

## Test overview – ISE II (B2)

### Reading & Writing

The ISE II Reading & Writing test is 2 hours long. There are four tasks:

- ▶ Task 1 – Long reading
- ▶ Task 2 – Multi-text reading
- ▶ Task 3 – Reading into writing
- ▶ Task 4 – Extended writing

Divide your time carefully:

Task 1 – Long reading 20 minutes	Task 2 – Multi-text reading 20 minutes	Task 3 – Reading into writing 40 minutes	Task 4 – Extended writing 40 minutes
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#### Task 1 – Long reading

There are 15 questions in the Long reading task.

##### Title matching

For questions 1-5 choose a title for each paragraph.

- ▶ Read the text quickly and think of what title you would give each paragraph. Do not try to understand every word.
- ▶ Try to match your ideas for titles for the paragraphs to the possible answers given in the exam paper.
- ▶ Do not use any paragraph title more than once.
- ▶ Answer all questions, even if you have to guess.
- ▶ There are six possible answers – you will use only five.

##### Selecting true statements

For questions 6-10 decide which five statements from a list of eight are true.

- ▶ Read each statement and decide if you think it is true or false.
- ▶ Look at the text and try to find a sentence that supports what you think.
- ▶ Always write five answers (never leave a blank), even if it is only a guess.

##### Completing sentences

For questions 11-15 choose an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the text.

- ▶ Read the sentences. For each sentence, look at the words around the gap and think what number, word or phrase could complete the information.
- ▶ In the text try to find the paragraph and then the sentence that relates to the sentence with the missing number, word or phrase.
- ▶ Sometimes the type of words (noun, verb or adjective) before and after the gap can help you find the right number, word or phrase.
- ▶ Choose an exact number, word or phrase from the text that completes the sentence.
- ▶ Always put an answer. Guess if you are not sure.

#### Important

- Give an answer to **all** questions, even if you are not sure.
- Spend up to 20 minutes on questions 1-15 and **no more**.

## Task 2 – Multi-text reading

There are 15 questions in the Multi-text reading task.

### Multiple matching

For questions 16-20 choose the correct text the question refers to.

- ▶ Read the four texts quickly and think of how you would summarise each text.
- ▶ Read the questions – each question refers to one of the four texts. Choose which text matches the question.
- ▶ There are five questions and four texts. You can use texts for more than one answer. Answer all questions. Guess if you are not sure.

### Selecting the true statements

For questions 21-25 decide which five statements from a list of eight are true.

- ▶ Read each statement and decide if you think it is true or false.
- ▶ Look at the texts and try to find a sentence from the texts that gives information to confirm what you think.
- ▶ Always write five answers (never leave a blank), even if it is only a guess.

### Completing the notes section

For questions 26-30 choose an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the texts.

- ▶ Read the notes. Look at the words around the gaps and for each one, think what number, word or phrase could complete the information.
- ▶ From the texts, try to find the paragraph and then the sentence that relates to the question.
- ▶ Choose an exact number, word or phrase from one of the four texts that completes the information.
- ▶ Sometimes the type of words (noun, verb or adjective) before and after the gap can help you find the right number, word or phrase.
- ▶ Always put an answer. Guess if you are not sure.

### Important

- Give an answer to **all** questions, even if you are not sure.
- Spend up to 20 minutes on questions 16-30 and **no more**.

### Task 3 – Reading into writing

Use information from the four texts from task 2 to write an answer to a question.

- ▶ Read **all** four texts before you answer.
- ▶ Read the Reading into writing question and underline the important words.
- ▶ There are several parts to the question – make sure you answer all parts.
- ▶ Use the space provided to plan your answer. For example, you could make a mind map.
- ▶ Refer to the texts from task 2 – you **must** refer to **all** four texts in your answer.
- ▶ Your answer should be roughly 150-180 words.
- ▶ When you finish, check your answer. Refer back to the question to check you have answered all three parts and check your spelling and grammar.
- ▶ Spend up to 40 minutes on this task but **no more**.

#### Important

- Use your own words as far as possible. Don't just copy from the reading texts.
- In your answer refer to **all** texts from task 2. Check your answer.

### Task 4 – Extended writing

- ▶ Read the Extended writing question and underline the important words.
- ▶ There are several parts to the question – make sure you answer all parts.
- ▶ Use the space provided to plan your answer, eg make a mind map.
- ▶ Your answer should be roughly 150-180 words.
- ▶ When you finish, check your answer. Refer back to the question to check you have answered all parts.
- ▶ Spend up to 40 minutes on this task but **no more**.

