

## Sample ISE IV Controlled Written examination tasks Candidate answers, assessments and rationale

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### ISE IV – Task 1 – Reading into writing task – Text synthesis

Read the information below. Then, **in your own words**, write a formal report (approximately 350 words) for a global development think tank:

- i) summarising the information given about the British Government's plans to reduce the country's carbon footprint, evaluating the motivational impact of saving money on saving energy **and**
- ii) discussing to what extent you consider 'environmental issues are now political issues', illustrating your viewpoint with relevant examples.

#### **New gadget puts the finger on Britain's waste of power**

It's the size of a CD case, sits on your kitchen worktop and could transform household habits. What is more, it is coming to homes across the UK to reduce the country's carbon footprint. Enter the 'real-time display' or, to you and me, a power meter.

While nuclear power and the prospect of Britain 'running out of electricity' dominate the energy debate, the Government announced plans for real-time displays to improve household efficiency. In the Energy White Paper, ministers said that power companies should offer real-time displays from next year. In addition, the Government wants 'smart meters' to be implemented within a decade. Displays show consumers how much power they are using and at what cost. Smart meters combine this process with a payment meter linked to an energy companies' headquarters.

The units are programmed to the user's 'eco-profile' – the size of house and number of householders – the time, as well as a power tariff. The display then tells you the amount of power you are using and how much it is costing, hour by hour, month by month. Switch a light on and the rate rises slightly. Seeing the cost per month drop before your eyes as you switch off unnecessary lighting, standby buttons or over-charged mobile phones, helps to concentrate the mind as does a happy/sad face on the monitor.

The Government estimates users will save about £5 a month, which might not sound a lot, but multiply that by the number of households across the country and that is a lot of cash and carbon. Appliances left on unnecessarily are estimated to waste £900 million of electricity a year, with a typical household wasting £25 just by leaving them on standby. The power company, SSE, is in talks with the Government about running a widespread pilot scheme. SSE acknowledges the paradox of a power firm issuing gadgets which deter customers from using electricity. 'We live in a changed world where environmental issues are now political issues. We need to embrace that,' the spokesman says.

A recent study in Canada showed that homes with display metres recorded savings of 6.5% over two years. A drop like that could help the Government to reduce carbon emissions by 400,000 tonnes every year, the equivalent of taking 100,000 cars off the road.

Phillip Sellwood, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust, said: 'Saving money remains the biggest incentive for people saving energy, and in April this year 93 per cent of people cited this as the major reason why they plan to change their behaviour'.

(Source: Adapted from *The Times*)

## Household Energy Consumptions

Appliance	Power (W)	Usage/day (hours)	Cost/day (pence)	Cost/year (GBP)	Notes
1x 100W Standard Light Bulb	100	4	4	£14.60	
Washing Machine	930	1.5	14	£7.25	1 wash per week
Tumble Drier	2667	0.8	20	£10.40	1 wash per week
Standard Size Fridge Freezer	35	24	8.4	£30.66	
Kettle	2200	0.2	3.7	£13.40	5 boils per day
Electric Oven	1800	1	18	£65.70	
Microwave Oven	1700	0.2	2.8	£10.34	
Television	290	4	11.6	£42.34	
Digital TV box	23	24	5.5	£20.15	If continuously on
Video Games Console	45	1	0.5	£1.64	Not including TV
Computer	250	2	5	£18.25	
Vacuum Cleaner	630	0.5	3.2	£3.28	Twice a week
CD Player	85	1	0.9	£3.10	
Clock Radio	15	24	3.6	£13.14	If continuously on
Hair dryer	2000	0.1	1.3	£4.87	

(Source: Adapted from [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com))

**Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading texts.  
You must make reference to both the text and the graphic information in your answer.**

*As the modern world is forced to deal with an ever increasing number of environmental issues, the UK seems to be at the very forefront of environmentally friendly innovations. In line with the latest government decisions to save electricity a new power meter has been invented and is just about to be launched on the UK market with a view to helping individual households save power. The government hopes to have the new device installed across the country within the next ten years.*

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The device seems to be both efficient and easy to use. It reads the amount of power used by various household appliances from TV, computer and radio to kettle and microwave oven and displays the figures on a screen to alert the consumer to how much power is being used and at what cost. Some of the figures might come as a surprise but it would seem that on average most money and energy is spent annually on an electric oven and television, £65.70 and £42.34 respectively. However, one needs to bear in mind that only one 100w light bulb consumes as much as a quarter of the money spent on using an electric oven.

