

## Skills for Life


### Additional information:

Booking and administering ESOL Skills for Life  
Speaking and Listening exams for online delivery  
in Trinity Registered Exam Centres



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Who this information is for

This information is for everyone involved in the delivery of Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life online exams in your centre. This includes:

- ▶ the Centre Representative (see below)
- ▶ exam co-ordinators and administrators
- ▶ exam supervisors, invigilators and stewards
- ▶ teachers/tutors

## 1.2 What this information is about

This information is to be used in conjunction with the existing Best Practice Guidebooks for ESOL Skills for Life. The information in this document highlights key differences between the administration of Trinity's ESOL Skills for Life exams in standard format face-to-face (visiting examiner) and in online delivery (via video conference). Standard processes, requirements and conditions should be applied as detailed in the Best Practice Guidebook unless stated otherwise in this document.

## 1.3 Changes to the document

We will make changes to this document from time to time. Whenever we do so, your Trinity contact will advise you. The changes will become binding on the date specified for the change to take place. We'll make sure that you are given reasonable notice of any change that is likely to have an operational impact on the delivery or administration of Trinity exams at your centre.

## 2. Preparing candidates

It is your responsibility to make sure that candidates at your centre are fully familiar with the contents of the exam and corresponding rules and regulations.

You should ensure all candidates are provided with an appointment slip. These are available at Trinity Online and specify the time and location of their exam, as well as informing them of any ID documents they must bring to their exam. The ID must be checked and verified by centre staff.

Please refer to Trinity's policies at [trinitycollege.com/policies](https://trinitycollege.com/policies) for information on Trinity's Candidate ID Policy. You must also ensure that all candidates understand and abide by the exam rules and regulations by supplying them with Trinity's Notice to Candidates - see Appendix 2.

## 3. Enrolling candidates

### 3.1 Exam dates, booking deadlines and closing dates

All Trinity exams have booking deadlines and closing dates. These are the dates by which exams must be booked and all enrolments and corresponding payments must be made to Trinity or, where applicable, to your Trinity contact for them to send on to Trinity. Closing dates for online exams differ from those of exams with visiting examiners. Please check with your Trinity contact for booking deadlines and closing dates in your region.

### 3.2 Exam fees

Details of exam fees are available from your Trinity contact.

For standard format exams with a visiting examiner, a minimum fee is applied to cover the costs of organising a Trinity exam. For online exams there is no minimum fee.

Your centre must pay the exam fees in full on or before the closing date for the exam session.

Once you have booked your exams on Trinity Online, the system will automatically produce an invoice for the corresponding exam fees.

We may not accept the enrolment of your candidates if we are unable to match a payment your centre made with the information that you have entered on Trinity Online, owing to incomplete candidate data.

Please note that further candidate entries will NOT be accepted from centres with payment in arrears.

### 3.3 Online enrolment

All exams are booked and all candidates are enrolled through Trinity Online, Trinity's web-based administration system.

All Registered Exam Centres must use Trinity Online to submit and manage exam entries and sessions.

Enrolling candidates for online exams differs from having a visiting examiner. For details on how to enter candidates, and for support regarding the changes to Trinity Online, please ask your Trinity contact.

### 3.4 Data protection

The 'Personal data' is data that can be used to identify a natural person and can be, or is intended to be, held on computer or in manual records.

Your contract with Trinity is governed by English law and, therefore, English data protection laws apply to the way in which data is collected, stored and used (ie 'processed'). These laws are defined in your centre contract to include all applicable laws in force at the relevant time and currently include the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Under English data protection law, both Trinity and your centre are 'data controllers', which means they are both responsible for complying with English data protection laws when they process personal data, such as personal data about candidates, teachers, Trinity examiners, etc.

In addition, if your centre is based outside England or Wales, it may be required to comply with local data protection laws. Whenever there is a possible conflict between English and local data protection requirements, it is usually good practice for your centre to act in accordance with the legal requirement that is the strictest.

When your centre collects personal details from actual or potential customers for Trinity exams, it should notify them that their data will be shared with Trinity for marketing and academic purposes and refer them to Trinity's Data Protection Policy on its website for further information.

