

SEW: Spoken English for Work exams

A unique, reliable test that prepares candidates for real life

Trinity's Spoken English for Work exams accurately assess communicative competence and development of English language proficiency in a work-related context. Through one-to-one interaction with an examiner, candidates are given the opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills through tasks that reflect realistic work scenarios, including communicating over the telephone.

Why SEW?

Employers and business course providers need people to demonstrate effective English language communication skills.

SEW is the only exam that assesses communicative competence within a work context in a variety of relevant interactive settings. Like all Trinity tests, the exam focuses on what an individual can actually do rather than just what they know.

What is SEW?

Trinity's SEW exams assess contextualised use of English language through a series of interactive tasks. At each proficiency level, the exam contains three types of tasks: telephone task, a topic presentation and a discussion. The tasks reflect situations that occur in a variety of workplace contexts. In addition, the exam allows candidates to demonstrate language relevant to **their own** area of work interest.

Who is SEW for?

SEW qualifications are aimed at anyone aged 16 or over who is either preparing for work or already has some experience of work. The SEW exams are suitable for anyone wishing to demonstrate their communicative abilities within a work context but they are not reliant on professional experience.

A SEW qualification is an excellent addition to any candidate's skills set, giving a clear indication of their ability to deal with real-life work situations using the English language.

How many levels of SEW?

There are four SEW exam levels (B1, B2, B2+, C1) enabling candidates to be assessed at the right level of proficiency for their needs and ability. Progressive levels are characterised by increasing demands on linguistic and communication skills, along with higher degrees of independence.

Why is SEW unique?

- ▶ **Relevant:** Preparing for the test helps learners develop and practise their communication skills for employment
- ▶ **Individual:** Students present on a topic that is relevant to their area of work interest – which is also shown on successful candidates' certificates
- ▶ **Language development:** Candidates are motivated to develop true communication skills rather than simply to learn by rote – increasing their confidence and preparing them for real-life English speaking situations

Why Trinity?

- ▶ **Experience:** Trinity College London is an international exam board, operating in over 60 countries. We have over 75 years' experience in assessing English language proficiency
- ▶ **Recognition:** Our qualifications are widely recognised by employers, universities, higher education and government institutions worldwide
- ▶ **Accreditation:** Trinity is a member of ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe), and is regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation)

Visit www.trinitycollege.com/SEW to download the SEW exam specifications.

SEW exam format and levels

Levels are defined by increasing demands on linguistic and communication skills, together with the need to demonstrate greater degrees of independence. Levels B1 to C1 map to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

SEW B1
13 minutes

Telephone task

Telephone task
(3 mins)



Presentation

Interactive topic
presentation
(5 mins)



Discussion

Discussion –
work-based topic
(4 mins)



SEW B2
20 minutes

Telephone task 1
(3 mins)



Telephone task 2
(4 mins)



Topic presentation
(3 mins)



Topic discussion
– examiner led
(4 mins)



Discussion –
work-based topic
(5 mins)



SEW B2+
23 minutes

Telephone task 1
(3 mins)



Telephone task 2
(4 mins)



Topic presentation
(5 mins)



Topic discussion
– examiner led
(5 mins)



Discussion –
work-based topic
(5 mins)



SEW C1
27 minutes

Telephone task 1
(4 mins)



Telephone task 2
(4 mins)



Formal topic
presentation
(8 mins)



Topic discussion
– candidate led
(5 mins)



Discussion –
work-based topic
(5 mins)



Note: Total timings include one minute for room transfers