

GESE level descriptors

The following descriptors give details of what a candidate can do by the end of each of the four stages of Trinity's **Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)**.

Initial stage (Grades 1-3)

- Understand what is said clearly, slowly and directly in simple everyday conversation with support.
- Communicate in basic and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- Use basic sentence patterns and communicate through simple phrases, groups of a few words and formulae about themselves and other people, what they do, places and possessions.
- Ask and answer simple questions about personal information and everyday life.

This profile is based on the level Basic User, A2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment (2001)*.

Elementary stage (Grades 4-6)

- Understand the main points of clear speech on familiar matters.
- Enter into conversation, express personal opinions and exchange information on familiar subjects of personal interest or related to everyday life.
- Demonstrate a sufficient range of language to describe experiences and events and give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

This profile is based on the level Independent User, B1, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment, (2001)*.

Intermediate stage (Grades 7-9)

- Understand complex and extended speech used in the discussion of reasonably familiar subjects.
- Communicate with some spontaneity and engage in extended conversation by giving clear descriptions and expressing and explaining views on most general subjects.
- Initiate, maintain and end the discourse with effective turn-taking.
- Demonstrate a sufficient range of language to produce stretches of discourse, using some complex sentence forms and without much searching for words, while correcting most of his or her mistakes.

This profile is based on the level Independent User, B2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment, (2001)*.

Advanced stage (Grades 10-12)

- Understand arguments, inferences, changes in register and emphasis in extended, complex and sometimes unstructured speech, even when delivered at fast natural speed.
- Express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning.
- Control the direction of a spoken interaction and maintain its flow with ease, relating skillfully to the contributions of the listener.
- Exploit a comprehensive and reliable mastery of a very wide range of complex language structures, vocabulary and language functions.
- Produce speech at word, sentence and discourse level which rarely deviates from an internationally intelligible model.

This profile is based on the level Proficient User, C2, in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for languages: learning, teaching assessment, (2001)* and the *Companion volume with new descriptors* (February 2018).