

# GESE Sample listening tasks

## Advanced stage (Grades 10-12)

The following document contains some sample listening tasks for Grades 10-12 of Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please note these are example tasks and will not be used in a real exam.

### Grade 10

The examiner will introduce the Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

#### Grade 10 Type 1 listening tasks

##### GESE

Although we're very close, my sister and I aren't at all alike. We've been going on holiday together for ages, and, once the date's fixed, we follow the same old pattern. Well before

1. departure date, she's washed and ironed her clothes, bought her foreign currency and guidebook and packed her stuff whereas I always get ready...

**Expected response:** at the last minute/the night before (or equivalent).

New research shows that young people who have grown up using smartphones can type faster with their thumbs on these devices than most people can on their laptops.

2. Researchers gave volunteers a typing test and found teenagers could produce 40 words per minute on their phones. Meanwhile, other people in the study typing on their laptops were...

**Expected response:** slower/unable to match this (or equivalent).

Fresh, home-grown vegetables make for a healthy diet. That's why I spend hours working in my garden growing my own. But once I consider the costs, such as seeds, equipment

3. and hours worked, I'm unconvinced of the economic benefits. Every year I lovingly plant seeds and nurture my delicious vegetables. However, I do realise that growing my own vegetables is...

**Expected response:** expensive/not worth it financially (or equivalent).

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

**Grade 10 Type 1 listening tasks****GESE for school**

For many years, it was believed that reading books too closely caused short-sightedness.

This idea had seemed even more convincing after the introduction of compulsory

1. schooling. But it's now thought that the long hours in the classroom, which deprived children of daylight, was the key factor. So, eyesight might improve if children...

**Expected response:** go/went outside more (or equivalent).

There are many skills and qualities that make up an effective student. A natural aptitude and interest in the topic you are studying gives you a head start. Good study skills,

attending lessons and completing homework assignments also lead to success. However,

2. working out what you want to achieve at the end of the course will help you...

**Expected response:** reach your goal/be successful/achieve objectives/targets (or equivalent).

Learning to read at school is, of course, an important practical skill for young children to learn, with literacy one of the key aims of education systems. By reading stories, children

3. are transported from the here and now to strange and wonderful worlds inhabited by interesting people and creatures pictured only in their heads, thus helping to improve their...

**Expected response:** imagination (or equivalent).

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

**Grade 10 Type 1 listening tasks****GESE for work**

Some people feel that they need to work long hours without breaks to meet their deadlines. They may feel that even taking a short break for a cup of coffee is simply a

1. waste of time. However, studies have shown that breaking up a working day by getting some fresh air helps focus the mind, leading to greater...

**Expected response:** productivity (or equivalent).

Sometimes, after lunch, it's difficult to stop yourself dozing off, especially if it's a warm day and you've had a big meal. It's only natural to want to curl up on the sofa at that point. But

2. if you're at work in an important meeting, it can be really embarrassing. Suddenly, you feel your head nodding and realise...

**Expected response:** you've fallen/you're falling asleep (or equivalent).

In this modern, competitive world, it is important to make as good an impression as possible when applying for a job. So, allocate quality time when writing about your work

3. experience and update it every time you achieve something new. Write coherently and with appropriate formality so you can produce a good quality...

**Expected response:** CV/resumé/job application form (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 10 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE

There seem to be moves towards phasing out cash as a way of paying for things. Consequently, we're seeing fewer cash machines because digital payments are becoming the norm. But a cashless society could make people's spending habits worse. That's because

1. cash involves handing over a valuable possession, which serves as a mental restraint on our extravagance. It's psychologically far easier to spend virtual money than actual cash.

**Q** According to the speaker, what is likely to happen if cash is no longer available?

**A** We are more likely to spend more (or equivalent).

There's an old saying that we should eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a small child. Some recent research into the human body clock by nutritional scientists appears to support this notion. It indicates that attempting to digest larger

2. quantities of food when the body is winding down for the day is far from ideal for the body's rhythms and functions.

**Q** What does recent research suggest about evening meals?

**A** They should be smaller/lighter/We should eat less (or equivalent).

I'm an avid reader, and, when I first discovered electronic books, I was excited. Having access to several novels on my tablet was so convenient especially when I was travelling. However, I was talking to a friend recently about books that have made a strong

3. impression on us over the last few years. Interestingly, I realised that it was the traditional paper books that we remembered most vividly.

