

(GESE) GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) are one-to-one, face-to-face assessments of speaking and listening skills with a Trinity examiner. Preparation for these exams and achievement of GESE qualifications supports people wishing to develop their proficiency in English language speaking - for personal goals, study, travel, employment, settlement or for visa application purposes.

General Information

[GESE Exam information booklet \(PDF, 799KB\)](#)

LEVELS		EXAM ESTRUCTURE
INICIAL For people with basic English language ability, and focus on building confidence and motivation in English language communication.	GRADE 1 (Pre-A1)	At all three grades, the exam takes the form of an unscripted conversation with a Trinity examiner, and lasts between 5 and 7 minutes , depending on the grade. The examiner uses visual materials to engage the candidate and create an authentic conversation to test their speaking and listening skills.
	GRADE 2 (A1)	
	GRADE 3 (A2.1)	
ELEMENTARY For people with elementary English language ability, and focus on building confidence and motivation in English language communication.	GRADE 4 (A2.2)	The exam takes the form of an unscripted conversation with a Trinity examiner and lasts for 10 minutes . There are two parts to the exam: The Topic discussion: the candidate selects a topic of their choice to prepare in advance and discuss with the examiner. It can be on any subject that interests them but must allow them to demonstrate the language functions and communicative skills required for the grade. The Conversation: the candidate engages in a one-to-one conversation based on two subject areas appropriate to the grade.
	GRADE 5 (B1.1)	
	GRADE 6 (B1.2)	
INTERMEDIATE For people with a strong 'Independent User' English language ability. At this stage, they are expected to share responsibility for maintaining and developing the conversation.	GRADE 7 (B2.1)	The exam takes the form of an unscripted conversation with a Trinity examiner and lasts for 15 minutes . There are three parts to the exam. The Topic discussion: the candidate selects a topic of their choice to prepare in advance and discuss with the examiner. It can be on any subject that interests them but must allow them to demonstrate the language functions and communicative skills required for the grade. The Interactive task: the candidate has to respond spontaneously to a task they have not seen before. It's their responsibility to maintain the interaction - they're expected to make comments and ask questions. The Conversation: the candidate engages in a one-to-one conversation based on two subject areas appropriate to the grade.
	GRADE 8 (B2.2)	
	GRADE 9 (B2.3)	
ADVANCED For people with 'advanced/proficient' English language ability. At these grades, the candidate is expected to understand fully the examiner's contributions and demonstrate accurate use of a wide variety of complex language. They need to express themselves spontaneously and fluently, and maintain and develop the discussion independently.	GRADE 10 (C1.1)	The exam takes the form of an unscripted conversation and a listening task with a Trinity examiner and lasts for 25 minutes . There are five parts to the exam: The Topic presentation: the candidate prepares in advance to give a presentation on a topic of their choice. The Topic discussion: the candidate discusses the content of their presentation in more detail and responds to the examiner's questions and comments. The Interactive task: the candidate has to respond spontaneously to a task they have not seen before. It's their responsibility to maintain the interaction - they're expected to make comments and ask questions. The Listening task: the candidate listens to three short passages read by the examiner and responds by completing the passage or answering a question. The Conversation: the candidate engages in a one-to-one conversation based on two subject areas appropriate to the grade.
	GRADE 11 (C1.2)	
	GRADE 12 (C2)	