It is estimated that with a power meter consumers can save as much as £5,00 a month, which might sound insignificant but would save a lot of money if the device is used across the whole country. Savings of 6.5% have been recorded in homes in Canada over two years, a decrease which would help the UK government reduce carbon emissions by as much as 40,000 tonnes a year.

It seems to me that having a power meter on display in every single household across the country would create a great incentive for the whole society to save energy. While not everyone is aware of environmental issues or simply not eager enough to make a difference, I truly believe that people on average do try to cut corners when it comes to everyday spendings. Being able to constantly monitor the amount of money spent on energy would both alert individual people to energy related costs and bring the society together to reduce the country's carbon footprint.

Even though until quite recently issues like this were mostly dealt with by individual environmental groups, they are now increasingly becoming political issues with governments as well as international leaders trying to come together for a common cause. Environmental issues

such as those of slowing the pace of global warming and reducing carbon emissions are now central to international debates which aim to force all the developed countries to comply with environmental regulations. Refusal to do so, as in the case of the US at the Kyoto summit in 2005, may have an impact on international relations of the country as well as damage the image of the country worldwide.

## ISE IV – Task 1 – Reading into writing task – Text synthesis

### Rationale for ISE Controlled Written assessment

<b>TASK FULFILMENT</b> Grade: C
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
The candidate has made a good attempt at the task, summarising information from the original source material and reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. She has made good use of both the text and statistical data as required. However, at 476 words the text is significantly over the stated word limit of 350 words. ★ <b>Tip – In the Controlled Written exam, a 10% tolerance above and below the stated word length is applied. It is important that candidates do not exceed the word length by more than this as any additional text is not assessed.</b> Unfortunately, failure to adhere to this requirement of the task has had a detrimental effect on the grade awarded for Task fulfilment as much of the last paragraph has not been assessed.
<b>Text organisation</b>
The text is well-organised into appropriate paragraphs, though it does not contain a title and headings. There is an effective logical structure which helps the reader to recognise the main points with ease. The writer uses some cohesive devices such as 'even though', 'it seems' and 'it is'. However, a greater variety of more formal linking phrases should have been introduced in this formal report.
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
On the whole, the format, style and register are more suited to an article as opposed to a formal report. The writing has been organised into paragraphs, but there are no headings, bullet points and/or a subject title as is typical in a report. Furthermore, there are some phrases which over-personalise the writing e.g. 'it seems to me', 'I truly believe'. These expressions would be more appropriate for an article. ★ <b>Tip – At this level candidates are expected to appreciate subtle distinctions of style.</b>
<b>Effect on reader</b>
In general, the desired effect on reader is mostly achieved.

<b>ACCURACY AND RANGE</b> Grade: A
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level</b>
The candidate displays a comprehensive and reliable mastery of a very wide range of language to write fluently and convincingly at this level. Furthermore, she has the ability to deploy it with an extremely high level of accuracy. The text is almost faultless, with only one very minor error i.e. 'everyday spendings'. Varied verb tenses, differing linguistic forms and an interesting choice of vocabulary e.g. 'an ever increasing number of environmental issues', 'at the very forefront' all combine to enhance the text.
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
Spelling and punctuation are highly accurate.

## ISE IV – Task 2 – Reading into writing task – Text transformation

Read the texts below. Then, **in your own words**, present the information given as a formal article (approximately 300 words) discussing how 'The Zimmers Band' challenge society's perceptions of the elderly and commenting on strategies for longevity.

### Rock elders aim for chart success

A rock band made up of senior citizens is making a bid for chart success to prove that older people have still got what it takes. The 40-strong band, which includes some centenarians, recorded My Generation at the legendary studio two at Abbey Road – the very place where the Beatles recorded most of their hits.

The group was the brainchild of documentary maker Tim Samuels, who has made a series about disenfranchised groups fighting back. 'This is about old people standing up to the society that has cast them aside,' says Samuels.

(Source: Adapted from [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk))

### Interview with Buster Martin, 100, of 'The Zimmers Band' and Sebastian Lander

**You've had more than two million downloads for your band's cover of My Generation. Living the rock'n'roll life?**

No, but I am getting lots of attention because people have seen me in a documentary about the band. I'm just an old man who likes to work. The closest I get to it is a singsong in the pub, and, if I feel like it, a dance.