**Q** What point is the speaker making about electronic books?

**A** People don't remember reading them as well (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 10 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for school

My tutor taught me the format to use. You first state what you will be discussing. Then you give a general background: why it is important, and so on, before you move on to the body of the work. For each paragraph, I make an introductory point, followed by an explanation

1. and an example. Finally, the conclusion is basically a summary of everything I've discussed in the main part.

**Q** *What activity is the speaker describing?*

**A** *Writing an essay/dissertation (or equivalent).*

Our cheapest membership deal involves joining for at least six months and there's a discount for full-time students. With this deal, you can use all our facilities including the pool and sauna, tennis and badminton courts, five-a-side football pitch and, of course, all the fitness machines. On top of that, you can go to as many classes as you like, such as

2. aerobics or yoga.

**Q** *What is the speaker's aim?*

**A** *To persuade someone to join a sports centre/To inform someone about a sports centre's facilities (or equivalent).*

Before you all go off for your summer break, I'd just like to say something about your work this year. In all the time I've been here, I've never come across such a dedicated and motivated group of students. I think you should all give yourselves a pat on the back. It

3. really has been a privilege to have taught you.

**Q** *What is the speaker's main aim?*

**A** *To congratulate/thank/praise the students (or equivalent).*

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

## Grade 10 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for work

I'll never forget one of my early theatre shows as an actor, when I came on stage still wearing my old sweatshirt, rather than the right costume. My face still goes red at the thought. It was freezing backstage, so naturally I'd put it on and just forgotten about it. But

- when I made my dramatic entrance, not only the audience but also the cast burst out laughing!

**Q** *How does the speaker feel about the episode they are describing?*

**A** *Embarrassed (or equivalent but not a general negative term, eg bad).*

Nowadays, most people in the UK drink tea made with bags, rather than brewing leaves in a pot in the traditional way. This change happened more by luck than design, thanks to an enterprising tea merchant. In 1908, he decided to promote his business by sending the tea

- in small silk bags to potential customers. He never imagined they'd actually use them to brew the tea in!

**Q** *What is surprising about the invention of teabags?*

**A** *It happened by accident (or equivalent).*

One UK small business owner observed that she was starting to get some orders from abroad. There weren't many foreign companies making the same range of products, so the owner decided to make some effort to expand into international markets. She wasn't

- optimistic but was amazed to find that simply by adding an international phone number and adjusting the website to accept foreign currency, the company increased its sales.

**Q** *Why was the owner surprised about her increased international sales?*

**A** *It wasn't difficult to do/It required little effort/It was easier to increase than she'd thought (or equivalent).*

\* **Disclaimer:** The sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the **GESE Specifications** 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 Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

### Grade 11 Type 1 listening tasks

#### GESE

Have you ever heard of gastrophysics? Well, it's assessing how perceptions of taste are affected by the things around the food. In one study, a bowl of tomato soup was rated by

1. diners. Diners enjoyed the bowl of tomato soup the most when it was served with a simple red and white checked tablecloth underneath. Less lighting made the soup taste saltier, while serving it with heavy spoons made it taste better. It seems environmental factors make...

**Expected response:** the taste seem different (or equivalent).

My friend has recently taken up knitting. She gets enormous satisfaction from producing beautiful garments for her friends. However, what really infuriates her is when the ball of wool twists up and gets knotted. And that's where I come in. For me, untying those maddening

2. little knots releases the frustration and stress of the day. So, it could be said that her new hobby benefits us both. She has found an outlet for her creativity, and I find it...

**Expected response:** relaxing/therapeutic (or equivalent).

People living in the Stone Age had such physically demanding lives that their bodies were significantly stronger than ours. This would probably have been the result of endless

3. agricultural labour. Scientists scanned the arm bones of people living 7,000 years ago and compared them with those of the current British Olympic rowing team. Even with today's improved diet and the rowers' advanced training techniques, the team's arms were...

**Expected response:** weaker/not as strong (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 11 Type 1 listening tasks

## GESE for school

The organisation overseeing university admissions in the UK has announced a change. Students won't have to write a long personal statement to support their application but will instead simply answer three questions. These include their reasons for choosing a course and to what extent they are prepared. The organisation claims that this

1. streamlined process will encourage more applicants. I wonder whether universities will get enough information about the applicants, but it's certainly true that processing the applications will be...

