

City & Guilds International Spoken English for Speakers of Other Languages Assessment



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Summary

ISESOL Assessment

Introduction

The focus of the four parts of spoken ESOL is the same at each level. The differences between the six levels are found in:

- the length of the test
- the linguistic difficulty and complexity
- the range of topics and functions
- the nature of the tasks.

Part 1: here the candidate answers a variety of questions aimed at eliciting personal information, ideas or views.

Part 2: the focus is on how well the candidate can use functional language in a range of real-life situations. The interlocutor and candidate interact in a variety of situations, with the candidate asked both to respond and to initiate dialogue.

Part 3: the focus is on how well the candidate can exchange information with the interlocutor in order to perform a communicative task.

- At **Preliminary** and **Access** (A1 and A2 levels), the candidate asks and answers questions to find the differences between two pictures.
- At **Achiever** (B1 level), the candidate tries to reach agreement with the interlocutor after a discussion based on the same visual prompts.
- At **Communicator** (B2 level), there are two different sets of information around the same theme and the purpose is to make a plan or an arrangement based on these.
- At **Expert and Mastery** (C1 and C2 levels), the candidate and interlocutor both have the same written prompts based on a variety of topics which usually include contemporary issues. The discussion might require the speakers to rank or prioritise, to analyse, or to imagine and hypothesise.

During the discussion, the candidate needs to demonstrate an ability to expand and give examples, to justify opinions and to challenge the interlocutor if they disagree.

Part 4: the aim is to give the candidate an opportunity to produce a long turn, on a topic selected by the interlocutor from a choice of three.

The assessment of the candidate is not carried out by the Interlocutor.

The test is recorded and the Marking Examiners listen to the recording and mark the candidate based on a set of criteria and descriptors of performance for each level.

Assessment Criteria

For each Part of the exam, candidates are awarded a mark from 0 to 3 for Global Communication, so that the maximum number of marks they can get for Global Communication across the four parts of the test is 12.

In addition, candidates are awarded a mark from 0 to 3 for each of the analytical assessment criteria, so that the maximum number of marks they can get on the analytical assessment scale is again 12.

The final mark of the candidate for the ISESOL test is the average of the global communication mark and the analytical marks.

Global communication scale: The main aim of this scale is to provide an assessment tool for evaluating task fulfillment, i.e. whether the candidate has managed to perform the tasks adequately for the level.

Analytical scales: The following criteria are used to assess how well the candidate performs the required tasks i.e. the quality of the language produced at each level.

- Accuracy: the ability to demonstrate control of grammar and lexis
- Range: the ability to vary structure, lexis and register as appropriate to the task
- Pronunciation: the ability to produce the sounds of English in order to be understood with appropriate stress and intonation
- Fluency and interaction: the ability to connect utterances, maintain the flow and engage in effective communicative exchanges.

Overall Result Determination

The maximum available marks for the ISESOL exam are 12, regardless of the level. There are three possible overall grades: First Class Pass, Pass and Fail. The table below shows what the requirements for each grade are.

Grade	Total marks: 12
First Class Pass	10 - 12
Pass	6 - 9
Narrow Fail	5
Fail	0 - 4

Please note that it is no longer necessary for the candidate to achieve a pass in each Part of the ISESOL examination in order to earn an overall pass.

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