

# Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) at the London College of Business

Programme Title	Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)
Awarding Body	Trinity College London
Teaching Institution	London College of Business
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## Trinity College London

Trinity College London is an international exam board, fully accredited in the United Kingdom as an independent awarding body. Trinity provides accredited qualifications in English language, music, and the performing and creative arts throughout the world. Trinity has been conducting exams since 1877 and now over half a million people take one of our exams every year. Trinity College London is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

## Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)

This series of 12 progressively graded exams is designed for speakers of languages other than English and sets realistic objectives in listening to and speaking with English speakers. The 12 grades provide a continuous measure of linguistic competence and take the learner from absolute beginner (Grade 1) to full mastery (Grade 12).

## Exam format

The exams take the form of a one-to-one, face-to-face oral interview between the candidate and an examiner. The exam at each stage, and with increasing demands at each grade, replicates real-life exchanges in which the candidate and the examiner pass on information, share ideas and opinions and debate topical issues.

## The four stages

The 12 Graded Examinations in Spoken English are organised in four development stages. The four stages are designed to give a framework to the teaching and learning progression, and the tasks in the different stages are designed to allow candidates to demonstrate their abilities in a number of different discourse types.

**At the Initial stage (Grades 1–3)** the conduct of the exam is initiated by the examiner. Grades 2 and 3 have been mapped to the first common reference level (Basic User) in the Common European Framework of Reference.

**At the Elementary stage (Grades 4–6)** the candidate introduces a topic of his or her own choice. The examiner directs the discussion using the points prepared by the candidate. Then the examiner moves on to the Conversation phase, selecting two subject areas for discussion from the list provided. Exams at the Elementary stage provide a bridge from the first to the second common reference level (Basic User to Independent User) in the Common European Framework of Reference.

**At the Intermediate stage (Grades 7–9)** the candidate initiates and maintains a discussion on a topic of his or her own choice. This is followed by the Interactive task initiated by the examiner and then maintained by the candidate, and the exam ends with a conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner from the list provided. Exams at the Intermediate stage have been mapped to the second common reference level (Independent User) in the Common European Framework of Reference.

**At the Advanced stage (Grades 10–12)** the exam begins with a formal presentation of a topic leading into a candidate-led discussion of the presentation. The candidate-controlled Interactive task is followed by the Listening task, and the exam ends with a conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner from one of the lists provided. Exams at the Advanced stage have been mapped to the third common reference level (Proficient User) in the Common European Framework of Reference.

## **Entry requirements:**

- Trinity College London's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are intended for candidates who have learnt English as a foreign, second or additional language. Candidates must be aged five years or above at the time of the exam. There is no upper age limit.
- Candidates may enter at any grade without having previously taken any other Trinity exam.
- Applications for exams will be accepted by Trinity on the condition that candidates are examined according to the requirements of the current Exam Information booklet. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that they and the candidates are following the current booklet and regulations.
- Candidates cannot enter for more than one grade in the same exam session.
- Once candidates have been submitted for an exam no changes to the entries are permitted. Should an exceptional circumstance arise after this time, for example a natural disaster, health issue or bereavement, please contact your National/Area Representative or Trinity's London office. Written evidence may be required.
- If a candidate does not reach the level required to pass and wishes to re-sit an exam, a minimum of one month must elapse before the candidate may enter again.

Learners with special learning requirements will be accommodated as much as is possible for the college to do so. It is the responsibility of every such learner to make the college aware of their requirements at the earliest opportunity to do so. No learner will be discriminated against in accordance with LCB's [Equal Opportunities Policy](http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Equal_Opportunity_Policy.pdf) available at [http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Equal\\_Opportunity\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Equal_Opportunity_Policy.pdf).

## **Recognition of Prior Attainment**

No prior attainment is recognized as part of this certification process.

## **Teaching and Learning**

This is not a taught programme, rather is an assessment of ability only.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is through a single or series of short exams held at the London College of Business Barking campus. Depending on the level of examination, the exact format varies:

The Grade 6 exam consists of two assessed phases:

- Discussion of a topic prepared by the candidate (up to 5 minutes)
- Conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner (up to 5 minutes).

The Grade 12 exam consists of five assessed phases:

- Formal presentation of a topic prepared by the candidate (up to 5 minutes)
- Candidate-led discussion of the topic presentation with the examiner (up to 5 minutes)
- Interactive task (up to 5 minutes)
- Listening task (up to 3 minutes)
- Conversation on two subject areas selected by the examiner (up to 6 minutes).

Any assessment suspected of unfair practice will trigger the [Unfair Practice Procedure](http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Unfair_Practice_Procedure.pdf) available at [http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Unfair\\_Practice\\_Procedure.pdf](http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/Unfair_Practice_Procedure.pdf).

This Programme Specification is based upon the Trinity College London Exam Information: Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) found at [http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/GESE\\_Exam\\_Information\\_doc\\_Sept\\_2013.pdf](http://www.lcbuk.org/pdf/GESE_Exam_Information_doc_Sept_2013.pdf)