In addition, for online exams, a privacy statement needs to be given to all candidates in advance of exams taking place. It can be found at [trinitycollege.com/privacy-digital-exams](https://trinitycollege.com/privacy-digital-exams).

Candidates have the right to see the personal data held about them by Trinity and can make a request about using and correcting that data. There are prescribed times and ways to respond to these requests, which your centre might need to comply with if you are required to help Trinity with such a response. More details can be found on the Data Protection page on our website at [trinitycollege.com/data-protection](https://trinitycollege.com/data-protection).

## 3.5 Privacy statement

Centres are responsible for ensuring candidates are fully aware of how their personal data is used in the online exams as detailed in the [Privacy Statement for Exam Candidates](#).

## 3.6 Enrolment requirements

- ▶ Candidates must be at least 16 years old at the time of the exam. There is no upper age limit.
- ▶ Candidates may enter at any level without having previously taken any other Trinity exam.
- ▶ Candidates may not enter for more than one level in the same exam session, eg a candidate cannot take SFL Entry level 1 and SFL Entry level 2 in the same session. The requirements and specifications of a level presuppose a level of competence which encompasses the demands of lower levels. It is advisable, that at least one month elapses between attempting different levels of the same module to give candidates ample opportunity to familiarise themselves with the cognitive demands of the level.
- ▶ If a candidate does not reach the level required to pass and wishes to re-sit a module, a minimum of one month must elapse before the candidate may enter again.
- ▶ There is no restriction on candidates simultaneously entering for exams from other Trinity exam suites (eg ISE), or on entering for exams of other awarding organisations.

Failure to observe these rules may result in exams being voided with no refund payable.

It is not possible under any circumstances for Trinity to enrol any candidate(s) retrospectively.

## 3.7 Candidates with disabilities

Trinity College London is committed to creating an inclusive environment where candidates with special educational needs or disabilities are able to demonstrate their skills and feel welcomed. We aim to make our exams accessible to all. Where practicably possible Trinity will try to adhere to arrangements for reasonable adjustments and special provision as set out in the Disabled Learners Policy and Best Practice Guidebooks.

### 3.8 Special consideration policy

Special consideration may be given to candidates who are ill, injured or suffer other adverse circumstances at or near the time of the assessment or moderation. Where practicably possible Trinity will try to adhere to arrangements as set out in the Special Consideration Policy.

### 3.9 Equal opportunities policy for exam candidates

Trinity is committed to equality of access to exams. Trinity will adhere to the same conditions as set out in the Best Practice Guides.

# 4. Organising online exam sessions

## 4.1 Before the exam day

### Technical requirements

Your centre must be equipped with appropriate hardware, software and internet in order to administer online exams. Specifically, your centre must have:

- ▶ An internet connection, broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE).
- ▶ A recommended bandwidth of 1.8 Mbps (upload/download). This can be checked [here](#).
- ▶ One laptop or desktop computer per exam session with speakers and a microphone, either built in to the computer or connected via a USB port.
- ▶ One laptop or desktop computer per exam session with a webcam or HD webcam, either built in to the computer or connected via a USB port.

### Zoom

Online exams will be conducted using Zoom video conferencing software. Zoom works with most operating systems and browsers. Supporting documentation will be provided on the suitability of Zoom for your hardware and the process for using Zoom on exam day. Zoom has features for enabling virtual backgrounds. Virtual backgrounds must be turned off for exam sessions.

For exams to be delivered continuously and without disruption, centres should ensure they have a wifi speed of 10mbps download, and 5mbps upload. It is the responsibility of the centre to check they meet these requirements.

### Examiner

Shortly after you have booked your session we will send you confirmation of the exam date by email, and include an invoice for the exam fee. We will confirm the name of your examiner(s).

### Timetabling

It is your responsibility to ensure that exam timetables are ready before the Trinity examiner begins a session at your centre - you must use Trinity Online to do this. There are two elements to creating a timetable for an exam: the timetabling of candidates' exam time and the timetabling of examiner breaks. The timetable for online exams will not match that of the standard format (visiting examiner) exams and there are several extra steps that must be taken to ensure an effective timetable is constructed. More guidance is provided in Appendix 1.