**Expected response:** faster/quicker/easier/less time-consuming/less thorough (or equivalent).

When you become an expert in your field, it becomes increasingly difficult to convey your message, particularly to those who've never come across the subject before. Because you have a vast store of advanced knowledge, it's challenging to put the clock back and

2. imagine what it's like to be starting out. In my view, it becomes harder to teach rather than easier. With such a difference in level, it is difficult to put yourself in the shoes of a...

**Expected response:** student/pupil/beginner/person with no knowledge of the subject (or equivalent).

It's quite common for children to talk out loud to themselves. Interestingly, researchers have studied children who complete tasks in silence and compared them to children who talk to themselves while they're doing things. Initially, you'd think the silent workers are

3. concentrating better and so learning more deeply. However, it's the children who give a kind of running commentary on what they're doing and chatter away to themselves who are the...

**Expected response:** better learners (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 11 Type 1 listening tasks

## GESE for work

Today it seems that a job title is more than a description of an employee's role. A term that adds value, such as using 'specialist' rather than 'operator', can improve a person's perception of their role. Job titles are usually established beforehand. However, if a person is given a nondescript job title, they may be less productive and might feel less motivated. So, for employees to perform well, perhaps managers should encourage them to...

**Expected response:** create their own [exciting] job titles (or equivalent).

I'd never have imagined at school that my best friend and I would end up working together. Right after our final exams, he set off travelling the world, having crazy adventures. But I worked steadily through university, then on to professional training. Finally, I achieved

2. promotion to senior manager of the company. Then one day, the newly recruited senior partner appears and it's my old school friend! We'd both reached the same position by such...

**Expected response:** different routes/qualifications (or equivalent).

Many businesses these days use video conferencing software to conduct virtual face-to-face meetings. While there are clear advantages to holding online meetings rather than meeting in a physical location, it can sometimes be difficult to strike the right balance

3. between work and home life. Squawking birds, curious cats and screaming babies sometimes become uninvited guests to these meetings. Perhaps sometimes it's best for important meetings to be held in-person so everyone can concentrate without such...

**Expected response:** distractions (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE

In developing the processing of plastics, we should be guided by nature. The amount of waste in nature is minimal and almost everything is reused. Your unwanted belongings need not be burnt or buried but should be re-formed for use by industry instead. You shouldn't just be a consumer. In future, you will need to dispose of an object with a view to it being transformed into something else. Hopefully, my ideas will make you reconsider what you do with objects you might otherwise discard with household waste.

1.

**Q** *What is the speaker's purpose?*

**A** *To persuade/encourage people to recycle (plastic) (or equivalent).*

I don't know where I'd be if I couldn't buy stuff over the internet, but all that added convenience comes at a price. You've got to make all your purchases up front, so you can't rule out the possibility of identity theft. You just have to take certain precautions. One thing

2.

you can do is just go to sites you've heard of. Of course you might be tempted by a bargain somewhere else, but you may well be ordering counterfeit or even non-existent goods.

**Q** *What is the speaker's attitude towards online shopping?*

**A** *You have to be careful/cautious (or equivalent).*

Nowadays, there are many websites where people can hire out their car or almost any other possession to other users. The sites promote themselves as being part of a new co-operative culture whose users are motivated by a desire to share their possessions. I suspect that this may not be uppermost in the minds of many. The ability to connect with people so easily has numerous financial benefits. I think this has contributed more to the success of such sites, rather than their expression of a growing community spirit.

3.

**Q** *What does the speaker say about why people use these websites?*

**A** *They want to make/save money (or equivalent).*

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

## Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for school

Teachers are concerned by an increasing number of children entering school with poor communication and language skills. It is difficult to remedy this with additional reading and writing practice once children start school. Rather, practitioners advise parents to sing to their children from birth onwards. This helps develop both sides of the brain, preparing it for the acquisition of language by teaching things like rhyme, rhythm and pitch. It's best done face-to-face with the infant and not via the medium of recorded music.

1.

**Q** *What is the best way of promoting language skills in young children?*

**A** *(By) singing to them (when they are babies/infants) (or equivalent).*

I try to do it every evening. It's something I started when I was at university, and I wanted to be able to remember all those new experiences. I usually do a page or two and sometimes it's just a few notes – reflections on the day. I don't let anybody else read it, it's just for me. Sometimes, when I look back, I can't believe some of my reactions. I always buy small leather-bound notebooks for the purpose, and I love good quality paper.

2.

