



English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.



AWARDING ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

FAB 2023 AWARDS

AWARD WINNER

Oracy Qualifications



Introduction

ESB Oracy qualifications are designed to equip individuals with essential skills required to thrive in today's competitive world. They can be easily integrated into the curriculum or used as an enrichment activity, developing learners' ability to express their thoughts clearly and persuasively, work effectively as part of a team, inform, instruct, question, interpret, disagree and advise.

At ESB, we believe in nurturing enquiring minds and empowering learners to embrace their unique abilities, interests and aspirations. Learners are assessed individually in a group setting which replicates real-life opportunities for speaking and listening while also allowing them to work collaboratively, and to support one another, enhancing their debating, public speaking, resilience, problem-solving, critical thinking and leadership skills.

We also give them the freedom and choice to select the topic they wish to talk about during their assessments, sparking intellectual curiosity and initiative.

"ESB is a really great programme to open students up to new opportunities and new challenges, particularly in gaining confidence with speaking to small groups of people. They have the opportunity to build their public speaking skills, which is a really important thing, especially for the children of this generation."

**Bernadette Goulding, English Teacher
at Queen's College, London**

"What I particularly like about ESB is the opportunity for our pupils to choose their own topics, and they really choose topics that they are passionate about, care about, and they are happy to prepare and research their topics. I think in an age where we are expecting our pupils to take stands, it is important that we equip our pupils with the right kind of tools to be able to negotiate tactfully, respectfully and listen to each other in good, healthy debates."

Sarah Belotti, Head at Mill Hill International School, London

Our qualifications are mapped to the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4, and can add to or enhance an ambitious curriculum. They can:

- Provide great opportunities from cross-curricular work, embedding oracy into the wider curriculum and fabric of your centre.
- Create opportunities to promote, discuss and practise ideas around citizenship, British values, PSHE and SMSC.
- Through the content used for a wide range of assessment tasks, learners are given chances to enrich their cultural capital.
- Promote whole school literacy/reading for pleasure initiatives.
- Encourage learners to consider their career options, and to reflect on their future prospects in a positive and ambitious way.
- Give learners a voice – our learner-led focus means that they have the chance to talk about what really matters to them, and to have their voices heard in a professional yet supportive setting.

Find out more



About English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.

English Speaking Board (International) Ltd. (ESB) is a specialist Ofqual registered Awarding Organisation with over 70 years of expertise in exclusively creating, assessing and awarding qualifications for English language and Oracy - also commonly known as speaking and listening, spoken English and communication.

In November 2023, we won the prestigious title of 'Awarding Organisation of the Year' by the Federation of Awarding Bodies for promoting the power of **human connection, self-advocacy, communication, and confidence building.**

ESB regularly ranks amongst the Top 50 UK based Awarding Organisations offering vocational qualifications - in January 2023, ESB International was ranked 31st. According to Ofqual, ESB International also ranked 12th in all Awarding Organisations that awarded certificates internationally in 2021/22.



Our Oracy qualifications boost enrichment and achievement

"ESB's qualifications are designed to develop speaking and listening, presentation and critical thinking skills and are tailored to each year group, with tasks targeted to the English National Curriculum. The assessment style is unique, with students working with a supportive peer group of classmates. The assessment is conducted externally, but the students complete the tasks within school, providing a familiar environment where our students have the best chance of success."

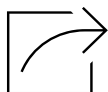
Vicky Walker, Year 5 Lead Teacher and Primary School English Lead at Dulwich College, Shanghai



ESB works with over 200 schools in the UK and internationally, assessing 12,000 learners each year and offering a unique portfolio of Ofqual-regulated qualifications, including assessments in Oracy, Debating, Group Speaking and specialist Oracy qualifications for multi-lingual learners.

These qualifications support children, young people and adults to enhance their communication skills and boost their self-confidence and self-esteem, to enable them to become aspirational and authentic lifelong learners and leaders.

Why choose **ESB**?



External Assessment

We offer an external assessment model which takes place at a venue/(s) of your choice and which are delivered and marked by our trained and standardised assessors. This gives you more time for teaching, and you can feel assured that your learners will be assessed accurately according to ESB criteria.



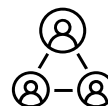
Personalised Reports

Learners receive a written report that provides personalised feedback about their performance. This report can serve as evidence for schools to showcase how they are effectively preparing their learners and to identify areas for improvement. Teachers can also use this as a tool to update parents about learners' individual progress.



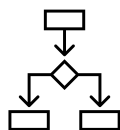
Group Experience

Our Oracy assessments are carried out in small groups where learners are assessed individually – replicating real-life opportunities for speaking and listening, enhancing their teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking and leadership skills.



