

Practising the Listening phase – GESE Grade 11

Grade: GESE Grade 11 (CEFR C1.2)

Focus: The Listening phase

Time: 75 minutes

Aims:

- ▶ To review the format and grading of the phase
- ▶ To practise the phase

Materials needed:

- ▶ Worksheet 1 – Type 1 listen and check
- ▶ Worksheet 2 – Type 1 read out and answer
- ▶ Worksheet 3 – Type 2 listen and check
- ▶ Worksheet 4 – Type 2 read out answer answer
- ▶ GESE Interview Performance Descriptors

Preparation

1. Make copies of Worksheet 1 and 3 (one for each student). Make copies of Worksheet 2 and 4 (to cut up into As and Bs).
2. Practise reading out the prompts to ensure natural delivery.

In class

Type 1 practice – listen & check (20 minutes)

1. Review the format and grading of the Listening phase (see 'GESE Interview Performance Descriptors' for the grading).
2. Tell the students you're going to read them four Type 1 tasks. They should listen to each and write down the expected response.
3. Give out Worksheet 1 and ask them to read the prompts carefully then check/change their response as they see fit.
4. Go through the answers as a class.

Type 1 practice – read out / answer (20 minutes)

1. Divide the class into two halves, As and Bs, with the As sitting together and the Bs sitting together. Give them three prompts each (Worksheet 2). Give them five minutes to read their prompts, discuss anything they don't understand and then to practise reading them out quietly. Make sure the groups can't hear each other.
2. When the students are ready, pair up each A with a B. They take it in turns to be the examiner and the candidate.

Type 2 practice (35 minutes)

1. Repeat the activities above with the Task 2 prompts.

Worksheet – Type 1 Listen & check

Grade 11

The examiner will introduce the Interactive 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

1. We all know that if food looks good and smells good, we're more likely to want to eat it. The smell of freshly-baked bread is irresistible, and a beautifully-presented dish can be literally mouth-watering. But, more surprisingly, scientists at a leading university have discovered that sound is equally important. High-pitched tunes played on the piano make things taste sweeter and low brass sounds make things taste bitter. Eating, it seems, is an experience which involves nearly all of our...
Expected response:
2. When you become an expert in your field, it becomes increasingly difficult to convey your message. Particularly to those who have never come across the subject before. Because you have a vast store of advanced knowledge, it's challenging to put the clock back and imagine what it's like to be starting out. In my view, it becomes harder to teach rather than easier. With such a gap in level, it is difficult to put yourself in the shoes of a...
Expected response:
3. Nowadays, employees are increasingly expected to show creativity, but how can this be differentiated from innovation? Well, creativity takes place in the mind, it's simply when someone has an idea. Anyone can put forward an idea for a new product. But it doesn't become innovation until that product is actually launched on the market. This is the crucial difference- creativity is a flash of inspiration, whereas innovation is making that inspiration...
Expected response:
4. Teenagers and adults have never seen eye to eye about bedtimes and usually parents have insisted on early nights. But now there's compelling evidence that teenagers' body clocks are different from adults'. When they want to stay up late and get up late, they aren't just being rebellious! It seems it's all down to hormones and chemicals in their bodies. Some schools are taking the teenage sleep cycle very seriously and are even considering beginning...
Expected response:

Worksheet – Type 1 read out / answer

A

5. During the restoration of this picture, it was realised that it was indeed painted by Leonardo. We always believed that he'd painted such a picture because we've got two sketches. Lots of versions have survived and it was always assumed that this was just a copy. There's obviously been some damage here and the restorer has substantially repainted the background. However, no Leonardo scholar who's seen this painting in the flesh doubts that this is the...

Expected response: original/real (painting by Leonardo) (or equivalent).

6. I didn't think I'd done very well in the interview. I was quizzed by a panel of managers who asked me some searching questions about the posts I'd held in the past. I did have some questions about the position up my sleeve, though, and although I was confident when they asked why I'd applied, I didn't think I'd made a great impression. However, to my surprise a few days later I received a letter telling me I'd...

Expected response: got the job/been offered the job (or equivalent).

7. Researchers claim that if you struggle to get out of bed in the mornings, you should stop lying in at the weekends. The scientists say that rather than helping people catch up on sleep, those extra few hours in bed on Saturday and Sunday disrupt the cycle that governs sleep patterns. This makes it harder to get to sleep on a Sunday night and leaves people even more exhausted on Monday morning. In fact it isn't beneficial to...

