

Conscience alley – GESE Grade 7

Grade: GESE Grade 7 (CEFR B2.1)

Time: 30+ minutes

Exam task focus:

- ▶ To practise the Interactive task
- ▶ To practise using the language requirements of GESE Grade 7

Resources:

- ▶ Sample Interactive phase prompts



'Conscience alley' invites students to explore multiple facets of a specific dilemma. The strategy is used to embody and analyse a range of ideas, motivations, and factors that a character may be thinking about when making a major decision within real or imagined circumstances.

Students plan what they might say as advice to someone facing a difficult decision, and then take turns to receive advice themselves from everyone in the group. The activity is adapted from the work of the drama in education specialist Dorothy Heathcote.

Procedure

1. Introduce or review the language that is needed so that students are ready to embody and express their ideas.
2. Read a sample interactive prompt to the class, for example, *the decision to go to live in England*.
3. In groups students brainstorm what the key arguments are for and against this decision/dilemma.
4. Tell students to think of realistic comments or opinions that are authentic to the situation, as if they were giving advice to a real person.

Examples could be:

- **FOR:** *'Your English will improve really quickly.' 'I expect you'll find it exciting.' 'You'll probably make lots of new friends, etc.'*
 - **AGAINST:** *'There's a good chance you'll miss your family.' 'It'll be very expensive.' 'You may not be able to find a job very easily, etc.'*
5. Divide the class into two groups, for or against the decision/dilemma. Students now stand in two lines facing each other, with those who are in favour of the idea on one side and those against on the other.
 6. Create an alley between the lines of students where a person can easily walk.
 7. Next, a student volunteer (the first time the teacher can walk down the alley to model the activity) takes on the role of the character in the imagined scenario.
 8. Explain that the character will walk slowly down the alley; as they pass, each standing student should make a comment (advice, warnings, concerns, etc).
 9. The first student walks slowly down the central alley listening to all of the comments. After walking down the alley, ask the character to share how they are feeling about their decision.
 10. This can be repeated with a different prompt. When everyone has had a chance to walk down the alley, the students sit down again. They then discuss with a partner which of the arguments they remember and what decision they would make.

Sample Interactive phase prompts

Adapted from sample interactive prompts at GESE Grade 7.

Decisions/Dilemmas

- ▶ I love my job, although there are times when I think I would like to do something completely different.
- ▶ It's the first time I've visited this area and I want to explore just by using public transport.
- ▶ I want to move to a small village, where it's quieter, safer and more relaxing. I have two teenage children.
- ▶ Next week my niece will be 21 and I'm thinking of buying her a travel voucher for her birthday present. Her mother thinks this is much too impersonal.
- ▶ My wife has arranged for us to go on holiday with a group of friends. I'm a bit annoyed about this and want to cancel.
- ▶ I used to cycle to work but now I'm thinking about buying a car.
- ▶ My aunt says that life was much better when there were no mobile phones.
- ▶ My partner has recently won some money and has decided to spend everything on a luxurious holiday.
- ▶ I want to give up my job and open a B&B in a rural country area of Scotland.
- ▶ My friend is trying to persuade me to take up a hobby, like playing golf. I think I would find it too slow and boring.