

Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) GRADE 5

CEFR Level B1.1

**Guide and Preparation
for Candidates**

Graded Examinations in Spoken English GRADE 5

This guide is to help you prepare for the Trinity College London GESE Grade 5 exam.

We tell you:

- about the exam
- what you need to know before you take the exam
- how to prepare for the exam
- tips to help you do your best in the exam.

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Note:

If you are doing the Grade 5 exam for a visa, your language may be above Grade 5 level. However, to pass the exam, you must fulfil the exam requirements of Grade 5, which are in the Exam Information booklet at trinitycollege.com/GESEexaminformation. This document will guide you through that booklet.

The Exam

The exam is 10 minutes.

There are two parts to the exam:

- The Topic Phase
- The Conversation Phase.

In the exam

- The examiner will welcome you.

Topic Phase (about 5 minutes)

- You talk to the examiner about a topic that interests you.
- You prepare your topic before the exam using the Topic Form (see page 17).
- Take your Topic Form into the exam. Give it to the examiner. Tell the examiner what you are going to talk about.
- The examiner asks questions and talks to you about at least four things on your Topic Form.

Remember!

- You must prepare a topic and complete a Topic Form or you can't pass the exam.
- This is a conversation. Ask and answer questions naturally.
- It's important to use the language of Grade 5 (see page 6).
- Ask the examiner at least one question about your topic.

Conversation Phase (about 5 minutes)

The examiner chooses any two of the following six subjects to talk to you about:

- Festivals
- Means of transport
- Special occasions, eg birthday celebrations
- Entertainment, eg cinema, television, clubs
- Music
- Recent personal experiences

Remember!

- The examiner isn't testing your knowledge of the subjects – only your language.
- It's important to use the language of Grade 5 (see page 6).
- Ask the examiner at least one question about the subjects.
- This is a conversation. Ask and answer questions naturally.

How to communicate well

Topic

- Show you understand the examiner by answering his or her questions.
- Give information about your topic.
- Answer questions on your topic and discuss with the examiner.
- Reply when the examiner asks for more information about something.
- Ask the examiner at least one question about your topic.
- Try to use the language of Grade 5 (see page 6).

Conversation

- Show you understand the examiner by answering his or her questions.
- Reply when the examiner asks for more information about something.
- Try to use the language of Grade 5 (see page 6).

Before the exam

You need to prepare for the Topic Phase before the exam.

- Make sure you prepare your topic before the exam. See **Prepare!** on pages 8-10.
- You must choose a topic that is **different** from the subjects for the Conversation Phase.
- Write simple notes on the Topic Form (see page 17). You can write the notes yourself or ask someone to help you. The examiner doesn't assess your writing. This is the topic you discuss with the examiner – it's not a formal presentation.
- The examiner asks about your points in any order so don't write 'Introduction' or 'What I did next'.

In the Conversation Phase, you don't know which two subjects the examiner will choose so:

- think about the language you need for each of the six subjects
- think about some things you can say about each of the six subjects.

Check your language

Here are the language functions and types of grammar you need to use in the exam. You can also find this information on page 27 of the Exam Information booklet at trinitycollege.com/GESEexaminformation

Language functions

- Talking about the future – informing and predicting
- Expressing preferences
- Talking about events in the indefinite and recent past
- Giving reasons
- Stating the duration of events
- Quantifying

Grammar

- Present perfect tense including use with *for, since, ever, never, just*
- Connecting clauses using *because*
- *Will* referring to the future for informing and predicting
- Adjectives and adverbials of quantity, eg *a lot (of), not very much, many*
- Expressions of preference, eg *I prefer, I'd rather*

Activity 1a: Match the pairs

Match the language functions to the grammar. See the example below.

Language functions

Talking about the future – informing and predicting

Expressing preferences

Talking about events in the indefinite and recent past

Giving reasons

Stating the duration of events

Quantifying

Grammar

- Expressions of preference, eg *I prefer, I'd rather*
- Connecting clauses using *because*
- *Will* referring to the future for informing and predicting
- Present perfect tense including use with *for, since, ever, never, just*
- Adjectives and adverbials of quantity, eg *a lot (of), not very much, many*

Check you understand the language functions and grammar of GRADE 5



Activity 1b: Complete the gaps

- a) I think this summer the weather be hot and sunny. (*predicting*)
- b) I like travelling by train I can read and look at the scenery. (*giving reasons*)
- c) I've many cities in the UK this year. (*recent events*)
- d) I'd go to the park this afternoon than to the shops. (*preference*)
- e) I've worked as a doctor 5 years. (*duration of events*)
- f) I work in a very big office. There are people working there. (*quantifying*)
- g) I working at home I don't like commuting. (*preferences and giving reasons*)
- h) I've never to a concert but I go to one in the future.
(*indefinite past and informing about the future*)
- i) In the future people own electric cars they are cleaner than petrol cars.
(*quantifying, predicting, giving reasons*)
- j) We've English 2012. (*indefinite past and duration of events*)

Now check your answers on page 15.