Expected response: stay in bed (at the weekend)/have a lie in (or equivalent).

B

8. In many video games, the storyline is almost totally unimportant and plays a secondary role to the action. Luckily, this doesn't apply to all games. Some have plots that can be generated by the player. They have the benefit of open stories and the narrative can be taken in a number of directions, without compromising the action. No two games ever follow the exact same path. Undoubtedly, the most successful video games are when the player is able to...

Expected response: create their own story/control the story/write the story (or equivalent).

9. David was becoming increasingly fed up at work, he felt that his efforts and all the overtime he did were being ignored by his boss and that he wasn't being paid enough. He'd decided to leave the company if the situation didn't change and, feeling very pessimistic, asked for an appointment with his boss. He couldn't believe it when his boss told him how much he appreciated his hard work and that he was going to increase...

Expected response: his salary/pay/wages (or equivalent).

10. Homework has always been seen as a vital part of the education process. But new research shows that setting homework for schoolchildren – whatever their ability – may in fact be counter-productive to effective learning.

This applies irrespective of the nature of the homework itself, or the mental capacities of the individual child. The reasons appear to be complex, but enforced study outside school or college seems to have a negative impact on any student, regardless of how...

Expected response: incomprehensible/hard to understand/ridiculous (or equivalent).

Worksheet 3 – Listen & check

The examiner will introduce the final listening task by saying:

After I've read this passage, I'll ask you a question about what you've heard.

Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks

1. 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 upfront, so you can't rule out the possibility of identity theft. You just have to take certain precautions. One thing 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:

2. One person on the stage attempting to entertain an audience for a whole show is bound to struggle a bit. But his show was very slick and his timing was brilliant. He told some very amusing anecdotes which had me in tears and some of his lines were hilarious. I thought one or two of his gags were in bad taste, poking fun at some people. But we all came out with smiles on our faces. I'd definitely like to see him again.

Q: Who is the speaker talking about?

A:

3. 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.

Q: What is the speaker's purpose?

A:

Worksheet 4 – Read out / answer

A

4. It's the end-of-season ones that are the hardest for us. Everyone's out looking for bargains after the holidays and there's a lot of pushing and shoving in the queue when the doors are opened. The busiest departments are always clothes, household and electrical goods – though there are crowds everywhere and the tills never stop ringing all day. It's a great relief when it's finally time to close and we can get home and put our feet up!

Q: What event is the speaker describing?

A: A sale/the sales.

5. I'm just overwhelmed. I don't know what to say. But I'm just so grateful to everyone who worked so hard to help me win this award – my fellow cast members; all the people behind the camera; our generous producers; our super creative director; the costume and make-up people – just everybody. We were a fabulous team! And, of course, I couldn't have done this without my wonderful parents who have always backed me up and been there for me. This is our award.

Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?

A: To thank/praise people (for an award) (or equivalent).

6. I try to do it every evening. It's something I started when I was 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.

Q: What activity is the speaker describing?

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

B

7. Okay everyone, even though you're experienced hill-walkers, I'll remind you of some basic advice. It's a clear day today, but those peaks that you can see can quickly become covered in mist or low cloud, with visibility down to 10 metres. So everybody needs their own map, compass, a torch and a whistle, right? A map's no good if your friend's got the only one. There are several good things about maps: they don't run on batteries and unlike global positioning systems you don't need a mobile signal.

Q: What is the speaker trying to prevent?

A: People/walkers getting lost (or equivalent).

8. I'm sure you're all aware of the rumours surrounding the future development of the park and gardens in the town centre. I can confirm that we've been approached by a large retailer with a significant proposal that will give a much-needed boost to employment in the town, particularly among young people like you. But it's your town and your future so we need your input. I can assure you that no decisions will be made before a thorough consultation process has been concluded.

Q: What does the speaker want people to do?

A: Say what they think/get involved (or equivalent).

9. Your food will be tastier and healthier as it won't have been transported for long distances to reach the shops. I'm sure you know that the nutritional value of food is reduced the longer it takes to reach its destination. The reduction in the need for distribution vehicles carrying imported food will also result in a less polluted environment. Not only that, but you will be helping the economy of your area. Profits won't go to large international stores, but farmers and food producers closer to home will benefit.

Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?

A: To persuade people to shop locally/to discourage you from buying imported food (or equivalent).