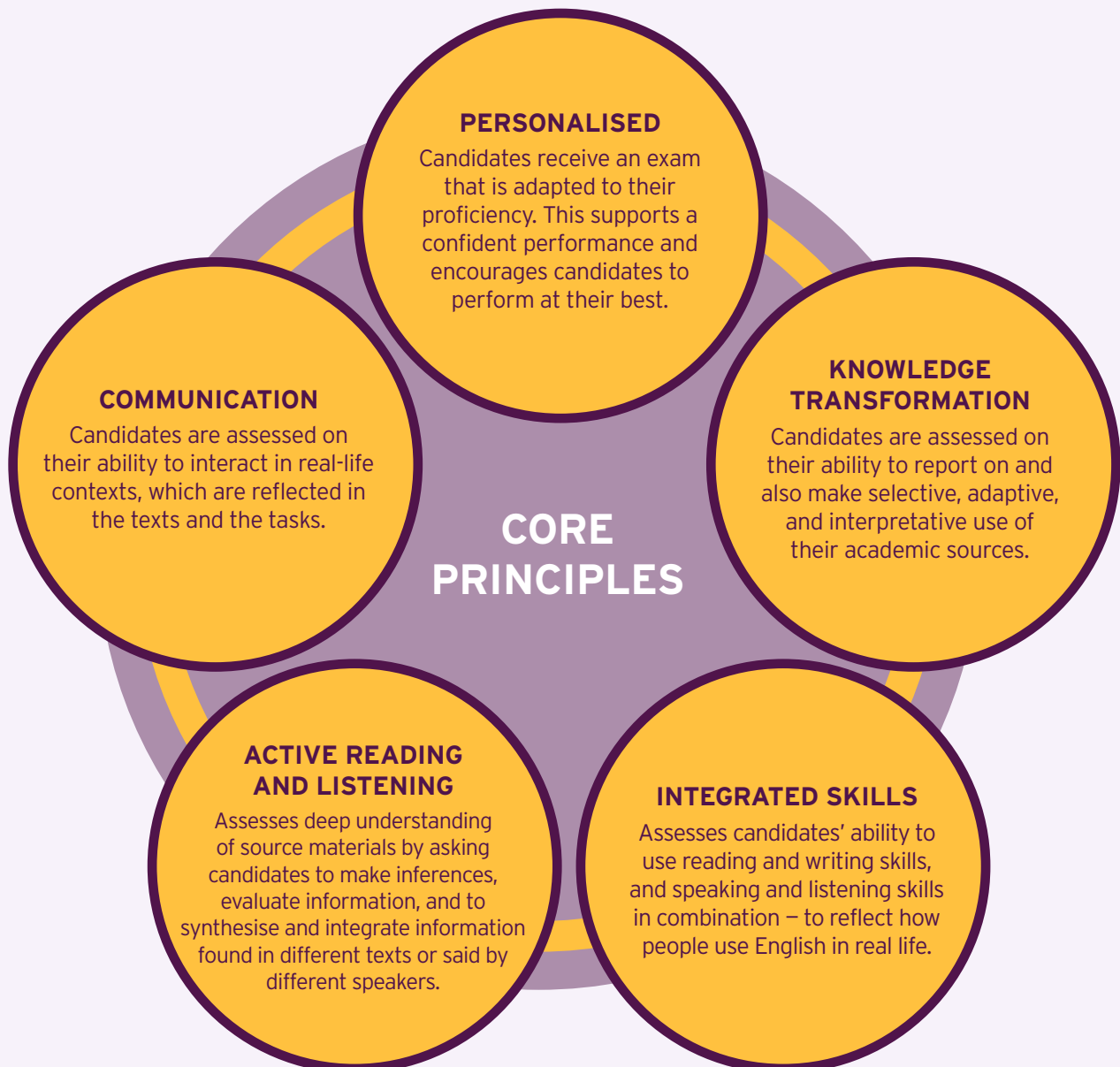
## Academic focus

ISE focuses on the educational domain within the learning or training context where the aim is to acquire specific knowledge and skills (CEFR – Council of Europe, 2001, page 15).

The intended candidates are young people or adults, and particularly those who will use their ISE examination certificate as a means of demonstrating their English proficiency within higher education. In application to university or college, the ISE certificate provides evidence of a student's acquirement of specific English skills and knowledge, to be successful in the classroom and beyond, in their future employment.

Therefore, the exam tasks reflect real-life situations that candidates would expect to encounter at school, college, or university - whether that be academic assignments, communicating with domestic students, or answering questions from their professors.

The assessment goes beyond the confines of grammar and lexis, promoting the development of communicative, study and transferable skills, which are increasingly cited as being important for success in today's world.



