

Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)

Notes for parents

What are the Trinity GESE exams? These are tests of speaking in English. You can read more about them on the Trinity website¹. You can also watch videos of some exams².

The more opportunities your child has to speak in English, the better. If you or anyone else in the family speaks English, give your child the chance to practise by having everyday conversations with them in English.

You can also help to prepare your child for the exam, according to which grade they are taking.

Children in Primary 2 will take the Trinity GESE Grade 3 exam.

This exam is a conversation between the child and an examiner which lasts for six to seven minutes. The examiner will initiate a conversation by asking the child simple questions and requesting basic information.

See **Stage 2 Preparing for the conversation-based exam** in the Grade 3 notes³. Here you will find an introduction to the exam followed by example questions for each of the seven language functions.

- 1 Describing daily routines and times
- 2 Giving dates
- 3 Expressing ability and inability
- 4 Giving very simple directions and locations
- 5 Describing current activities of real people or those in pictures
- 6 Describing states in the past
- 7 Asking simple questions about everyday life

Ask your child these questions. Encourage your child to ask you simple questions too as they will be expected to ask the examiner a question during the exam. Sometimes examiners use pictures to help start conversations so you will find references to Assessment sheets and Worksheets in the notes. These can all be found at these websites³.

Children in Primary 4 will take the Trinity GESE Grade 5 exam.

The first part is a conversation for up to five minutes on a topic chosen by the child. Your child will complete a Topic Form at school, and will probably also make a poster to help them talk about the topic. Ask them to show you the poster and explain it. Have a good look at the Topic Form and think of some questions to ask your child (or they may have a list of questions which they have prepared at school). Sit down with your child and ask the questions. Encourage your child to ask you a question about the topic as they are expected

¹ <http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=368>

² <http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=2046>

³ <http://www.pearsonELT.es/islands> &

<http://www.pearsonELT.es/welldone>

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to ask the examiner a question about their topic during the exam. Note: It's important that your child does not attempt to memorise or recite a script learnt by heart for the topic. They will lose marks for this in the assessment and the examiner will keep interrupting them to stop them reciting.

The second part of the exam is a conversation for up to five minutes on two topics. The examiner will choose the two topics from a list of six. However, the children must be able to answer questions about all six topics.

See **Stage 3 Preparing for the conversation phase of the exam** in the Grade 5 notes¹. Here you will find an introduction to this part of the exam followed by example questions for each of the six topics:

- 1 Festivals
- 2 Means of transport
- 3 Special occasions, e.g. birthday celebrations
- 4 Entertainment, e.g. cinema, television, clubs
- 5 Music
- 6 Recent personal experiences

Ask your child the questions in the notes. Examiners may use pictures to help start conversations so you will find references to Conversation topic sheets in the notes. These can all be found at these websites¹.