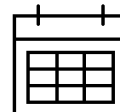
Highly-Skilled Assessors

ESB Assessors are annually standardised to ensure that their marking is consistent and that they bring to every assessment a passion for ESB's core values of providing enjoyable assessments.



Learners' Choice

Our assessments empower learners to choose their topics and speak passionately about their interests, sparking intellectual curiosity and initiative.



Reasonable Adjustments

Learners with additional learning needs can apply for reasonable adjustments to be made to the assessment – ensuring a fair test of all learners' skills and knowledge.

How do we create a successful ESB experience for our schools?

ESB is committed to providing ongoing support to schools throughout their ESB journey, ensuring an enjoyable experience for both learners and teachers.

Easily Embedded across the Curriculum

Our qualifications are structured in such a way that they can be easily integrated into classroom teaching across various curriculum subjects thereby providing students with a unique opportunity to develop their communication skills across multiple areas of study – enhancing their overall academic performance.

Teachers can support their students in preparing for ESB qualifications by incorporating task preparation into lessons and homework assignments. Our qualifications can also be offered as extracurricular activities, allowing students to further hone their communication skills outside of the classroom setting.

Teacher Resources

ESB offers a wide range of online teacher support resources for our Oracy qualifications, which teachers can access free-of-charge, at any time. Please click here to access the resources: [Oracy resources - English Speaking Board \(International\) Ltd. \(esbuk.org\)](https://www.esbuk.org).

These include fully resourced schemes of learning for our Entry Level Awards in Speech (Levels 1-3), Level 1 Award in Speech (Grade 2) Pathways qualifications, and Level 3 Certificate in Speech (Grade 8). Within these resource packs you will find lesson plans, lesson PPTs, worksheets, activity suggestions, and workbooks for learners to track their progress. Many of our resources are also editable, meaning that you can adapt them as you need to fit within your curriculum as seamlessly as possible.

ESB's Oracy resources provide teachers with ready-to-use lessons and activities that support learners through their ESB oracy journey, reducing their workload and providing clarity on the objectives, criteria and grade descriptors in the qualifications. The resources cover all four sections of the assessments and aim to address some of the common questions that even our most experienced centres sometimes have.

Specialist Training Available

ESB provides bespoke training sessions for schools at all levels. Our trainers share with teachers classroom activities to embed and build oracy skills and knowledge, as well as guiding them to understand the levels of performance and our assessment criteria. Our sessions provide the added bonus of us personally meeting with you and answering any questions that you may have about our qualifications.



Qualifications for Pre-Prep and Preparatory School learners

Celebrating the success of young learners in our schools



“ESB is a fantastic opportunity for our children to develop skills which they will use throughout their lives. It is wonderful to see them manage to control their nerves, structure their talks carefully, and modulate the pitch and speed of their speeches so that they really convey their passion and interest in their subject”.

Gateways School, West Yorkshire

ESB learners at Packwood Haugh School, Shropshire

Find out more 



Our Pre-Prep & Preparatory portfolio

Learners receive a certificate highlighting their achievement, but we never think of it as simply a 'certificate', it's more like a golden ticket to help them progress on every step of their journey.

Graded Examinations in Speech

Pre-Entry | Entry Level | Level 1 (EYFS, KS1, KS2)

ESB's Graded Examinations in Speech are designed to help learners improve their speaking, reading, listening and responding skills through a range of assessment activities. The assessments aim to boost learners' confidence in using their voice effectively and are all about showcasing learners' unique personalities and interests.

Here are a sample of these activities from across our qualification range for Primary level. Please see our specifications for more detail.

Section 1: Talk

- **Pre-Entry Level:** *Something Special* – learners bring in and show listeners a favourite toy or item and tell them about it.
- **Entry Level 3:** *Explaining How* – learners talk about something they have achieved, made, grown or learned about. They should support their talk by using a relevant visual aid.

Section 2: Speaking by heart

- **Entry Level:** Learners begin by giving the title of their chosen poem, the poet's name, and why they like it. They should then recite the poem, sharing the content with the group and the assessor.
- **Level 1 (Grade 1):** Learners begin by introducing their choice of poem or piece of drama, explaining what it means to them. They then present their memorised piece, sharing the content with the group and the assessor.

Section 3: Reading aloud

- **Pre-Entry Level:** Learners begin by saying the title of their chosen book and the author's name. They should then read a prepared passage of approximately 100 words from this story.
- **Entry Level 2:** Learners should prepare 4-5 pages (containing dialogue) of a book, from which the assessor will choose an extract to be read aloud. They must also introduce the book, stating which character they would like to talk about.

Section 4: Listening and responding

Learners answer questions from the group and the assessor after each section. They should also participate in group discussions, adding comments and questions.

