

GESE – Sample interactive prompts

Intermediate stage (Grades 7-9)

The following document contains some sample interactive prompts for Grades 7-9. Please note these are example prompts and will not be used in a real examination.

Grade 7

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

- ▶ Giving advice and highlighting advantages and disadvantages
- ▶ Making suggestions
- ▶ Describing past habits
- ▶ Expressing possibility and uncertainty
- ▶ Eliciting further information and expansion of ideas and opinions
- ▶ Expressing agreement and disagreement

Grade 7 Interactive prompts

1. About six months ago, some new neighbours moved in next door to us. They're very friendly, but we've had a few problems and I'm not sure what to do.
2. This weekend I'd like to do some sightseeing, but I can't decide whether to stay in [candidate's town] or to visit some other places in [candidate's country].
3. My friend and I would like to do a hobby together in our free time, but are finding it difficult to agree on what to do.
4. My friend makes his children do extra classes of Maths and English at the weekends. I'm not sure this is good for them.
5. It's my nephew's seventh birthday next week and he's asked for a mobile phone. I'm not sure if this is a good idea.
6. I've always been on holiday with family or friends, but now I'm thinking of going by myself.
7. Last week I was offered two very interesting jobs. I can't decide which one I should accept.
8. My aunt always says that everything was much better when she was a child, but I don't see how that's possible.
9. My friend won some money recently and he's planning to buy lots of new things, but I'm not sure he should spend it all.
10. My friend has just moved to a new country and she's missing her family and friends. I'm not sure how to help her.
11. My school is organising a students' writing competition. We can't agree on what to give the winners.
12. My friend's learning [candidate's language] and finding it quite difficult. I'm not sure what might help her.
13. I used to cycle to work, but now I'm planning to buy a car. I'm not sure whether I'm making the right decision.
14. I used to do a lot of sports when I was younger, but now I'm finding it much more difficult. I'd like to do some exercise if I can.

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 8

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

- ▶ Expressing feelings and emotions
- ▶ Expressing impossibility
- ▶ Reporting the conversation of others
- ▶ Speculating
- ▶ Persuading and discouraging

Grade 8 Interactive prompts

1. My friend's daughter is a fantastic singer, but she's no longer interested in performing. I don't like to see such talent wasted.
2. Some friends of mine have just told me they are thinking about moving to another country. I'm not sure it's the right thing to do.
3. My nephew's been doing a lot of training for an international sports event. His parents are very proud of him, but I have mixed feelings about this.
4. My [husband/wife/partner] has arranged for us to go on holiday with a group of friends. I'm a bit annoyed about this.
5. I have a friend who's studying English. he thinks the best way to improve his language skills is to watch lots of films in English. I'm not sure I agree with him.
6. My nephew has been saving up for a motorbike that he's planning to buy very soon. His parents are really worried about it.
7. My friend, who lives in a village, told me the local teenagers have been complaining that there's nothing for them to do. Perhaps something ought to be done about this.
8. I was thinking of changing my job, so I've looked into various courses. Now I don't know which course to choose.
9. My friend's children are not allowed to use computers or have mobile [phones. I've been trying to persuade her she's wrong.
10. My family says that I must throw away some of my old things. I'm finding this difficult.
11. My friend's been encouraging me to stop work and join her on a round-the-world trip. I'm in two minds about whether to go or not.
12. My brother is thinking about giving up his well-paid job and opening a restaurant. I'm not sure if it's a good idea.

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Grade 9

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

- ▶ Expressing abstract ideas
- ▶ Expressing regrets, wishes and hopes
- ▶ Expressing assumptions
- ▶ Paraphrasing
- ▶ Evaluating options
- ▶ Hypothesising
- ▶ Evaluating past actions or course of events

Grade 9 Interactive prompts

1. After I left school, I moved away from my home town, but some of my friends stayed. I wonder who made the better decision.
2. Recently, my local government decided to close down the swimming pool. I think there should've been more consultation about it.
3. My friends gave up their well-paid jobs a couple of years ago and went to live on a farm in the country. Now they're regretting this decision.
4. My sister told me that she wishes the computer had never been invented. She remembers how much easier her life was without them. Perhaps she's right.
5. If I'd taken more notice of my teachers when I was growing up, my life would be very different now.
6. A large, new supermarket has just opened in my area. At first I thought it would be great, but now I wish it had never been built.
7. When my friend was 17, he had to change schools because his parents moved to a different town. I wonder if this was fair.
8. The town I live in has changed dramatically over the last few years. I'm now wondering whether such developments are always positive.
9. I've been invited to go to a large, outdoor music festival next weekend, but I'm not sure whether to go. I've heard good and bad things about such events.
10. Many years ago, I had a holiday which changed my life. I often wonder how different my life might have been if I hadn't taken that holiday.
11. My friend has left a good job and a nice flat to go and live with his girlfriend in another country. I do hope he's making the right choice.
12. My local school's decided that students don't have to study history any more. I can't help thinking that this is a mistake.
13. My friends insisted on their teenage son taking science at school, but he really doesn't enjoy it. I think his parents might be regretting their decision.
14. My uncle says that young people today have different family views from the past. I often wonder if that really is the case.

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