

Conversation Questions

for

Secondary 2



A collection of conversation questions centered on a topic to develop Competency 1: Interacts orally in English

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Instructions for teachers

Choose one of the topics listed in the table of contents. Read over the questions for that topic. Add or change the questions according to your students' needs.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE THE CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- o Give one sheet of questions to each student in a group of four. Students decide who is Student A-B-C-D and take turns asking the questions.
OR
- o Create stations around the classroom and place a different handout (topic) at each station. Students spend 15 minutes at each station asking and answering the questions on the handout.
OR
- o Place several conversation topic handouts on the wall around the classroom. Count to five and ask the students to line up in front of one topic (maximum 4 students per topic). Students take turns asking and answering questions until you give the signal to move on to a different topic.

Be sure to provide functional language posters or other prompts to encourage interaction. As some of the questions may have short answers, teach students functional language necessary to maintain the conversation, e.g. *What do you think? Do you agree with that? I'm surprised by your answer. I agree except for ...* .

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

- o Ask students to brainstorm ideas and vocabulary about the topic before you give them the conversation questions handout;
- o Inform students about how much time they will have for each topic;
- o Establish a signal to indicate when time is almost over and a final signal when time is up;
- o Use talking chips to ensure equal participation among students in a group;
- o Ask students to complete a self-evaluation sheet at the end of each topic.

EVALUATION

Use the appropriate rubric for C1 oral interaction.

Self-evaluation: see Annexe 1

AMUSEMENT PARKS

STUDENT A

- 1) Have you ever visited an amusement park?
 - If so, what was it called?
 - Where was it?
- 2) What has been the best amusement park you have ever visited? Why?
- 3) What was your favourite ride or activity? Why?

STUDENT B

- 1) What was your worst ride or activity? Why?
- 2) Was the amusement park expensive?
- 3) If you were to recommend an amusement park, which one would you recommend and why?

STUDENT C

- 1) What rides or activities would you recommend?
- 2) How regularly do you visit amusement parks?
- 3) Can you think of an amusement park ride or activity that would be both enjoyable and popular?

STUDENT D

- 1) Are you afraid of going on scary amusement park rides?
- 2) Do you know of anybody who hurt themselves at an amusement park?
- 3) Even though you may have been terrified by a particular ride, would you go on it again?

CHORES

STUDENT A

- 1) How does your family decide who does various chores around the house?
- 2) Can you name some chores that need to be done every day?
- 3) What chores are your responsibility?
- 4) Which chores do you not like to do?

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you get paid for doing chores?
- 2) What is something you hate doing when you get home?
- 3) Do you like to clean up your room?
- 4) Do you wash the dishes in your house?

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you wash clothes for your family?
- 2) Do you iron the clothes?
- 3) What are some chores you do outside your house?
- 4) Can you think of some dangerous chores that you can't do?

STUDENT D

- 1) If you could buy only one of these two things, would you choose a dishwasher or a washing machine?
- 2) Do you like to go to the supermarket?
- 3) If you could have a robot to do all your chores, what would you choose for it to do?
- 4) What are some chores that your parents have to do around the house?

COMIC BOOKS

STUDENT A

- 1) What comics do you know?
- 2) Do you like comics? Which ones?
- 3) Do you play any video games based on comic books?
- 4) Have you read any Japanese manga?
- 5) Have you read any comics in English?
- 6) How often do you read comics?
- 7) Should comics have a rating system like the movies (G, PG, R)?

STUDENT B

- 1) What can you learn from comics?
- 2) What is more important to you, the story or the pictures?
- 3) What is the best comic book you've ever read?
- 4) What type of comic appeals to girls? What types appeal to boys?
What types appeal to adults?
- 5) Can you remember the first comic book you read?
- 6) Where do you usually read comic books?
- 7) Do you think boys read more comic books than girls?

STUDENT C

- 1) Why are comics so popular?
- 2) Why do people like to read comics?
- 3) Why do you think Hollywood makes so many movies from comic books?
- 4) At what age is a person too old to read comics?
- 5) Do violent comics make people think more about violence?
- 6) When you read comics, who is more interesting the hero or the villain?
- 7) Who is your favourite villain?