These are the types of vocabulary you need to use in the exam.

- Vocabulary for your topic
- Expressions for past and future time, eg *two days ago, in the future*
- Vocabulary for the subjects
- Phrases and expressions for the language functions above, eg *I prefer..., I think...*

Prepare!

Topic Phase preparation

You decide which topic you want to talk about. It's best to choose something you are interested in.

Remember these points:

- You **cannot** choose any topic that is the same as the subjects for the Conversation Phase.
- It is best to choose a topic that allows you to use the language of Grade 5. For example, if you choose 'my family' as your topic, the language you use may be at too low a level.

Try this activity to help you think of a good topic for the exam.

Activity 2a: Make notes

Think about all the people you've spoken to this week.

What did you talk about? Make a list here...

eg *football, my course at college,*

Which of these are good topics for the exam?

Activity 2b: Decide

What's your topic?

What are the main things you want to discuss with the examiner?

Activity 2c: Topic ideas map

Use this ideas map to make notes of all the ideas you want to discuss with the examiner about your topic.



Activity 2d:

Language functions

Look again at the language functions for Grade 5 on page 6.

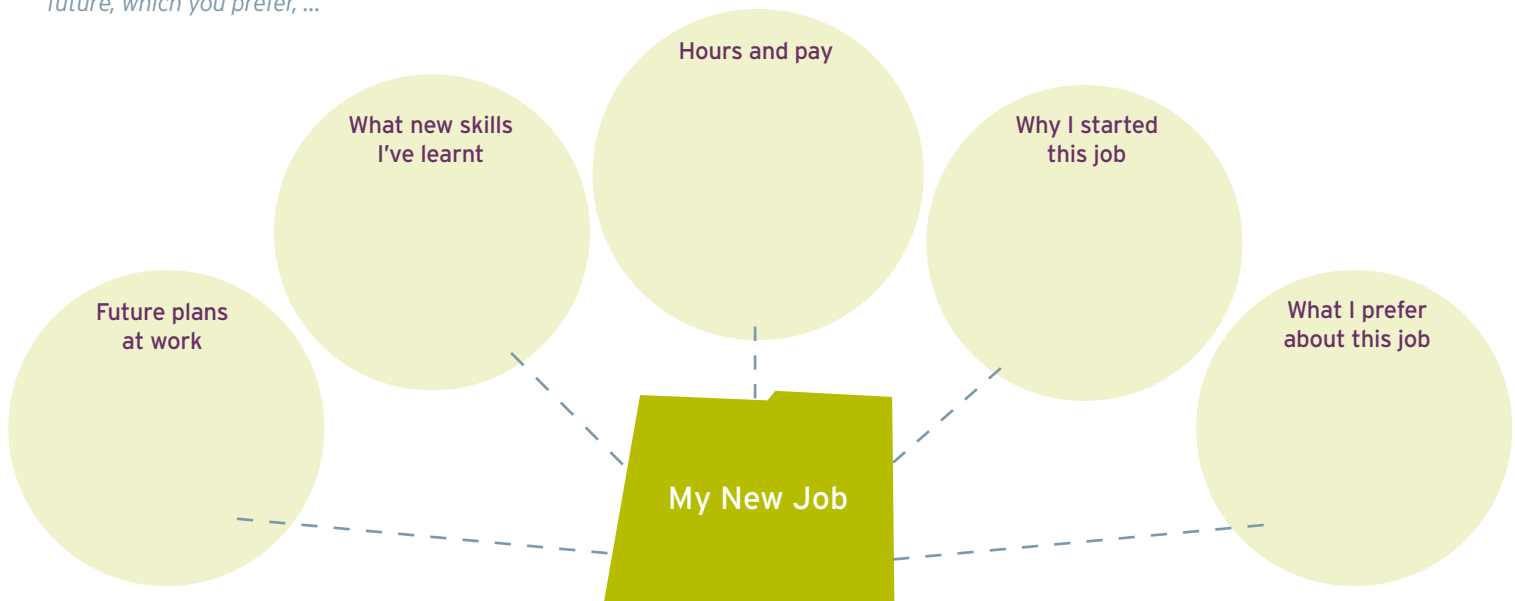
From your topic ideas map make a list of the language functions you can include from the Grade 5 list. (You will also use many other language functions, but this is the important language for the exam.)