# ISE Digital – a highly flexible and convenient exam

- ▶ **Flexible booking:** Candidates can choose from frequent dates and book the exam up to three days before the exam.
- ▶ **Rapid results:** Results along with diagnostic reports, are available within 3–5 days.
- ▶ **Accessible exams:** Candidates can take ISE online at a registered exam centre.
- ▶ **Adaptive testing:** The test modules are adaptive. This means that whatever their level, candidates will receive tasks that are appropriate for their language proficiency based on their previous answers.

## Blending digital and communicative skills

- ▶ **Designed for the modern world:** The exam reflects how modern classrooms, projects, learning tasks, independent research and informal assessments function in today's global environment.
- ▶ **Showcasing digital competencies:** ISE Digital has been designed to assess communicative skills within a digital context. The different task types seamlessly integrate digital skills with language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing). Candidates not only demonstrate their English proficiency, but also their digital literacy, which can be applied in diverse areas of life, including professional settings.
- ▶ **Human assessment:** All Speaking and Writing performances are assessed by a highly-trained Trinity College London examiner.

## Mediation skills for multilingual contexts

ISE Digital includes mediation skills, through Listening into Speaking and Reading into Writing tasks – an essential component for multilingual communication, emphasised in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) since 2018.



# What does ISE tell me about student's level of English?

This table shows how the ISE on paper and digital mode of delivery are aligned to one another and to the CEFR. It also shows the alignment between TOEFL iBT, IELTS and the CEFR. All four qualifications test speaking, listening, reading and writing. The scores in the figure are overall scores, not individual module scores.

Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)		Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)	TOEFL iBT minimum score	International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS)
ISE (paper edition)* and ISE Digital	ISE minimum scaled score			
ISE IV (C2)**	130	C2	6	9.0
ISE III (C1)	105	C1	5.5 5	8.0 7.5 7.0
ISE II (B2)	80	B2	4.5 4	6.5 6.0 5.5
ISE I (B1)	55	B1	4.5 3	5.0 4.5 4.0
ISE Foundation (A2)	30	A2	2.5 2	
ISE A1	5	A1	1.5 1	

\* The overall outcome of ISE (paper edition) is Pass or Fail.

\*\*ISE IV has a different format and is not covered here – please visit [www.trinitycollege.com/ISEIV](http://www.trinitycollege.com/ISEIV).

## Sources:

[trinitycollege.com/CEFR](http://trinitycollege.com/CEFR) | [ets.org/toefl/score-users/ibt/compare-scores](http://ets.org/toefl/score-users/ibt/compare-scores) | [ielts.org/about-ielts/ielts-in-cefr-scale](http://ielts.org/about-ielts/ielts-in-cefr-scale)

If you would like guidance on how to set the most suitable scores for your admissions or progression requirements, please contact us at [recognition@trinitycollege.com](mailto:recognition@trinitycollege.com)