STUDENT D

- 1) Super heroes: Who would win a fight between Batman or Superman?
- 2) Which super hero is most like you?
- 3) What qualities do you need to be a super hero?
- 4) What super hero should have a movie made about him/her?
- 5) Who is the most popular comic book hero in your country?
- 6) If you could make your own super hero what would his or her name be? What would his superpower be?
- 7) If you could have one superpower what would it be?

COMPUTERS

STUDENT A

- 1) Are you connected to the Internet?
What is your favourite "news" site?
- 2) Can your mother and father use a computer? Your grand-parents?
- 3) Do you have a computer and where is it in your home?
- 4) Do you have a scanner? What kind of scanner do you have?
- 5) Do you have a web page? How often do you update it?

STUDENT B

- 1) Are you comfortable using a computer? Do you know how to type well? What software do you use the most often?
- 2) Do you use chat rooms? If so, who do you chat with?
- 3) Do you use e-mail? How many e-mails do you receive/send in a day?
How many times a day do you access your e mail?
- 4) Do you have a Facebook account? How often do you update it?
How many friends do you have? How many hours a day do you spend looking at it?
- 5) Do you want a more powerful computer? If so, what computer do you want?

STUDENT C

- 1) What Internet sites do you visit regularly?
- 2) How much does it cost to buy a computer? What's the least expensive computer? What's the most expensive computer?
- 3) What is your favourite website?
- 4) Name some ways how computers have an educational or an entertainment value.
- 5) What are some good things about having a computer?

STUDENT D

- 1) What are some bad things about having a computer?
- 2) Does having a computer make life more or less complicated?
- 3) What do you do when your computer doesn't work properly?
- 4) Do you have a blog? Why do people have blogs?
- 5) Do you think people read and write more today because of computers?

DANGERS

STUDENT A

- 1) Have you been in the middle of danger before?
- 2) What should you do when you feel someone might be following you?
- 3) If your life was in danger, who would you call and why?
- 4) What makes you suspicious of someone?
- 5) What makes you suspicious of a place?

STUDENT B

- 1) Why are there still people who love to do dangerous sports?
- 2) Do you think your neighbourhood is dangerous?
- 3) Have you caused any danger to other people before?
- 4) What was the most dangerous thing that you have done?
- 5) What time is the most dangerous time to go out?

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you think there are dangers in your house?
- 2) What do you do when you see someone in danger?
- 3) What do you do when you feel that something might happen to you?
- 4) Is there an emergency number you can call when you are in danger?
- 5) Can we stay away from danger?

STUDENT D

- 1) What dangers exist when people drive? When you fly? When you take a train?
- 2) What dangers exist for babies? For small children? For the elderly?
- 3) What country do you consider the most dangerous in the world and why?
- 4) Which city in your country do you consider the most dangerous and why?
- 5) Do you think that media (TV, movies, music) can be dangerous? Why?

HOW OFTEN DO YOU...?

STUDENT A

- 1) How often do you travel?
- 2) How often do you go to the dentist?
- 3) How often do you go to church?
- 4) How often do you eat candies?
- 5) How often do you go to the doctor?
- 6) How often do you say "I love you" to your parents?
- 7) How often do you take your English book to study?

STUDENT B

- 1) How often do you practice sports?
- 2) How often do you brush your teeth?
- 3) How often do you listen to music?
- 4) How often do you read?
- 5) How often do you go to the shopping mall?
- 6) How often do you buy clothes?
- 7) How often do you eat fast food?

STUDENT C

- 1) How often do you have English classes?
- 2) How often do you go out with your friends?
- 3) How often do you go to the movies?
- 4) How often do you go for a walk?
- 5) How often do you use the Internet?
- 6) How often do you go biking/skiing/swimming?
- 7) How often do you visit your grand-parents/aunts/cousins?

STUDENT D

- 1) How often do you go to the restaurant?
- 2) How often do you eat at the school cafeteria?
- 3) How often do you wear jeans?
- 4) How often do you speak on the phone? Send a SMS message?
- 5) How often do you watch television?
- 6) How often do you sing aloud?
- 7) How often do you listen to the radio?

LANGUAGES

STUDENT A

- 1) How many languages do you speak fluently?
- 2) Does your language have words adopted from English?
- 3) What's the native language spoken in China? Brazil? Mexico? Switzerland? Australia? Spain?
- 4) Do you have a friend living in another country?