Examples: What you've done, where you've been, why, how long you did something for, what you will do in the future, which you prefer, ...

Activity 2e:

Check an example

Below is an example of a topic – my new job. There are five points to talk about. Look at the language functions on page 6. Which functions can you use to discuss each of these points? Check your ideas on the **Answers** page (page 16).



Activity 2f: Choose

- From your ideas map choose the **five** most interesting points to talk about.
- Check that you have lots to say about these points.
- Check that you can use the Grade 5 language functions to talk about these points.
- Write all five points on the blank Topic Form in Appendix 1 (or ask someone to write these for you). You may want to use this in the exam.

Conversation Phase preparation

Vocabulary you need

Activity 3a: Conversation subject vocabulary

- a) Put words from the box at the bottom of the page into the correct conversation subject box. Some words can go into more than one subject. We've done two to get you started.
- b) Think about more words you know to put in each box.

Festivals

Means of transport

Special occasions

Entertainment

DVDs

Music band

Recent personal experiences

band
procession
concerts
driving test
film
this summer

last month
singing
cycle path
season ticket
computer games
national costume

DVDs
dancing
downloads
comedy
commuting
evening class

family day out
new experience
wedding party

Check your answers on page 16.

Conversation Phase preparation

Language functions you need

Activity 3b: Talking about subjects

- What ideas and opinions do you have about the six subjects below?
- What questions would you ask a friend about these subjects?

Write some notes about what to say for each subject in these boxes. We've done some to get you started.

Festivals

Have you ever been to a festival?

Means of transport

I always prefer travelling by train rather than plane – it's more relaxing.

Special occasions

What's the next special occasion you are going to... a birthday, a wedding...? How will you celebrate this?

Entertainment

I watch some TV programmes online because it's easier.

Music

Do you listen to music online or do you buy CDs? Why?

Recent personal experiences

Have you visited any new places recently?

Activity 3c: Practice

- Talk to your friends about these subjects.
- Try recording some of your conversations on a computer or mobile phone.
- Listen to the recordings and make a note of all the vocabulary you used.

Conversation Phase preparation

Example questions

These are some examples of question prompts that the examiner may use. The real exam will contain other questions but this is to help you prepare.

- Read the question prompts.
- Try to say something for each one about the subjects listed for the Grade 5 Conversation Phase.

Have you ever...?

How many times have you...?

How long did you... for?

Why do you prefer ...?

Why have you...?

Tell me about which you prefer

How has... changed in the last 5/10/20 years?

When do you think you'll...?

Why did you ...?

Do you think you'll ever...?

Have you ever been to...?

Watch!

Watch a video of a GESE Grade 5 exam. This will help you understand how the exam works.

Topic

Before you watch

In this exam the candidate, Aslam, has chosen to talk about the city of Brighton for his topic.

What do you think the candidate will talk about in his topic?

What questions would you ask Aslam? Remember to think about the Grade 5 language functions in your questions.

Find the video of the GESE Grade 5 exam on the Trinity website at:
trinitycollege.com/GESEgrade5

Now watch the Topic Phase

- Did Aslam talk about the ideas you thought of?
- Did the examiner ask any of the questions you thought of?

Conversation Phase

Before you watch

The examiner then talks to Aslam about Special Occasions and Entertainment.
Write two questions you think the examiner could ask about these subjects.

Special Occasions:

Entertainment:

Now watch the Conversation Phase

- Did the examiner ask any of the questions you thought of?
- What did Aslam say about Special Occasions and Entertainment?