**Your answer to exercise?**

Sometimes I do press-ups or go for a 10 mile run.

**Are you pulling my leg? That's nearly a half-marathon. Can you touch your toes too?**

Yes, but not all that well with my back as it is. When it's better I could challenge you to a 10 mile run and be waiting at the finish line for you.

**Is your back an age-related ailment?**

No. I slipped on a junk mail pamphlet. The doctor gave me some ointment but I can't reach my back, and I'd rather not take painkillers. You kill the pain for a while and then it comes back with a bang. The only way to get rid of it is to work it off.

**Do you mean doing stretching exercises?**

No, just working. I live 50 yards from where I work three days a week as a mechanic and a car valet.

**So you are the ultimate workaholic?**

Not a workaholic, I'm a keep-fit merchant, because if you keep on working, you keep fit.

**Is this a work ethic that has been drummed into you from an early age?**

When I was 10 I was put on a steam train from Cornwall to London by the orphanage I grew up in. I arrived at 10am and by midday I was working in a market. My job was pulling the stalls out and doing repairs.

**What's the secret to a long life?**

People keep asking me that. I just take life as it comes. If you worry about things too much, you worry yourself into a grave. If you're always happy, it's good for your body and your health.

(Source: Adapted from *The Times*)

**Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading texts.**

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Buster Martin arrives at the studio cheerful and full of energy. He talks with a smile about his lifestyle, staying clear of painkillers, doing regular press-ups and going for a 10 mile run. His job in a nearby car valet keeps his mind occupied and his body fit.

Listening to all this, you might think you are speaking to a youth and yet the person you see is clearly past his prime. Sitting comfortably in his armchair, 100 year old Buster Martin examines your face to check what impact his words have had on his interviewer.

Buster, of 'The Zimmers Band', along with the other 39 band members are trying to make it to the top of the charts with ~~last~~ 'My Generation'. Their enthusiasm coupled with a desire to succeed seems destined for success. The group, made up of elderly people with a few centenarians among them, is determined to prove to the public that old age does not have to mean living aside the society. Buster says, 'People keep asking me about my secret to a long life. I just take life as it comes. If you worry about things too much, you worry yourself into a grave. If you're always happy it's good for your body and your health.'

Buster's attitude sounds admirable and requires respect. His philosophy is inspiring - just by listening to him you feel guilty you don't share his optimism despite your young age. Him and his band set an example for us and give a simple recipe for longevity - looking ahead and not back, and always with a smile.

## ISE IV – Task 2 – Reading into writing task – Text transformation

### Rationale for ISE Controlled Written assessment

<b>TASK FULFILMENT</b> Grade: D
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
<p>This answer only partially fulfils the task. Unfortunately, the candidate focuses on the individual, Buster Martin, and does not reconstruct and expand the arguments and accounts presented to fully address the specific communicative aims of the task. There is some attempt to discuss how the band challenges society's perceptions of old people. However, the candidate fails to comment on strategies for longevity in sufficient detail. ★ <b>Tip – Candidates must analyse the task in detail and ensure that all requirements of the task are satisfied. Failure to do so will have a detrimental effect on the grade awarded.</b></p> <p>At 266 words, the text is under the stated word limit. 43 of these words have been lifted from the text as a direct quote. Candidates are strongly advised to use their own words to demonstrate their understanding of the source material. ★ <b>Tip – Candidates should use their own words as much as possible. No marks are given for answers copied from the text.</b></p>
<b>Text organisation</b>
<p>The text is well-organised in appropriate paragraphs with an introduction and conclusion. However, a greater variety of formal discourse connectors and cohesive devices should have been used to give help the reader notice and remember significant points.</p>
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
<p>The task requires the candidate to write a formal article. However, the register and style of the candidate's answer are much more appropriate for an informal article. The use of contractions and colloquial expressions e.g. 'past his prime' are not suitable in a formal article. In general, the candidate has failed to show an appreciation of the subtle distinctions of style and register which is expected at this level. Failure to present the text in the appropriate style and register has had a detrimental effect on the grade awarded for Task fulfilment. ★ <b>Tip – At this level candidates are expected to appreciate subtle distinctions of style.</b></p> <p>The format is generally appropriate for an article, though a title should have been included.</p>
<b>Effect on reader</b>
<p>In general, the task has a quite negative effect on the reader as it does not fulfil the specific requirements of the task.</p>