Group Speaking

Entry 2 | Entry 3 | Level 1 (KS1 & 2)

Through the completion of our Group Speaking qualifications, your learners will develop their skills in speaking and listening, teamwork, and literacy.

Predominantly aimed at Key Stages 1-3, your learners will work together to: Speak from Memory; Tell a Story; and Listen and Respond. Group Speaking encourages learners to work collaboratively and support one another, cultivating a culture of co-operation and empathy.

These qualifications provide a great starting point for learners who may need to build confidence and take the first steps on their oracy journey.

Debating Level 1 (KS2 – Year 6-8)

ESB's Debating qualifications are designed to give young people an opportunity to improve their debating skills and endorse their talent for public speaking.

ESB believes that debating is an essential life skill and an aid to develop employability skills such as critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. Our suite of debating qualifications helps learners to build and deliver arguments, manage timing, and signpost and link work.

Graded Examinations in Speech for Learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

A1 | A2 | B1 (KS1, KS2)

Designed for learners who speak English as an additional language, ESB's Graded Examinations in Speech (EAL) qualifications enable individuals to flourish in their ability to communicate with confidence. Mapped to the National Curriculum in England in relation to its requirements in Spoken Language and Reading at Key Stages 1 and 2, these qualifications help learners to feel that their voice is important, and to enjoy speaking with and in front of others.



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Qualifications for **Senior & Sixth Form** learners

Celebrating the success of senior learners in our schools



ESB's CEO with learners and teachers at Ellesmere College, Shropshire

"What makes ESB different from other public speaking exams is that an integral part of it is how well the candidates support and interact with each other, necessitating them listening to and engaging with each other's presentations. They always come away having learnt lots, feeling more confident in their skills and claiming that it is the most enjoyable exam they have ever done."

**Pippa Quarrell, Assistant Head (Tutoring)
Bryanston School, Dorset**

Find out more



Our Senior & Sixth Form portfolio

Learners achieve an accredited certificate highlighting their achievement and can gain UCAS tariff points for UK university entry at Level 3.

Graded Examinations in Speech

Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3
(KS3, KS4, KS5)

ESB's Graded Examinations in Speech are designed to help learners improve their speaking, reading, listening and responding skills through a range of assessment activities. The assessments aim to boost learners' confidence in using their voice effectively and are all about showcasing learners' unique personalities and interests.

Speech to Inform

This qualification motivates learners to delve deeper into a particular topic of the curriculum. They are encouraged to give a personal interest talk, review a news piece and give a persuasive speech about current affairs that can be political, social, economic or environmental in scope.

Speech to Connect

This Pathway enables learners to not only improve their speaking and listening skills but also improve their literacy and analytical skills. Learners will deliver a biographical talk about a person of their choice, recite a poem or a piece of drama by heart, deliver a chosen reading and, in turn, respond to questions from their peers.

Speech to Perform

This qualification encourages learners to unlock their creative side with the performance of a self-composition (poetry, song lyrics, drama or short story), as well as a performance of an established work. This Pathway builds learners' confidence through performing.

Speech for Employability

This option supports learners who want to deepen their understanding of a particular career and build confidence in preparing themselves for the job market. They will also get the opportunity to have a one-to-one mock interview in a friendly and supportive environment.

Level 3 Certificate in Speech

Grade 6 | Grade 8
(KS5 – Year 12 & 13)

The ESB Level 3 Certificate in Speech promotes oracy and is designed to refine learners' presentational and communication skills at a mature level. Specifically, the qualification can help learners to construct and deliver original and well-evidenced arguments, interpret and critically review information, and evaluate competing ideas and perspectives in a discussion.

At Grade 6, the qualifications are split into four sections:

Presentation

- Literature Interpretation and Analysis
- Critical Review
- Questions and Discussion

At Grade 8, the qualifications include the following sections:

- Presentation
- Discussion of a News Item
- Literary Recommendation
- Questions and Discussion

At Level 3 (VI Form and Post 16), learners can earn up to 30 UCAS tariff points for UK university entry.

Debating

Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3
(KS3, KS4, KS5)

ESB's Debating qualifications are designed to give young people an opportunity to improve their debating skills and endorse their talent for public speaking. ESB believes that debating is an essential life skill and an aid to develop employability skills such as critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. Our suite of debating qualifications helps learners to build and deliver arguments, manage timing, and signpost and link work. At Level 3 (KS5), learners can gain up to 30 UCAS tariff points for university and HE entry.



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Ready to find out more?

If you're interested in learning more about our qualifications, our **Business Strategy Team** would be happy to arrange a meeting with you where they will answer any questions you may have.

Use the links or QR codes below to visit our website and find out more about our oracy offerings, or get a quote.



Business@esbuk.org



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[Contact us](#)

[Get a quote](#)