### Candidate information

When you have prepared exam timetables on Trinity Online, it is your responsibility to communicate the correct information about the exam to the candidates. You will be able to print individual appointment slips confirming the exam time, the candidate number, and the date and location of the exam, just as you would for standard format exams. You will also need to advise the candidates of the exam rules (Appendix 2) and that they will need to bring proof of identification on the day of the exam, in accordance with Trinity's Candidate ID Policy.

### Centre information

Centres will be sent Zoom meeting ID codes by email in advance of the exam session, along with links to supporting information.

## 4.2 On the exam day

### Materials

You should ensure that all the following materials are ready:

- ▶ Exam registration
- ▶ Attendance Report

### Candidate

- ▶ ID document (eg passport)
- ▶ Notes for Level 2 presentation (if required)

### Exam room

The exam room must be quiet, reasonably ventilated and maintained at a comfortable temperature. The room should be lit with natural light if possible. Consideration must be given to computer screen visibility and glare. The exam room must contain at least one comfortable chair that provides good support. The room must be equipped with the appropriate hardware, software and broadband connectivity for online delivery of exams. As is the case for Trinity's standard format speaking and listening exams, the exam room(s) must only be used by one candidate at a time.

### Waiting room

There should be a waiting room for candidates to use when they arrive. This should be far enough away from the exam room that the exam cannot be overheard.

### Notices

Silence posters (available from Trinity) and the Notice to Candidates (see Appendix 2) must be displayed around the waiting room and exam room area.

### Stewarding

You must provide a steward for the exam day who will greet candidates, show them to the waiting room and exam room, and ensure that everything runs smoothly. Stewards should ensure that candidates leaving their exam do not return to the waiting area to converse with those still waiting to take their exam. Stewards may also be required to provide basic Zoom support (logging candidates in to the meeting and assisting with basic audio/visual issues) but they will be required to leave the room during the exam.

Stewards are responsible for presenting the correct candidate and ensuring that the candidate logs into the exam session. The candidate's full name (as per the timetable/booking enrolment) must be used to sign into the exam, otherwise they will not be permitted. The examiner has been instructed only to allow candidates into the virtual exam room whose full name matches their timetable. It is important to note that Zoom remembers the previous details used for logging into a meeting, therefore you must ensure that you log in with the correct candidate information.

### Centre staff and presentation notes

ESOL Skills for Life Level 2 exams may require presentation notes to be prepared and shared with an examiner during the exam. In the standard exams, presentation notes are shared with the examiner in paper format. As this is not possible in an online exam, staff (or the candidate(s) themselves) need to transfer presentation notes from the Trinity template into the chat function in Zoom before the start of the exam. Candidates are not to prepare a full script or a PowerPoint presentation. More guidance on sharing the presentation notes can be found in the Zoom supporting documentation.

### Prohibited items

The following are NOT permitted in the exam room:

- ▶ eating or smoking (bottled water is permitted)
- ▶ mobile phones or other electronic devices (including smart watches)
- ▶ language aids, eg dictionaries, written scripts
- ▶ audio- or video-recording equipment
- ▶ live animals or weapons/dangerous objects, eg knives (or replicas)

### Timetable

Centres must follow the order of the timetable provided to the examiner. If you are running sessions with more than one examiner, you should not move or add candidates to another examiner's timetable. These candidates will not be permitted to sit the exam.

## 4.3 Organising ESOL Skills for Life reading and writing sessions

Arrangements before and during the exam day for reading and writing sessions remain the same as usual - they are not impacted by the online delivery of the speaking and listening exams. For more information please refer to the ESOL Skills for Life Best Practice Guidebook.

## 4.4 Results and certificates

The standard timescale for the delivery of results and certificates also applies to the online versions of the exams.

