

Trinity College London's Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)

Regulatory information

Regulated titles and qualification numbers

Qualification	Regulated title	Qualification number
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 2	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 1)	500/1999/5
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 3	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 2)	500/2000/6
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 4	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 2)	500/2000/6
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 5	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	500/1934/X
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 6	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	500/1934/X
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 7	TCL Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/1997/1
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 8	TCL Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/1997/1
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 9	TCL Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/1997/1
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 10	TCL Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/2012/2
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 11	TCL Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/2012/2
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 12	TCL Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening	500/1998/3

Qualification type

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) qualifications are a one-to-one, face-to-face, oral assessment between the candidate and an examiner. GESE exams are available at 12 levels, from Grade 1 to Grade 12. GESE Grades 1-12 have been calibrated to pre-A1 to C2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Objectives

To provide evidence of the candidates' proficiency in speaking and listening in English. Trinity's GESE qualifications complement general English language courses and are designed to develop communicative skills and build confidence. Trinity's GESE qualifications provide a reliable and valid scheme of assessment through which learners and teachers can measure progress and development, whether for educational and vocational purposes or as a leisure activity.

Total Qualification Time

The time it takes each candidate to prepare for the exam is dependent on where the learning is taking place and on the needs and experience of the individual candidate. The total qualification time (TQT) is a guide and is split as follows:

Qualification	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Independent Learning Hours (ILH)	Total Qualification Time (TQT)
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grades 1 & 2	100	25	125
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grades 3 & 4	100	25	125
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grades 5 & 6	100	25	125
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grades 7, 8, & 9	100	25	125
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grades 10 & 11	100	30	130
Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) Grade 12	100	30	130

Assessment methods

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are individually assessed by an external examiner selected, trained and moderated by Trinity. The candidate's performance in the exam is measured by means of one overall criterion, task fulfilment. This is assessed in each phase of the exam.

The examiner assesses the candidate's performance in each phase of the exam by awarding a letter grade A, B, C or D:

- A – Distinction (reflects an excellent performance)
- B – Merit (reflects a good performance)
- C – Pass (reflects a satisfactory performance)
- D – Fail (reflects an unsatisfactory performance).

Attainment levels

The 12 grades provide a continuous measure of linguistic competence and take the learner from absolute beginner/pre-A1 on the CEFR (Grade 1) to full mastery/C2 on the CEFR (Grade 12).

Recognition

Trinity College London is an awarding organisation recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) in England and Northern Ireland, and by Qualifications Wales. Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are regulated by these authorities within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), and are recognised by other education authorities in many countries around the world.

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are also audited by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) and hold the ALTE Q mark.

Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English exams conducted at registered SELT centres are accepted by the UKVI for some UK visa categories.

Minimum age and other entry requirements

Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English are suitable for adults and for children aged 5 and over. There is no requirement to have passed lower grade levels or other qualifications; however, the grades represent a system of progressive mastery and the outcomes for each level assume mastery of the outcomes of previous grades.

Trinity is committed to making its exams accessible to all, and each candidate is treated individually when considering how assessments can be adapted for those with special needs.

Progression

While, for some learners, Graded Examinations in Spoken English represent personal goals and objectives, they can also be used as a progression route towards a higher level of English study, preparation for further or higher education, to provide proof of language level to prospective employers, or for immigration.

Exam centres

Exams take place at registered exam centres.

Tests for UK Visas, British Citizenship or Leave to Remain have to take place in a registered Secure English Language Test (SELT) centre in the UK.