Answers

Activity 1a: Match the pairs

Language functions

Talking about the future – informing and predicting

Expressing preferences

Talking about events in the indefinite and recent past

Giving reasons

Stating the duration of events

Quantifying

Grammar

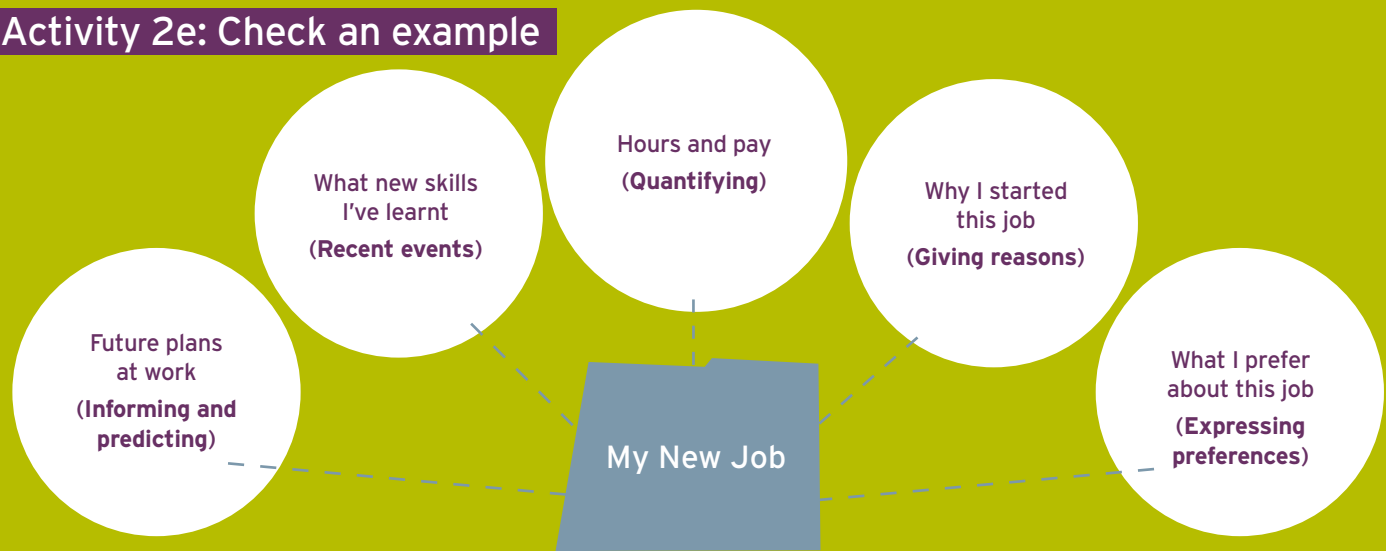
- ▣ Expressions of preference, eg *I prefer, I'd rather*
- ▣ Connecting clauses using *because*
- ▣ *Will* referring to the future for informing and predicting
- ▣ Present perfect tense including use with *for, since, ever, never, just*
- ▣ Adjectives and adverbials of quantity, eg *a lot (of), not very much, many*

Activity 1b: Complete the gaps

- a) I think this summer the weather **will** be hot and sunny. (*predicting*)
- b) I like travelling by train **because** I can read and look at the scenery. (*giving reasons*)
- c) I've **visited / been to** many cities in the UK this year. (*recent events*)
- d) I'd **rather** go to the park this afternoon than to the shops. (*preference*)
- e) I've worked as a doctor **for** 5 years. (*duration of events*)
- f) I work in a very big office. There are **a lot of / many** people working there. (*quantifying*)
- g) I **prefer** working at home **because** I don't like commuting. (*preferences and giving reasons*)
- h) I've never **been** to a concert but I **will** go to one in the future. (*indefinite past and informing about the future*)
- i) In the future **a lot of / many** people **will** own electric cars **because** they are cleaner than petrol cars. (*quantifying, predicting, giving reasons*)
- j) We've **studied** English **since 2012**. (*indefinite past and duration of events*)

Answers

Activity 2e: Check an example



Activity 3a: Conversation subject

Festivals

procession
singing
dancing
national costume

Special occasions

dancing
national costume
wedding party

Music

band
singing
concerts
downloads

Means of transport

driving test
season ticket
commuting
cycle path

Entertainment

DVDs
comedy
film
computer games

Recent personal experiences

last month
family day out
new experience
this summer
evening class

GESE Grade 5 Topic Form

The diagram is a mind map structure. At the center is a rounded rectangular box with the text "Title of topic:" followed by two horizontal dotted lines. Four arrows point outwards from this central box to four surrounding rounded rectangular boxes. Each of these four boxes also contains two horizontal dotted lines. The boxes are arranged in a diamond pattern: two at the top, two at the bottom, and one in the center.

The information on this form must be presented to the examiner during the exam.

Appendix 2

Online resources

As well as the resources on the Trinity website (trinitycollege.com/GESEgrade5), the BBC website (bbc.co.uk/learningenglish) has some useful resources and activities to help you.

On the BBC website, go to:

- Start the course
- Lower intermediate
- Open unit selector.

Try units 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, **11, 12**, 13, **14**, 18, **19**, 20, 21, 25, **26, 28**
(the units in bold are the most useful for the GESE Grade 5 exam).



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