**Q** *What activity is the speaker describing?*

**A** *Writing/keeping a diary (or equivalent).*

Since university, they have been my guilty pleasure. Some find the characters two-dimensional, the plots predictable and the locations either sordid or unrealistic. I, however, find that in the better ones there are more than a few where the crimes being described are really intricate in their development and also can be said to make serious comments on the society of the places where they take place. I will always carry one on a journey, notwithstanding their literary merit or otherwise.

3.

**Q** *What is the speaker talking about?*

**A** *Detective/crime/thriller/suspense/murder mystery novels (or equivalent).*

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

## Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for work

Some economists have suggested that share prices move entirely randomly. This seems to have been borne out by an experiment involving a cat called Felix. The cat managed to beat a panel of experienced investment experts from a variety of top firms in picking stock market winners over a one-year period. His method was simply to throw a toy mouse on a grid of numbers which represented different companies. News of this research comes at a difficult time for the investment industry as consumer confidence has rarely been lower.

**Q** *What is the speaker implying about investment experts?*

**A** *That it takes no special skill/experience to do their job (or equivalent).*

Many people think being a DJ is an easy ride – it's just a case of putting the needle on the record. Actually, as a professional DJ, you are responsible for raising the spirits of large crowds of people. Also, you need to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of entire catalogues of music from a range of genres and technical knowledge so you can mix tracks. What's

**2.** more, it's so competitive that to get anywhere you really need to create your own individual style.

**Q** *What is the speaker's attitude to the role of a DJ?*

**A** *Admiring/appreciative/DJs are underrated/It is not as easy as people think (or equivalent).*

I was initially rather puzzled by the concept of a working holiday. I mean, surely holidays are when you get to put your feet up and soak up the sun? Who'd want to spend their hard-earned rest milking cows on a farm or helping renovate a derelict building? What a waste of precious downtime. However, thanks to the persuasive powers of my oldest child,

**3.** I've just come back from a fortnight's break doing just that. I'm exhausted, but I have to say it's forced me to eat my words.

**Q** *What does the speaker now think of working holidays?*

**A** *He/She thinks they are a great idea/good way to spend time (or equivalent).*

\* **Disclaimer:** The sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for Trinity's Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the **GESE Specifications** 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 Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

### Grade 12 Type 1 listening tasks

#### GESE

Some supermarkets offer us an unbelievable number of products. It can be up to 50,000 in some stores. However, psychologists believe that we prefer fewer shopping choices because there's less risk of confusion and anxiety. In a recent study, one group of customers was presented with a choice of 20 types of coffee and another group with just six. Of those given an abundance of options, only 5% were prepared to make a purchase compared with 50% of those offered fewer varieties. So, it seems if supermarkets give us so many products to choose from, we...

**Expected response:** won't buy so much/will buy less (or equivalent).

Apparently, cats only make the high-pitched crying sound known as a miaow when they communicate with humans. With fellow cats they express their moods and requirements by using scent, body language and facial expressions. However, humans are not tuned in to recognising these messages. So, cats have worked out that they need to be more explicit.

2. Remarkably, cats don't just miaow in one tone. They have developed a range of sounds which reflect their various requirements more precisely. Cat owners subconsciously learn to understand these variants and respond accordingly. They know exactly what their cat needs by...

**Expected response:** the tone/type of the miaow (or equivalent).

In my view, technology plays too great a part in sporting achievement. Take shoes, for example. High-tech trainers are making running more efficient – potentially by a winning margin. So, my point is: should a world record be down to superior technology or to athletic prowess? I suggest we should consider all footwear as a technological aid and standardise it completely. That would be the most effective way of assessing an individual's true sporting ability. Think how much fairer that would be! So, if we want an equal race, I think all competitors should run...

**Expected response:** in the same shoes (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 12 Type 1 listening tasks

## GESE for school

Psychologists often highlight the importance of art in a child's development. Before they can verbalise their emotions, as soon as they can hold a pencil, children can use this medium to communicate what they are feeling. Then there's the physical aspect. Creative activities help children develop the muscles needed for everyday activities like doing up buttons, for example. Qualities like patience and determination are required, and a child will come to learn that if the first attempt does not turn out well, it's worth trying again in order to produce a good...

**Expected response:** drawing/picture/painting/art work/piece of work (or equivalent).

It's often said that children shouldn't spend so much time on computer games, as it's better for them to play outside to develop their social skills. I played computer games as a child, and I feel they aided me in many ways, such as honing my problem-solving skills.

1. This has helped me to achieve my goals in the real world. Thinking of my professional goals, for example, as a sort of game or puzzle has helped me to plan calmly and logically. So perhaps parents should...