## 4.5 Checklist for organising online exam sessions

### Before the exam day

- ▶ Book a suitable exam room
- ▶ Ensure hardware, software and broadband connectivity adhere to the requirements above
- ▶ Test Zoom
- ▶ Use Trinity Online to book your session before the booking deadline and enrol all candidates before the closing date
- ▶ Ensure all entries are accurate, payment is made in full and that any requests for a candidate's particular need provision has been submitted with the necessary accompanying documents
- ▶ Inform candidates of their exam time, the exam rules and what to bring
- ▶ Appoint a steward and ensure they know what to do

- ▶ Ensure you have printed all the necessary exam materials
- ▶ Prepare a timetable for the examiner(s)

### On the exam day

- ▶ Set up a registration area with the attendance list to confirm the attendance of the candidates.
- ▶ Provide basic Zoom support and transfer topic points into the chat box for the examiner to see (if applicable)

### Technical issues

- ▶ If you need to get in contact with the examiner during an online session, please sign in the Zoom meeting ID using the name "Exam support" or "Centre staff", otherwise the examiner will not admit you into the virtual examination room. You can then communicate with the examiner between candidate exams.
- ▶ If you are unable to open the Zoom app or communicate with the examiner through Zoom, please contact your dedicated Trinity representative.
- ▶ If you experience technical difficulties and your exam session is outside of working hours, please wait for the examiner to call you. This call may come from an unidentified number. The examiner is instructed to call you 5 minutes before the session if you are not online. Please make sure your contact details on the Trinity online system are up to date.

### After the exam day

- ▶ Distribute results in a timely manner
- ▶ Distribute certificates in a timely manner

# 5. Working with Trinity

## 5.1 Appeals, complaints and re-mark requests

We strive to ensure that all our candidates and centres have a positive exam experience. However, we recognise that occasionally things do not always run as smoothly as we would like. If you are unhappy with any aspect of Trinity's service, please contact us. You should raise your concern with your Trinity contact in the first instance: they will either be able to solve the problem or advise you how to take your complaint further.

Information about our policies for Complaints, academic investigations and Appeals and procedure for Re-marks, which govern how complaints are handled by Trinity, are available on the Trinity website at [trinitycollege.com/policies](https://trinitycollege.com/policies) and [trinitycollege.com/appeals](https://trinitycollege.com/appeals).

We ask that you help us in any investigation into your concerns by cooperating fully and providing all necessary information. Please note that exam scripts and recordings remain the property of Trinity College London and will not be made available to centres or candidates.

## 6. Trinity's quality and standards

Examiners and markers for the online exams undertake the same training and adhere to the same standards as do the visiting examiners.

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### 6.2 Registered Exam Centres inspections

Trinity reserves the right for its representatives (and those from any regulatory bodies by whom it is governed) to visit any exam centre unannounced. Trinity's representatives check that all prescribed measures for security, exam conduct, hardware, software and broadband connectivity are in place and of the required standard. Trinity reserves the right to withdraw registration of any centre found not to be following stated procedures for the delivery of Trinity exams.

### 6.3 Results entry, malpractice, anti-corruption, bribery and regulations

The processes in place for checking the validity of results and related to malpractice for online exams match those in place for a visiting examiner. Likewise, laws applying to anti-corruption and bribery and regulatory criteria governing Trinity qualifications are the same as outlined in Best Practice Guidebooks.

For further information please refer to the guides or Trinity's policies at [trinitycollege.com/policies](https://trinitycollege.com/policies).

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**Exam timetabling**

Your timetable will be created automatically by the Trinity Online exam portal when you submit your exam booking. You will be able to access the timetable to make changes to the running order up to 72 hours before the exam, at which point changes will no longer be possible. For details on how to make changes to your timetable, please ask your Trinity contact.

**ESOL Skills for Life speaking and listening exams**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Individual interview</b>	<b>Group discussion</b>
Entry 1	5 minutes	4 minutes
Entry 2	8 minutes	5 minutes
Entry 3	8 minutes	6 minutes
Level 1	10 minutes	7 minutes
Level 2	14 minutes	8 minutes

- ▶ Please note, all timings include administrative time.
- ▶ Due to the nature of the group discussion in ESOL Skills for Life exams, an even number of candidates per level is optimal. **The online exam requires the group discussion to contain two candidates only.**
- ▶ Four minutes of buffer time will be added for each exam, to ensure candidates are able to log in to the video conferencing software, any necessary sanitation of the equipment has happened and that presentation notes have been shared with the examiner (for applicable exams). This 4 minute buffer should be split across a pair of candidates, with a 1 minute buffer between the individual candidate exams and a 2 minute buffer after each group discussion containing two candidates.
- ▶ Timetable the exams so that the same grades are together, starting from the lowest and ending with the highest.

