

ISE I sample exam

Topic task

Before the exam, the candidate prepares a topic of his or her own choice which is used as the basis for the discussion.

The examiner signals the start of this task by saying:

'We're going to start with your topic. Can I have your topic form please?

So, we're going to talk about...?'

Once the candidate has responded, the examiner asks questions to elicit the language functions of the ISE I level.

At the end of the Topic task, the examiner says:

'Thank you for talking about your topic. Now we're going to talk about something different.'

Conversation task

This is an opportunity for a realistic exchange of information, ideas and opinions.

In this task, the examiner chooses one of the subject areas from the list below:

- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Money
- ▶ Fashion
- ▶ Rules and regulations
- ▶ Health and fitness
- ▶ Learning a foreign language.

The examiner signals the start of this task by saying:

'Let's talk about...'

Once the candidate has responded, the examiner asks questions and makes comments to elicit the language functions of the ISE I level.

At the end of the Conversation task, the examiner says:

'Thank you. Now we're going to move on to the Listening task.'

Independent listening task

The candidate listens to two recordings and responds to questions in conversation with the examiner.

Task 1

Examiner rubric:

'You're going to hear a talk about an insect called the crane fly. You will hear the talk twice. As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then, I will ask you six questions on some facts about crane flies. Are you ready?'

Audio script for Independent listening task 1

OK, so what's a crane fly? Does anybody know? In fact they're often called 'daddy long legs' and that tells you something about what they look like. They look like rather large mosquitoes but they've got very, very long legs – their legs often break off because they're so long and fragile. There are over 14,000 different species of crane fly in the world but I'm going to concentrate on European crane flies.

The adults hatch in September after they've lived under the ground for almost a year as larvae – that's young insects. If it's been a warm but rainy summer then you get very high numbers of crane flies. Adult crane flies only live for about two weeks. The female adults lay their eggs under the surface of the soil and the cycle begins again. People think that they're not very useful for anything but, in fact animals, such as spiders and birds, like them because they can eat them. They're also useful because in their young form they eat dead plants and so they improve the quality of the soil.

Answers

	Questions	Answers
1	What do crane flies look like?	Mosquitoes/have long legs
2	How many species of crane fly are there in the world?	(over) 14,000/allow 40,000 if misheard
3	When do adult crane flies hatch?	September
4	For how long do adult crane flies live?	(About) two weeks
5	Which animals eat crane flies?	Spiders/birds
6	What do young crane flies eat?	(Dead) plants

Task 2

The examiner reads some instructions to introduce the task. If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the instructions and individual questions once.

'You're going to hear a short talk about science. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?'

The examiner plays the recording for task 2 once.

After the recording has played once, the examiner says:

'Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.'

After the candidate has responded, the examiner says:

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about how children learn to speak. Are you ready?'

The examiner plays the recording again. The candidate may make notes while they listen. The examiner then says:

'Now tell me six pieces of information about how children learn to speak.'

The candidate reports to the examiner six pieces of information that they have heard in the recording. They may refer to their notes.

While the candidate is responding, the examiner checks which facts the candidate has correctly or incorrectly reported. When the candidate has finished, the examiner selects four follow-up questions from a list in the examiner materials.

Task 2 sample audio script

Babies begin to speak at about one year old. To start with they learn words very slowly. For some time they only know about 50 words mainly words for objects and people, then when they are about 18 months old their vocabulary suddenly begins to grow very fast. They begin to use verbs and adjectives and they may learn as many as 10 new words every day. Some people say that this is because children suddenly recognise what a word is. They realise that each word refers to something in the real world.

It is strange that children do not need to hear a word many times. Sometimes they have only heard it two or three times before they begin to use it. By the time they are six years old, children can use about 6,000 words and they can understand about 14,000.

Answers

	Facts from the recording	Sample examiner questions
1	Begin speaking at one	When does a baby begin to speak?
2	Learn words slowly	How quickly does a baby learn new words?
3	Knows 50 words at first	How many words does a one-year-old child know?
4	Knows words for objects and people	What are a child's first words about?
5	Vocabulary grows fast at 18 months	What happens when a child is about 18 months old?
6	Learn 10 new words a day at 18 months	How many words can an 18-month-old child learn a day?
7	Suddenly recognise what a word is/refers to real world	Why does a child's vocabulary suddenly grow at 18 months?
8	Don't have to hear many times	Do children have to hear a word often in order to learn it?
9	Use 6,000 words by the age of six	How many words can a child use at the age of six?
10	Understand 14,000 words by the age of six	How many words can a child understand at the age of six?