#### Important

- Read the question carefully and plan your answer.
- When you have finished, check your answer and correct any mistakes.

## Speaking & Listening

When you enter the room for your Speaking & Listening test the examiner will be waiting for you. Say 'Hello' and take a seat. You will be one-to-one with the examiner.

The test is approximately 20 minutes\* long.

<p>Task 1 – Topic 4 minutes</p>	<p>Task 2 – Collaborative 4 minutes</p>	<p>Task 3 – Conversation 2 minutes</p>	<p>Task 4 – Independent listening 8 minutes</p>
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### Task 1 – Topic

Before the test, you need to prepare a topic to talk to the examiner about.

- ▶ Choose a topic you are interested in – anything you can talk about. This could be your work, a hobby, an issue or an experience, eg 'Tourism in my area'.
- ▶ Prepare your topic. Write a mind map and think of different areas to talk about related to your topic (eg What I think about tourism, how tourism effects my area, advantages and disadvantages of tourism)
- ▶ The examiner wants to see you use a variety of language of the level (B2) – see the language functions on page 7. Be ready to talk about advantages and disadvantages, express your ideas and opinions, speculate about the future, and so on.
- ▶ Choose four or five points about your topic that interest you the most. Think about how you can use the language functions and talk about these four or five things.
- ▶ You can bring your notes or mind map into the exam with you.
- ▶ Think about how to talk about each point on your mind map.
- ▶ This is a conversation about a subject you are interested in, so don't write a script or try to memorise a long text.
- ▶ The topic discussion will last up to 4 minutes.

Example of a topic – The effects of tourism on my area – and areas to talk about:

- ▶ How I feel about tourism in my area and why (*expressing and expanding ideas and opinions*)
- ▶ The good and bad effects of tourism (*highlighting advantages and disadvantages*)
- ▶ What would happen if there was no tourism in my area? (*speculating*)
- ▶ What local people should do (*giving advice*)

### Task 2 – Collaborative

- ▶ Your examiner will read a prompt and you need to ask questions and make comments to keep the conversation going.
- ▶ You need to keep the conversation going in this task, think about ways you can ask questions, get more information and clarify details.
- ▶ You can help the discussion along by encouraging the examiner to comment or give their own opinions.
- ▶ Remember, the examiner is looking for the language functions (see below) try to use this language.
- ▶ The Collaborative task will last up to 4 minutes.

#### Important

- Prepare to take control of the conversation and keep it going
- Remember to ask for information, make comments and invite comments from the examiner
- Try to use the language functions (see below).

### Task 3 – Conversation

Your examiner will choose one of the subject areas from the list below, and will ask you about the subject to start the conversation. It is important to prepare to talk about each area:

#### Subject areas for conversation at ISE II

- ▶ Society and living standards
- ▶ Personal values and ideals
- ▶ The world of work
- ▶ National environmental concerns
- ▶ Public figures past and present

- ▶ Listen carefully and respond naturally to the examiner – you can ask the examiner to repeat what he or she said if you don't understand.
- ▶ Remember to ask the examiner questions about the subject.
- ▶ The examiner is looking for the language functions (see below), so try to use these.
- ▶ The conversation will last up to 2 minutes.

#### Important

- Prepare to talk about all the subject areas.
- Ask the examiner some questions about the subject.
- Try to use the language functions (see below).

#### Language functions at ISE II

- ▶ Initiating and maintaining the conversation
- ▶ Expressing and expanding ideas and opinions
- ▶ Highlighting advantages and disadvantages
- ▶ Speculating
- ▶ Giving advice
- ▶ Expressing agreement and disagreement
- ▶ Eliciting further information
- ▶ Establishing common ground

### Task 3 – Independent listening

- ▶ The examiner will introduce the talk and then the recording will play once.
- ▶ After the first time you tell the examiner in one or two sentences what the talk is about.
- ▶ The examiner will then ask you a question about the talk and give you some paper.
- ▶ You listen again and take some notes if you want to. These notes will not be marked as part of your exam.
- ▶ The examiner will ask you the question again. You respond to the examiner's question. For example, listen for and report opinions, ideas, and advantages and disadvantages of a situation or proposal.
- ▶ You will have one minute to speak. You can use your notes to help you.
- ▶ It is a good idea to make notes when you listen to the text. Here are some ideas to help you take notes:
  - write the subject of the talk on the paper when the examiner introduces it
  - don't try to write every word, just write key words
  - don't worry about spelling or grammar
  - use symbols or pictures.

#### Important

- You don't have to make notes, and your notes are not marked but it is a good idea to try to make some as you listen to help you with the tasks.