

ISE Foundation 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 Foundation level.

If the candidate does not ask a question, the examiner prompts him or her, for example by saying:
'Ask me a question about...'

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 task presents 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:

- ▶ Holidays
- ▶ Shopping
- ▶ School and work
- ▶ Hobbies and sports
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Weekend and seasonal activities.

The examiner signals the start of this task by saying:

'Let's talk about...'

Once the candidate has responded, the examiner asks questions to elicit various functions of the ISE Foundation 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 writing and in conversation with the examiner.

Task 1

The examiner reads some instructions to introduce the task. If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the instructions once. Below is an example from the sample exam:

This is a plan of an airport waiting room. Here it shows left and right (the examiner points to L and R on the plan). These pictures (the examiner points to the pictures) show you some things in the waiting room. Someone will tell you where these things are. You'll hear the person speak twice. On your paper, match the letters with the numbers on the plan. There is one picture you do not need to use. There's an example to show you what to do (the examiner points to where it says A on the plan). Zero is A. Please look at the plan and pictures now. You have 15 seconds (the examiner waits 15 seconds). Are you ready?

The examiner plays the recording for task 1 twice. While the recording is playing, the candidate writes down their answer on their notepaper.

The candidate has up to 15 seconds after the recording has finished playing for the second time to complete the task if necessary.

What letter is number 1? Number 2? Number 3? Number 4? And number 5?

Task 1 Sample audio script

Look at this plan of the airport waiting room. On the right of the entrance, there is a bank. You can change your money here. In the centre, there is a lovely coffee shop. You can buy cakes here, too. The bookshop is on the left of the entrance, in the corner. In the left corner of the waiting room, at the back, there are some toilets. On the right side, next to the bank, there are some seats. At the back of the waiting room, in the middle, there are stairs up to the second floor. You can watch the planes from here.

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

Airport waiting room

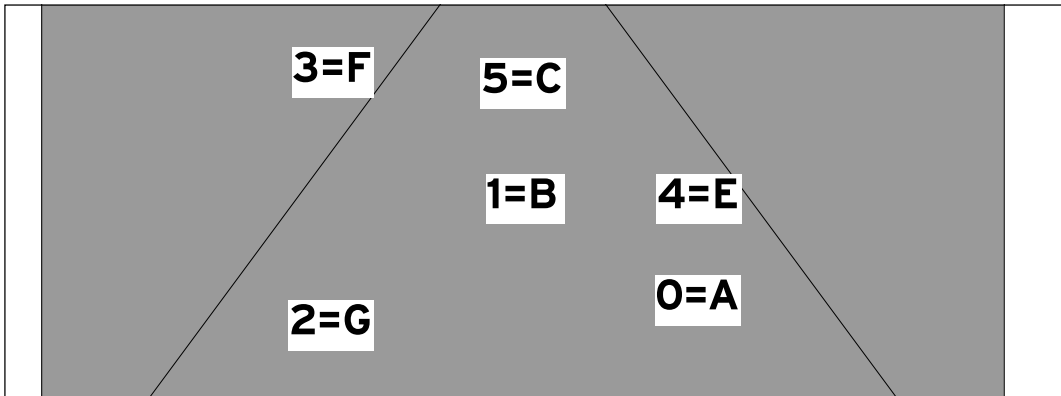
Integrated Skills in English – ISE Foundation
Listening exam form

example

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

On your paper, match the letters with the numbers on the plan. There is one picture you do not need to use. There is an example (picture A) to show you what to do.

Task 1 answer key



Sample Independent listening task 2

Audio script for Independent listening task 2

You are going to hear a short talk about a writer. You will hear the talk twice. As you listen, write down some facts about the writer on your notepaper, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me five facts about the writer. Are you ready?

Roald Dahl was a famous writer. He was born in Wales in 1916. His parents were from Norway. When he was 23 years old he became a pilot. Everybody called him 'Lofty' because he was very tall. Dahl wrote mystery stories for adults at first. Later when he had children he started writing children's stories. Dahl worked in a small building in his garden. He wrote for four hours every day. He always used pencil and yellow paper. When he had an idea for a story he wrote it in an old red notebook. Dahl loved chocolate and his most famous book was about a chocolate factory.

Answers

Facts from the recording

1	Born in Wales 1916
2	Parents from Norway
3	Age 23 he became a pilot
4	Called 'Lofty' – very tall
5	First wrote mystery stories for adults
6	Had children – wrote children's stories
7	Worked in small building in his garden
8	Wrote for 4 hours every day
9	Used pencil/yellow paper/old red notebook
10	Loved chocolate/wrote about chocolate factory

Sample examiner questions

1	Where/when was he born?
2	Where were his parents from?
3	What did he do when he was 23? How old was he when he became a pilot?
4	Why was he called 'Lofty'?
5	What did he write first?
6	When did he start writing children's stories?
7	Where did he work?
8	How often/when did he write?
9	What did he use?
10	What food did he love?