<b>ACCURACY AND RANGE</b> Grade: B
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level.</b>
<p>A good attempt has been made to demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of the lexical, grammatical and functional language of the level. The writer clearly has the ability to use a wide-range of language with a high degree of accuracy. However, a greater range of more formal structures and expressions would have benefited the writing. There is only one minor inaccuracy i.e. 'living aside the society', but this does not impede communication.</p>
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
<p>There are no spelling or punctuation mistakes.</p>

### ISE IV – Task 3 – Critical and analytical writing task

*'Children nowadays are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food and tyrannise their teachers.'* Socrates c. 400 BC

Write an essay (approximately 250 words) exploring this statement and discussing how far you consider Socrates' comment reflects the way children are seen today.

*The generation gap has always been and will always be a subject of endless discussions, be it in the context of formal or informal education. It seems that like Socrates (c.400 BC), adults of all times tend to see children as tyrants with little or no consideration of others. And though as a school teacher I couldn't agree more with the view expressed by the philosopher, I frequently challenge myself to adapt it considering all the mischief I exposed my parents to at my younger age.*

*'People at all ages have different rights', my parents used to say trying to explain their passion for gardening and watching TV. 'Why can't you stay at home with us and not go out for once' I was frequently asked. My response used to lead to arguments and everyone ended up getting upset. I promised myself that when I grew up, I would always remember what my parents preached but did not practise and yet when dealing with teenagers these days when I am not one any more, I don't usually stop myself from criticising their behaviour. After all, I say, people at all ages have different rights and my right as an adult is to complain about those who haven't had a chance to learn their way as yet.*

## ISE IV – Task 3 – Critical and analytical writing task

### Rationale for ISE Controlled Written assessment

<b>TASK FULFILMENT</b> Grade: D
<b>Overall achievement of communicative aim</b>
<p>This is an unsatisfactory attempt at this task. The writer has not responded to the quotation in a critical and analytical manner. Instead, she has related her answer to her personal experiences as a child and an adult. As a result, the specific communicative aims of the task have not been adequately addressed. Socrates' statement is not fully explored and the answer does not discuss to what extent his comment reflects the way children are seen today in sufficient detail. A general lack of expansion and the inclusion of some irrelevant (personal) information have had a negative effect on the grade awarded. ★ <b>Tip – Candidates must analyse the task in detail and ensure that all requirements of the task are satisfied. Failure to do so will have a detrimental effect on the grade awarded.</b></p> <p>At 216 words, the text is under the stated word limit of 250 words. ★ <b>Tip – Candidates are advised to take full advantage of the word limit in order to fulfil all the requirements of the task in sufficient detail.</b></p>
<b>Text organisation</b>
<p>The text is organised into two paragraphs, when three or four would have been more appropriate, including an introduction and conclusion. Whilst the text is quite fluent, there is a lack of formal linking phrases and cohesive devices which are expected in a complex essay at this level. ★ <b>Tip – ISE IV candidates are expected to provide an appropriate an effective logical structure in a way that will inform and engage the target reader.</b></p>
<b>Appropriacy of format, style and register</b>
<p>The format is satisfactory, though no essay title has been provided. However, as in Task 2, the register and style is inappropriate for a critical analysis of a quotation as the text is too informal and over-personalised. For example, contractions and colloquial expressions are not appropriate for a critical/analytical essay. In general, the candidate has failed to show an appreciation of the subtle distinctions of style and register which is expected at this level. In turn, this has had a detrimental effect on the grade awarded for Task fulfilment. ★ <b>Tip – At this level candidates are expected to appreciate subtle distinctions of style.</b></p>
<b>Effect on reader</b>
<p>In general, the task has a reasonably negative effect on the reader as the requirements of the task have not been satisfied.</p>
<b>ACCURACY AND RANGE</b> Grade: C
<b>Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level.</b>
<p>There is a satisfactory range of the language items of ISE IV. However, the candidate has failed to exploit a wide range of complex grammatical structures, differing linguistic forms and lexis in this task. ★ <b>Tip – Examinations at this level demand an extremely high level of language proficiency.</b> The level of accuracy is good and there are only occasional slips e.g. 'challenge myself to adapt it' which do not affect the reader's comprehension.</p>
<b>Spelling and punctuation</b>
<p>There are no spelling mistakes and punctuation is very good.</p>

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