

ICSE English language guidelines.

The skill to effectively communicate in English is central to any role carried out by the modern licensed Security Operative. Unlike other training programs, for example the Safe Pass, it is not possible to deliver either the QQI level 4 Door Security Procedures or Guarding Skills programs in a language other than English.

If English is not your first language and you maybe unsure if you have the English language skills to attend our programs. The following guidelines detail ICSE's position in relation to required language skills. It is important that all candidates have a good understanding of English to ensure they can successfully attend, comprehend and complete our training programs and assessments.

1. Based on our experience, ICSE recommend that candidates have, as a minimum, a B1 level of English. If you are unsure of your current level, you can take a free test on a number of sites like <http://www.examenglish.com/leveltest/index.php>
2. If a candidate believes their level of English comprehension and communication is at a suitable level to attend, then they are entitled to do so. However ICSE will accept the opinion of a trainees chief ICSE instructor regarding a candidate's ability to effectively communicate in English to the standard required to pass the assessments.
3. If ICSE feel that a candidate's level of English comprehension is not good enough to pass the training program they will be informed by their trainer. If this happens candidates will be allowed to continue to sit the training program but not the assessments.
4. It is a candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have the required level of English prior to attending as once a candidate attends a training program they will not be refunded payment if their level of English is found to be insufficient by ICSE.
5. If a candidate attends our programs and their level of English comprehension does not meet the required standard they will not be permitted to sit the assessments however they will be permitted to return, and attend the course again and the assessments, free of charge at a later date when their level of English is at the required level. The minimum level B1 is outlined below.
6. B1 is the minimum level required, however each candidate will be subjected to the same assessment criteria as all the other candidates. Holding a minimum of a B1 is no guarantee that a candidate will pass the program. The higher a candidate's levels of comprehension the greater potential they have to succeed.
7. If a candidate is unhappy with their trainer's decision concerning their level of English comprehension they can appeal any such decision to the managing Director of ICSE by contacting the office on 091- 534918.

CEF Levels

The **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages** (CEF or CEFR) was put together by the Council of Europe as a way of standardising the levels of language exams in different regions. It is very widely used internationally and all important exams are mapped to the CEFR.

There are six levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2. These are described in the table below.

To complete a free assessment/test and get a general idea of your current level go to

<http://www.examenglish.com/leveltest/index.php>

Council of Europe levels	Description
C2 Mastery	The capacity to deal with material which is academic or cognitively demanding, and to use language to good effect at a level of performance which may in certain respects be more advanced than that of an average native speaker. Example: <i>CAN scan texts for relevant information, and grasp main topic of text, reading almost as quickly as a native speaker.</i>
C1 Effective Operational Proficiency	The ability to communicate with the emphasis on how well it is done, in terms of appropriacy, sensitivity and the capacity to deal with unfamiliar topics. Example: <i>CAN deal with hostile questioning confidently. CAN get and hold onto his/her turn to speak.</i>
B2 Vantage	The capacity to achieve most goals and express oneself on a range of topics. Example: <i>CAN show visitors around and give a detailed description of a place.</i>
B1 Threshold	The ability to express oneself in a limited way in familiar situations and to deal in a general way with non-routine information. Example: <i>CAN ask to open an account at a bank, provided that the procedure is straightforward.</i>
A2 Waystage	An ability to deal with simple, straightforward information and begin to express oneself in familiar contexts. Example: <i>CAN take part in a routine conversation on simple predictable topics.</i>
A1 Breakthrough	A basic ability to communicate and exchange information in a simple way. Example: <i>CAN ask simple questions about a menu and understand simple answers.</i>