**Expected response:** encourage the playing of computer games/let their children play computer games (or equivalent).

We know from history books that actors and spectators ate fruit, bread or even potatoes during a performance. Our archaeology students have been engaged in some serious detective work here on site and identified remains of fruit and a variety of shellfish, including oysters, which were plentiful and cheap then. They likened the debris after a live

2. performance to the abundance of plastic cups and popcorn buckets left after a modern screening of a blockbuster. But what surprised them most about the early 17th century was the variety of foodstuffs that people consumed while...

**Expected response:** watching a play (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 12 Type 1 listening tasks

## GESE for work

Recent research into employee satisfaction showed that fewer than half of us are happy in our workplaces. I fully expected the reason for this to be salaries. However, what employees actually want is to be heard. Staff feel satisfied if they know that their boss values their opinions and takes them into consideration when making decisions. They have the gratification of their ideas being taken on board and potentially contributing to the financial success of the company. Obviously good management needs strong decision makers. But to create a positive working environment, managers also need the ability to...

**Expected response:** listen (or equivalent).

In the world of international business, companies frequently select staff to travel abroad based on their qualifications. For example, the best-qualified engineer or IT consultant is chosen for an overseas project. However, this doesn't always work, as qualifications aren't the only thing needed. An international businessperson needs to be friendly, open and warm. In addition, they should also be sensitive to significant cultural differences. These qualities are inherent, a part of the person. Therefore, it's clear that when selecting staff to do international business, companies should consider not only their qualifications but also their...

**Expected response:** personality/social skills (or equivalent).

A hot topic of discussion at the moment is creativity and how to increase it, especially when it comes to workplace design. Instead of isolating workers in cubicles and small offices, most modern workspaces consist of large communal areas. This is to promote openness and collectivity. This is all very exciting, and I'm sure for some it works quite well, but shouldn't we be considering different styles of working? Not everyone works in the same way. I know that for me to be creative I need to...

**Expected response:** be alone/on my own (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE

In many parts of the world, you're expected to keep your garden tidy. In particular, you should attend to the grass on your lawn, which must be kept short. If you were to let your grass grow wild, the neighbours will think badly of you, and in some countries, it is even against the law! But in fact, an immaculate lawn is just a green desert. By not cutting the grass you'll allow plants, insects and animals to flourish. Not only this, but it won't be necessary to waste water on your lawn or use air-polluting petrol in machines to keep your garden neat.

1. In many parts of the world, you're expected to keep your garden tidy. In particular, you should attend to the grass on your lawn, which must be kept short. If you were to let your grass grow wild, the neighbours will think badly of you, and in some countries, it is even against the law! But in fact, an immaculate lawn is just a green desert. By not cutting the grass you'll allow plants, insects and animals to flourish. Not only this, but it won't be necessary to waste water on your lawn or use air-polluting petrol in machines to keep your garden neat.

**Q** According to the speaker, what is the overall effect of keeping your grass cut short?

**A** It's environmentally unfriendly/damaging (or equivalent).

Bird experts, or ornithologists, have observed how male birds will attract their mates in varying ways. Some utilise a stunning array of colourful feathers, while others have very tuneful singing voices. However, it is interesting that of all the diverse courtship rituals observed throughout the avian world, male birds tend to have one preferred approach particular to their species. For example, the peacock's plumage is famously striking, but its call is disappointingly monotonous. Conversely, nightingales have dull, brown feathers but sing for longer with a beautiful variety of notes. Developing distinct approaches to attracting mates is consistent with evolutionary research.

2. Bird experts, or ornithologists, have observed how male birds will attract their mates in varying ways. Some utilise a stunning array of colourful feathers, while others have very tuneful singing voices. However, it is interesting that of all the diverse courtship rituals observed throughout the avian world, male birds tend to have one preferred approach particular to their species. For example, the peacock's plumage is famously striking, but its call is disappointingly monotonous. Conversely, nightingales have dull, brown feathers but sing for longer with a beautiful variety of notes. Developing distinct approaches to attracting mates is consistent with evolutionary research.

**Q** What is the usual relationship between a bird's feathers and its singing voice?

**A** If it has a nice voice, the feathers will look dull (or vice versa) (or equivalent).

Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, referred to blushing as the most peculiar and human of all expressions. However, although we know that people's faces redden after a transgression or mishap, there was little data on why this physiological response evolved. Researchers now believe people who outwardly express embarrassment are perceived more favourably by onlookers. Blushing signals self-awareness and regret, which in turn fosters empathy in other people. For example, researchers in one study noted how people who cheated during a game were soon trusted again if they blushed. It seems, therefore, that it is a form of non-verbal communication that serves an important purpose.

3. Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, referred to blushing as the most peculiar and human of all expressions. However, although we know that people's faces redden after a transgression or mishap, there was little data on why this physiological response evolved. Researchers now believe people who outwardly express embarrassment are perceived more favourably by onlookers. Blushing signals self-awareness and regret, which in turn fosters empathy in other people. For example, researchers in one study noted how people who cheated during a game were soon trusted again if they blushed. It seems, therefore, that it is a form of non-verbal communication that serves an important purpose.

**Q** According to the speaker, why does blushing play an important social role?

**A** It forms a social bond/connection/empathy between people (or equivalent).

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

## Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for school

I retain a great affection for the town where I grew up, even though it's not as lively as other places I've lived throughout my life. The highlight of the year is the annual festival in honour of a world-famous poet from our region, in which children are invited to stand up in public and recite chunks of his poetry. The best performance per age group receives a small prize. My parents encouraged me to take part in this competition each year. I would take a deep breath, gather myself together, wait my turn, and step up on stage while blushing to perform, then scurry off-stage to a round of applause.

**Q** *How did the speaker feel during the recital?*

**A** *Embarrassed/Nervous (or equivalent).*

Students are typically organised on class registers alphabetically according to their last names. According to research, however, this may affect a child's life chances. A longitudinal study revealed that students with names beginning with letters closer to the beginning of the alphabet generally performed better. They had higher prestige jobs and more money. These findings may be due to the taking of the register at the beginning of the school day to check whether students are present. Students with names further down may feel less noticed by the teacher. Ironically, the lead researcher was Professor Zax, spelt with a zed. She is a leading consultant at a famous university.

**Q** *Why does the speaker emphasise the spelling of the professor's name?*

**A** *She's a professor/She's done well yet her name begins with a Z (or equivalent).*

I keep hearing new theories which support the idea that music can help you to study more efficiently. For example, some research claims that listening to the right kind of music when you study can help relax your mind, cut down on other distractions and enable you to concentrate better. Some people even say that listening to music with 60 beats per

**3.** minute puts you in an alert state of mind, which can help you focus easily. I suppose this is possible, but surely anything that competes for your attention when you're trying to concentrate is a distraction.

**Q** *What is the speaker's attitude to the idea that listening to music helps you study?*

**A** *Sceptical/Questioning/Dubious (or equivalent).*

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

## Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks

## GESE for work

I've found that people often fall into two groups in their attitude to keeping deadlines. There are those who are super-organised and get everything done well ahead of time, sometimes with time to spare. I constantly strive to manage my time effectively. However, unlike the super-organised, I thrive on the pressure that looming deadlines provide. So, 1. though I do tend to leave tasks until the last minute, I don't feel part of the other group, the procrastinators. They have such a relaxed attitude towards deadlines, they are happy to make excuses for not finishing on time.

**Q** *What effect do deadlines have on the speaker?*

**A** *They help him/her to get the work done/concentrate on the work (or equivalent).*

I support the action of my city council, which has banned advertising for anything that would increase greenhouse emissions, such as car producers and airlines. This'll upset the marketing strategies of a range of manufacturers, so the move is quite revolutionary. But it's debatable whether it'll achieve its goal. The council claims their action will reduce respiratory diseases, but I predict the effect will be limited. What the council forgets are

2. the financial institutions, many of which invest in projects exploiting fossil fuels. I'll be badgering local councillors to address this and make the ban more comprehensive. I'll be observing progress closely - and checking billboards and screens around town.

**Q** *What does the speaker think about the council's ban?*

**A** *It hasn't gone far enough/It should be extended to financial institutions/It should include financial institutions (or equivalent).*

As an interpreter, the hardest part of my job is at international conferences or diplomatic events when I have to do it simultaneously. I need to make sure I represent what the speaker's just said in the same tone and register, so that their exact intention and meaning is conveyed to the audience quickly and accurately. It's not just a case of communicating

3. their message word for word as that could result in confusion. The mental acuity required in this profession is very challenging, but I take pride in the fact that others are dependent on my skills.

**Q** *According to the speaker, what is the aim of an interpreter?*

**A** *To ensure people understand the meaning conveyed (or equivalent).*

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