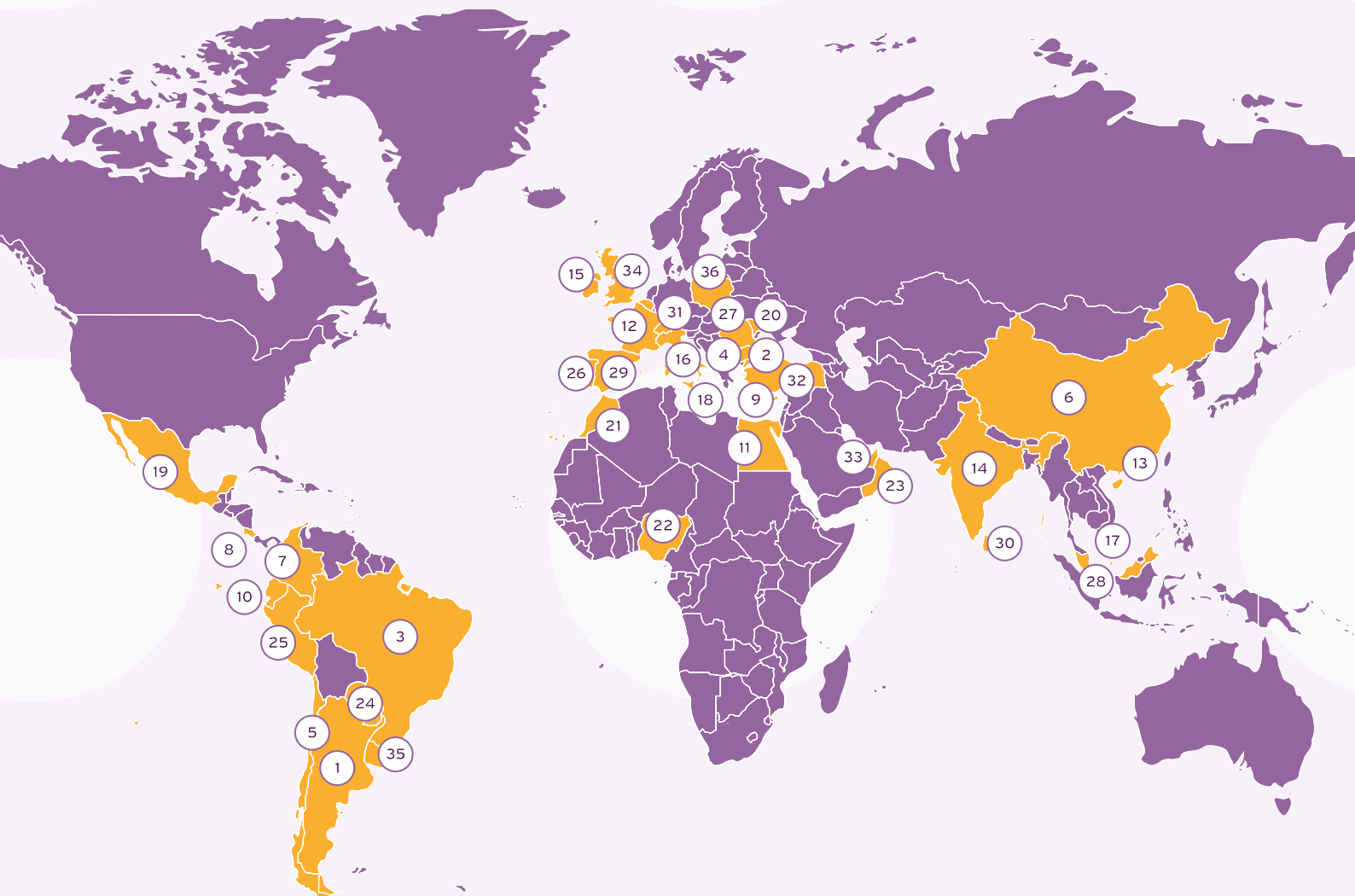
## Diagnostic feedback

Trinity's philosophy is to support candidates before, during and after the test. This is reflected in the diagnostic feedback provided for each candidate, in the form of a diagnostic profile report, regardless of their level of achievement. This shows the sub-skills tested for reading, listening, speaking and writing and a candidate's performance in relation to these.

Candidates receive a detailed module report for each skill. The module report gives their module score and the corresponding CEFR level. It also offers diagnostic insights, showing strengths and areas for improvement and includes feedback on how well the candidate used source materials.

# Where do our candidates come from?

The map below shows where we have students taking ISE:



- |              |               |               |              |               |                 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Argentina | 7. Colombia   | 13. Hong Kong | 19. Mexico   | 25. Peru      | 31. Switzerland |
| 2. Belgium   | 8. Costa Rica | 14. India     | 20. Moldova  | 26. Portugal  | 32. Turkey      |
| 3. Brazil    | 9. Cyprus     | 15. Ireland   | 21. Morocco  | 27. Romania   | 33. UAE         |
| 4. Bulgaria  | 10. Ecuador   | 16. Italy     | 22. Nigeria  | 28. Singapore | 34. UK          |
| 5. Chile     | 11. Egypt     | 17. Malaysia  | 23. Oman     | 29. Spain     | 35. Uruguay     |
| 6. China     | 12. France    | 18. Malta     | 24. Paraguay | 30. Sri Lanka | 36. Poland      |

## Where do our candidates go on to study?

ISE students go on to study in institutions all around the world, including in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Republic of Ireland and New Zealand as well as many other countries where courses are offered with English as the medium of instruction. This includes countries such as Germany, Poland and Malaysia along with many others across the globe spanning Europe, MENA, the Americas and Asia.



## Exam and results security

Trinity is committed to ensuring that candidates receive an exam result that they can believe in. We do this through rigorous quality assurance procedures including visits to exam centres, statistical analysis and monitoring, fairness checks and careful management of speaking and writing assessors.

### The ISE test is taken under secure conditions:

- ▶ A current, valid passport, national identity card or full photocard driving licence has to be shown on the day of the test.
- ▶ In the in-centre exam, one invigilator per 15 students is present in the exam room at all times and mobile phones or other electronic devices (including smart watches) are not permitted in the exam room.
- ▶ ISE Digital delivers exam tasks to students based on their in-test task performance. This means that candidates will receive exam tasks that are personalised to them, significantly reducing the risk of cheating.

### Security and validation of results

ISE is a test that can be relied on by employers and institutions alike. After results have been released, they may be securely verified via our online system.

Find out more at [trinitycollege.com/verification](https://trinitycollege.com/verification)

### Digital certificates:

- ▶ Full digital certification is provided. As soon as results have been released, they may be shared digitally and efficiently for secure verification via link, PDF or QR code. Once results are released, certificates are available online 24/7.



## How do I recognise ISE?

Contact our Recognition team for more information about accepting ISE at your institution: [recognition@trinitycollege.com](mailto:recognition@trinitycollege.com)

When you register to accept ISE for your entry or course completion requirements, Trinity College London will:

- ▶ promote your institution's recognition to our international network
- ▶ provide updates and webinars for university staff
- ▶ give you full control of digitally verifying your applicants' results