

## GESE – Sample interactive prompts

### Advanced stage (Grades 10-12)

The following document contains some sample interactive prompts for Grades 10-12. Please note these are example prompts and will not be used in a real examination.

#### Grade 10

The examiner will introduce the Interactive phase by saying:

In this task, I'll start by telling you something. You'll have to ask me questions to find out more information and make comments. It's your responsibility to maintain the conversation. Are you ready?

Language functions

- ▶ Developing an argument
- ▶ Defending a point of view
- ▶ Expressing beliefs
- ▶ Expressing opinions tentatively
- ▶ Summarising information, ideas and arguments
- ▶ Deducing

#### Grade 10 Interactive prompts

1. At my niece's school, homework is optional. Students only have to do it if they want to. I've even heard there's a move to get rid of it altogether.
2. Many people think that we should spend more time enjoying ourselves and less time trying to make money, but I'm not sure you can do one without the other.
3. I was listening to a talk about architecture the other day and the view presented was that all modern architecture is ugly.
4. A lot of people complain about graffiti in cities these days, but I'm not sure if I agree with them.
5. Recently there seems to have been a reaction against our technologically advanced society, with some people preferring to return to a simpler lifestyle. I think there's something to be said for this.
6. People often say that academic qualifications are the key to a child's future success. I'm not sure I completely agree.
7. Nowadays, we are getting a lot of advice about what to eat and what not to eat. Personally, I get a bit fed up with this. Surely people are entitled to make their own decisions.
8. People these days seem absolutely obsessed with the private lives of celebrities. People may disapprove, but I thoroughly enjoy reading magazines.
9. It's widely believed that travel broadens the mind, but I often wonder if tourism nowadays does more harm than good.
10. My local school's going to ask a popular TV star to speak to the students about careers. I may be wrong, but I'm not sure that this is the right choice.
11. There's been a lot of debate recently about punishing people who don't recycle properly. I'm not really convinced it's such an important issue.

**Disclaimer:** the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

**Grade 11**

The examiner will introduce the Interactive phase by saying:

In this task, I'll start by telling you something. You'll have to ask me questions to find out more information and make comments. It's your responsibility to maintain the conversation. Are you ready?

Language functions

- ▶ Justifying an argument
- ▶ Inferring
- ▶ Expressing caution
- ▶ Expressing empathy and sympathy
- ▶ Challenging arguments and opinions
- ▶ Evaluating different standpoints
- ▶ Expressing reservations

**Grade 11 Interactive prompts**

1. A lot of young people nowadays are encouraged to go travelling around the world in order to broaden their experience of life. Personally, I think this is a complete waste of time.
2. Many shoppers these days search for bargains, but are surprised when the products they buy don't last. Surely it's worth paying a bit more for quality?
3. A lot of people say that wisdom comes with age, but it seems to me that the opposite is often true.
4. In the last few years, many previously unspoilt regions of the world have been opened up to tourism. I'm concerned about the long-term effects of this.
5. Some websites help people to download music and films without paying for them. I believe this is wrong and something should be done about it.
6. The move towards equal opportunities for men and women has brought about changes to traditional family roles. I'm doubtful whether these changes are universally welcomed.
7. My friend has always believed in acting intuitively rather than thinking things through first. Although I can see the attraction of this, I don't feel it's the right way to approach life.
8. In many countries, 16 and 17-year-olds can join the army or get married and start a family, but they can't vote in elections. Many people consider this to be illogical.
9. People are always criticising the fast food restaurant chains you find all over the world. personally, I can't see what all the fuss is about.
10. Some people think it's really important to like the people you work with. I'm not sure how necessary this is.
11. I keep hearing the argument that technology is creating a stay-at-home society. I'm not totally in agreement with this point of view.

**Disclaimer:** the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

**Grade 12**

The examiner will introduce the Interactive phase by saying:

In this task, I'll start by telling you something. You'll have to ask me questions to find out more information and make comments. It's your responsibility to maintain the conversation. Are you ready?

Language functions

- ▶ Asserting
- ▶ Denying
- ▶ Softening and downplaying propositions
- ▶ Contradicting
- ▶ Implying
- ▶ Affirming

**Grade 12 Interactive prompts**

1. The concept of a world without borders may seem like an impossible dream, but I feel it's one that's worth pursuing.
2. One effect of increased globalisation is that minority languages are gradually becoming extinct. Many people regret this but I'm not sure it's such a bad thing.
3. Some people claim that sensationalist journalism simply reflects a society and doesn't shape it. I wonder if this is really the case.
4. Some schools encourage competitiveness in their students, while others generally discourage it. It's clearly a controversial issue.
5. It's often said that there should be no limits to the activities of the press even when it comes to people's private lives. I couldn't agree more.
6. Compared to previous generations, children are materially much better off these days, but emotionally they seem to be impoverished. Social commentators seem to think there are a number of reasons for this.
7. It seems untenable that big business should pay out enormous salaries, often unmerited, while people in really deserving professions are forced to struggle. I've been trying to decide if anything could be done about this.
8. I recently read a report that said in British cities everybody is filmed on security cameras several hundred times a day. I wonder if the benefits can ever justify this level of intrusion.
9. Some countries have already given the vote to 16 and 17-year-olds and other countries are considering this proposal. I wonder whether people of this age have the maturity to make these kinds of decisions.
10. Top sports stars receive a lot of criticism for what people see as their excessively high salaries. If anything, I'm not so sure they don't deserve more.
11. Most people agree that if you're ambitious, you'll be successful in your education and career. However, I suspect that being driven and high-achieving doesn't lead to a happy life.

**Disclaimer:** the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.