**Examiner hours and breaks**

The total number of examining hours per day must not exceed the limit of 3.5 hours. The 3.5 hours is inclusive of buffers and examiner breaks.

Centres must also observe the rules for examiner breaks. An examiner is entitled to a 10 minute break every hour.

**Example timetables**

Candidates will be timetabled in enrolment order, and in ascending order beginning with the lowest level in the session, eg Entry Level 1.

**Centre name:**

Trinity's Test Centre (SfL) 60700)

**Venue:**

Trinity's Test Centre (SfL)  
10th Floor, AMP House  
Dingwall Road  
Croydon

's Timetable for date: 07/12/2020

<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Candidate number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Grade/Level</b>
09:00	Candidate 1 Candidate 1	1-3070240801	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 1	E1
09:05	Candidate 2 Candidate 2	1-3070240803	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 1	
09:10	4 mins Group Discussion			
09:14	4 mins Break			
09:18	Candidate 3 Candidate 3	1-3070240805	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 1	
09:23	Candidate 4 Candidate 4	1-3070240807	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 1	
09:28	4 mins Group Discussion			
09:32	4 mins Break			
09:36	Candidate 5 Candidate 5	1-3070240809	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 2	E2
09:44	Candidate 6 Candidate 6	1-3070240811	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 2	E2
09:52	5 mins Group Discussion			
09:57	10 mins Break			
10:07	Candidate 7 Candidate 7	1-3070240813	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 3	E3
10:15	Candidate 8 Candidate 8	1-3070240815	SfL Speaking & Listening Entry 3	E3
10:23	6 mins Group Discussion			
10:29	4 mins Break			
10:33	Candidate 9 Candidate 9	1-3070240817	SfL Speaking & Listening Level 1	L1
10:43	Candidate 10 Candidate 10	1-3070240819	SfL Speaking & Listening Level 1	L1
10:53	7 mins Group Discussion			
11:00	10 mins Break			
11:10	Candidate 11 Candidate 11	1-3070240941	SfL Speaking & Listening Level 2	L2
11:24	Candidate 12 Candidate 12	1-3070240943	SfL Speaking & Listening Level 2	L2
11:38	8 mins Group Discussion			
11:46	0 mins End of Day			

To be made available to candidates prior the day of the exam and **must be** displayed outside each exam room on the day of the exam.

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**Arrival at the exam room**

- ▶ You should arrive at the exam venue at least 30 minutes before the start of the exam. If you arrive after the start of your exam, you should report to the supervisor/invigilator.
- ▶ If you are late, you will not be able to take the exam.

**Identification**

- ▶ Make sure you have proof of your identity with you (please check Trinity's [Candidate ID Policy](#)).
- ▶ You must bring your original ID and it must not have expired. Photocopies or images on electronic devices will not be accepted. **If you do not have your original ID, you will not be allowed to take the exam.**

**Materials**

- ▶ You must only take pens (blue or black and a highlighter) and your ID into the exam room.
- ▶ You must write your answers in pen in the answer paper.
- ▶ You must not bring any paper into the exam room.
- ▶ You may not use a dictionary during the exam.
- ▶ Correction fluid, erasable pens and pencils **MUST NOT** be used.

**Conduct**

You must not do anything during the exam which disturbs other candidates or might give you an unfair advantage over other candidates:

- a. If you have a mobile phone, smart watch or any other electronic device, make sure it is switched off and placed with your personal belongings in the area designated by the supervisor or invigilator, they **MUST NOT** be in your pockets.
- b. You must not talk to or distract other candidates once the exam has started.
- c. You cannot borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.
- d. You must not eat (unless approved by Trinity for medical reasons), smoke or vape in the exam room. You may bring water into the exam, but this must not be placed on the table in case of spillage.
- e. If you attempt to cheat, you will be disqualified from the exam.
- f. You must only write on your exam paper.
- g. You must not remove anything from the exam room after the exam has finished.

**You are advised to use the toilet facilities before entering the exam room.**