



GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are one-to-one, face-to-face oral assessments of speaking and listening skills. There are 12 GESE levels available from Grades 1-12 (pre-A1 to C2 CEFR* levels).

Graded exams that build communication skills

Trinity's GESE exams help prepare learners for the real world in the 21st century. They are designed to assess a range of communication skills and test what an individual can actually do rather than just what they know.

Teachers and candidates find the Trinity approach to exams engaging and motivational with its emphasis on developing communicative skills and building confidence among candidates. The opportunity for certified recognition at each stage of achievement inspires learners to progress further through the grades.

Suitable for learners of all ages and abilities

GESE exams are suitable for all students, whatever their level, from absolute beginner to advanced accomplishment. Learners range from school or college students to mature learners – from those who need to develop their English for education reasons, to those who want to develop their English language skills for professional purposes.

Exams are available at 12 grades of proficiency, organised into four development stages from: **Initial** (Grades 1-3), through **Elementary** (Grades 4-6), **Intermediate** (Grades 7-9) to **Advanced** (Grades 10-12).

Assessment components

At each stage candidates carry out a number of realistic speaking and listening tasks that show their fluency, accuracy and ability to communicate in spoken English. Task components include:

- ▶ **The Topic:** Before the exam, the candidate prepares a topic of their choice – this is used as a basis for discussion and as the basis of a presentation at Advanced stage
- ▶ **The Interactive task:** A prompt from the examiner initiates candidate-led speaking and listening interactions – requiring an authentic exchange of information and opinions
- ▶ **The Conversation:** An opportunity to demonstrate a realistic exchange of information, ideas and opinions at an appropriate level for the grade
- ▶ **The Listening task:** Short spoken passages prompt the candidate to demonstrate prediction, deduction and inference skills (only at Advanced stage)

GESE stage	Initial (Grades 1-3)	Elementary (Grades 4-6)	Intermediate (Grades 7-9)	Advanced (Grades 10-12)
CEFR level	Pre-A1-A2	A2+-B1+	B2-B2++	C1-C2
Exam length	5-7 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	25 minutes
Listen and answer short questions				Listening task
Presentation on topic of own choice				Topic presentation
Ask questions about a given situation			Interactive task	Interactive task
Talk about a topic of own choice		Topic discussion	Topic discussion	Topic discussion
Talk about two subjects and give ideas and opinions	Conversation	Conversation	Conversation	Conversation

Key features

- ▶ **Motivational:** Tests assess what candidates can actually do – rather than just what they know – inspiring them to progress to the next level
- ▶ **Inclusive:** There is a grade for every learner whatever their level – suitable for all nationalities and in all cultural contexts
- ▶ **Individual:** Candidates are able to discuss a topic of their own choice
- ▶ **Supportive:** Exams are designed to support classroom work, mapping to the curriculum of English language study
- ▶ **Early results:** Provisional results are indicated straight after the exam session – in advance of final certificates
- ▶ **Resourced:** Trinity provides clearly defined specifications and guidance resources for teachers preparing students for the exams

About Trinity

Operating in over 60 countries worldwide, Trinity College London is an international exam board with a rich cultural heritage and over 70 years' experience in assessing English language proficiency. Recognised by regulatory authorities, our GESE qualifications are widely accepted as robust evidence of English language skills.

Trinity's GESE exams have been awarded the ALTE Quality mark, meeting all 17 of the Association of Language Testers in Europe's criteria.



Assessing English language proficiency since 1938

Quality audited by the
Association of Language Testers in Europe



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