

Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)

Video at: www.trinitycollege.com/TESOL-AL

This video looks at the Trinity GESE exams and what they involve.

00:09 – 03:14	GESE overview	10:04 – 12:10	The interactive phase
03:15 – 06:29	The topic phase	12:11 – 11:42	The formal presentation phase
06:30 – 10:03	The conversation phase		

1. Before watching the video

Answer the following True/False questions

1. The exams can be taken both in the UK and abroad.

True / False

2. The exams can be taken by students of all ages.

True / False

3. The exams assess only speaking and listening skills.

True / False

4. The exams are conducted by the students' teacher

True / False

5. There are 10 different grades.

True / False

6. The exams are mapped against the CEFR

True / False

7. Grade 1 is at pre A1 level.

True / False

8. The different grades are grouped into 3 stages - Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced

True / False

9. Candidates are examined individually - never in pairs.

True / False

10. There is a conversation, topic, listening and interactive task at each grade.

True / False

2. During the video

GESE Overview (00:09) and Topic phase (03:15)

Now watch the GESE overview and Topic phase. Check your answers to the True/False questions and answer the questions below.

a. What phase do all the grades have?

b. Which stage(s) do not have a topic phase?

c. How does the topic phase in the elementary stage differ from the topic phase in the intermediate stage?

d. How is the topic phase in the advanced stage different from the topic phase in the other stages?

e. What does the examiner do to discourage recitation?

f. Apart from talking about the topic and answering questions about the topic, what else should the candidate do in the topic phase?

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Conversation phase (06:30)

Now watch the conversation phase and complete the gapped text below and answer the question at the end.

At the _____ grades there is only a conversation phase. There are conversation areas from _____ onwards. These are _____ in the specifications (GESE syllabus) so the candidate knows what kind of conversation areas will be covered. The examiner chooses _____ conversation areas to talk to the candidate about. The conversation areas are linked to the functional topic areas on the _____. These areas become increasingly _____ as you go up the levels. In addition to the functional language, _____, _____, _____ and communicative skills.

a. What do communicative skills involve?

Interactive phase (10:04) and Formal presentation phase (12:11)

Now watch the Interactive phase and Formal presentation phase. Briefly, describe what these two phases entail.

a. Interactive phase

b. Formal presentation phase

3. Discussion points

- a. How does the GESE speaking exams compare with other speaking exams you know?

- b. What is the main advantage of having an exam which allows students to be entered at the grade most suitable for them?

- c. What other advantages do the GESE exams have?

- d. How do the GESE exams create an opportunity for candidates to show the best they can do?

4. Further learning

If you want to learn more about this topic, look at these resources:

Websites

www.trinitycollege.com/gese

Journal article

Alptekin, C. (2002). 'Towards intercultural communicative competence in ELT'. *ELT Journal*, 56(1), pp.57-64.

Canale, M., & Swain, M. (1980). 'Theoretical bases of communicative approaches to second language teaching and testing'. *Applied linguistics*, 1(1), 1-47.

Hymes, D. (1972). 'On communicative competence'. *Sociolinguistics*, pp269-293.