

Integrated Skills in English

ISE IV Portfolio tasks 2026

These are the only acceptable portfolio tasks for candidates taking the ISE IV exam from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

Your ISE IV Portfolio must contain a total of three tasks. You must present one task from each section:

- ▶ One from Section 1 - Correspondence
- ▶ One from Section 2 - Factual writing
- ▶ One from Section 3 - Critical and analytical writing

Please write the task question number on each piece of work.

At the end of each task, write the number of words you have used to complete the task. You must not exceed the stated maximum word length range.

ISE IV Portfolio preparation rules

ISE IV candidates and teachers must follow these important rules when preparing portfolio tasks:

1. The Portfolio must contain the candidate's own work and no one else's.
2. Nobody except the candidate personally should correct, add to or take anything out of a task.
3. Teachers (or any other person) must not correct a candidate's work.
4. Teachers are allowed to give one piece of feedback per portfolio task only. The ISE IV student portfolio feedback form should be used for this purpose. This must be the only form of feedback given.
5. No one except the candidate's teacher is permitted to give the candidate feedback on their work.
6. Candidates must not copy a piece of written text from any other source and present it as their own work.

Please note that if any of the above rules are broken, a U (Ungraded) grade will be awarded by the examiner, and the candidate will score zero in his/her portfolio.

Candidate disqualification warning!

Trinity will not tolerate any cheating, unfair practice or breach of its rules and regulations. Candidates found to have committed any such conduct will be disqualified.

ISE IV Portfolio tasks 2026

Section 1

ISE IV - Correspondence (word length range: 300-350 words)

1. **The local government would like to involve young people more in the decision-making process and want to appoint someone to represent the views of young people in your area.**

Write a letter to the local council, putting yourself forward for the role of youth representative, explaining what you could bring to the role and suggesting some ideas to increase young people's participation in local matters.

AND

Write an email to your classmates/friends requesting their support for your application.

2. **Your local school has announced that they are planning to cut the after-school club due to a lack of funding.**

Write a formal email to the headteacher of the school expressing your concern at this measure, stating the impact you feel it may have and diplomatically suggesting that there may be alternative ways of raising the money to keep the club open.

AND

Write an informal open letter to the parents asking for their support in campaigning to keep the club open and asking for their ideas on how to fund the club in future.

3. **There has been an increase in population in your local area recently because of new housing developments, but local services have not been expanded to meet increasing demand.**

Write an online forum with three or more contributors criticising the effect this has had on local services, highlighting the areas in particular need of attention and making practical proposals for improving the situation.

- 4. A university has just announced plans to redevelop a nearby park into university halls of residence. The city council has asked local residents for their views on the new proposal on their website.**

Write an online forum with three or more contributors debating the merits of the proposal, evaluating the effects it may have and considering whether there may be other, preferable solutions.

- 5. Some companies have introduced a scheme in which all employees are granted at least one paid day per year to participate in voluntary work for a charity of the employee's choice.**

Write an online forum with three or more contributors exploring the potential advantages of this proposal, evaluating who would benefit most from the scheme and considering whether there might be more effective or complementary ways to encourage social responsibility among employees.

Remember - you must choose your 2026 ISE IV correspondence task from the above list.

NB the word length range given above for ISE IV correspondence tasks is for the whole task, eg letter and email. Dividing the word length between the individual pieces of correspondence is the responsibility of each candidate. However, you must not exceed the stated maximum word length range.

ISE IV Portfolio tasks 2026

Section 2

ISE IV – Factual writing (word length range: 300-350 words)

1. **Digital art has been on the rise since the 1960s, but there has been much debate on whether it can be considered 'real' art.**

Write an article for a culture magazine outlining a brief history of the digital art movement, giving some examples of different formats used. Evaluate to what extent you believe advances in digital technology have had a positive impact on the art world.

2. **A property developer has submitted plans to build some affordable new housing on a piece of land which is home to some rare species of wildlife.**

Write an article for the local newspaper exploring the merits of this scheme. Assert your opinion on the need for housing in your area and evaluate whether the need to protect the environment should be prioritised in certain circumstances when making decisions over use of land.

3. **Your local independent cinema is experiencing a drop in the number of cinemagoers and has asked for help in boosting its popularity.**

Write a report for the owners of the cinema analysing the factors that might be causing the decline in audience numbers. Outline various ways to promote interest in the cinema, proposing one or more films that may win audiences back.

4. **Reality competition shows, in which contestants must use deception, alliances and deduction to outlast others, are becoming increasingly popular on TV these days.**

Write a review of a reality competition show for an entertainment magazine, including the public's reactions to the show, speculation as to why such shows are so popular with viewers and an analysis of the role such programmes play today.

5. **A large department store in your town has closed down and now stands empty. The local council is inviting residents to share their ideas for how the building could be repurposed to benefit the community.**

Write a proposal for the local council outlining your vision for redeveloping the site. Explain how your plan would serve local needs, highlighting the advantages it would bring, and any potential concerns or objections others might raise.

Remember – you must choose your 2026 ISE IV factual writing task from the above list

ISE IV Portfolio tasks 2026

Section 3

ISE IV – Critical and analytical writing (word length range: 300-350 words)

1. **'As an architect you design for the present with an awareness of the past for a future which is essentially unknown.'**
(Norman Foster, architect, born 1935)

Write an essay evaluating to what extent you believe Foster's statement is the key to successful architectural design, exploring other factors that may be equally important. Support your arguments with relevant examples of well-known buildings.

2. **'The thing about hip-hop today is it's smart, it's insightful. The way they can communicate a complex message in a very short space is remarkable.'**
(Barack Obama, former President of the US, born 1961)

Write an essay evaluating to what extent you agree with Obama's statement and discussing the influence of hip-hop on communication in today's society. Support your arguments with relevant examples from this music genre.

3. **'We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be.'**
(May Sarton, poet and novelist, 1912-1995)

Write an essay giving your own interpretation of this statement and evaluating how far you think the advice given is wise. Support your arguments with relevant examples.

4. **'We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.'**
(Marie Curie, physicist and chemist, 1867-1934)

Write an essay assessing the validity of this statement. Discuss how people can discover their inner talent and illustrate your viewpoints with relevant examples.

5. **'A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus.'**
(Martin Luther King, civil rights activist, 1929-1968)

Write an essay exploring the meaning of this statement and considering its value as a characteristic of leadership. Illustrate your assertions with examples of people you consider to have been genuine leaders.

Remember – you must choose your 2026 ISE IV critical and analytical writing task from the above list.