STUDENT B

- 1) What would you do if you had to travel to a country where its people don't know how to speak neither your language nor English?
- 2) What languages are spoken the most throughout the world?
- 3) Which do you think is the most difficult language?
- 4) Do you know anyone who is bilingual or multilingual?

STUDENT C

- 1) Can you think of some disadvantages of being monolingual?
- 2) Why is English used in so many places?
- 3) When you practice a language, do you like to practice talking, reading or writing?
- 4) What techniques do you use to remember vocabulary?

STUDENT D

- 1) When you are getting an important message for the first time, are you more comfortable hearing it, or reading it?
- 2) Name five languages in 10 seconds.
- 3) Which language is spoken by the most people in the world?
- 4) Name a good way to learn a language besides studying in school.

DREAMS

STUDENT A

- 1) Talk about the most recent dream you had.
- 2) Talk about a recurring dream that you have.
- 3) Do you generally have pleasant dreams or nightmares?
- 4) Have you ever had nightmares? What were they like?
- 5) What's the worst nightmare you've ever had?

STUDENT B

- 1) Have you ever dreamt about dead friends or relatives? How was it?
How did you feel?
- 2) Do your dreams ever affect your moods? Explain.
- 3) Do you usually dream in black and white or in colour?
- 4) Have you ever woken up from a dream screaming or crying?
- 5) Do you believe that dreams can sometimes predict the future?

STUDENT C

- 1) Has anyone told you if you have walked or talked in your sleep?
- 2) What is your dream for the future?
- 3) Do you tell people about your dreams?
- 4) Do you think you can achieve your dreams?
- 5) Do you think that having a lot of money can make you happy?

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you think that having dreams and aspirations is a waste of time?
- 2) Do you believe in *déjà vu*?
- 3) What is a daydream?
- 4) What is the difference between our daydreams and our dreams at night?
- 5) Do you agree with the idea that "Life is like a dream?"

DO YOU WISH...?

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you wish you could speak three languages? Why?
- 2) Do you wish you lived in another country? Why?
- 3) Do you wish you didn't have any brothers/sisters? Why?

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you wish you were taller? Why?
- 2) Do you wish you were thinner? Why?
- 3) Do you wish you went to a different school? Why? Where?

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you wish you were younger? Why?
- 2) Do you wish you were older? Why?
- 3) Do you wish you were the opposite sex? Why?

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you wish you could fly a plane? Why?
- 2) Do you wish you were multi-millionaire? Why?
- 3) What do you wish for?

ENCOURAGEMENT

STUDENT A

- 1) What do you do to encourage yourself when going through hard times? Does it work?
- 2) Who do you talk to for encouragement and inspiration?
- 3) Which of your family members encourage you most? How?
- 4) What do you do when you feel depressed?

STUDENT B

- 1) What could someone do to encourage you when you feel depressed?
- 2) Should people just accept whatever comes their way?
- 3) What are some ways you feel you can make a difference in this world?
- 4) How can you make this world a better place?

STUDENT C

- 1) What song encourages you most?
- 2) What television show encourages you most?
- 3) What person has inspired you the most? How?
- 4) What celebrity has inspired you most? How?

STUDENT D

- 1) What's your favourite encouraging saying or quotation?
- 2) Do you encourage others when you see them crying? How?
- 3) What would you want someone to do for you if you were crying publicly because you were deeply hurt inside?
- 4) Is there a place you visit when you are sad and you want to feel better?

FAMILY

STUDENT A

- 1) Are friends more important than family?
- 2) Are your parents married?
- 3) Do you have any brothers or sisters? If so, how old are they?
Their names?
- 4) Are your parents strict?
- 5) Do you get along well with your family?
- 6) Do you get along well with your brothers and sisters?
- 7) Do you have to clean your own room?

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you look more like your mother or your father?
- 2) Do you often argue with your mother or father? What about?
- 3) Do your parents let you stay out late?
- 4) How many cousins do you have?
- 5) How many aunts and uncles do you have?
- 6) How old are your parents?
- 7) Is spanking a good way to discipline children?

STUDENT C

- 1) What are some of your fondest memories of childhood?
- 2) What are your parents like?
- 3) What do you and your family like to do together?
- 4) What do your parents do in their free time?
- 5) What are the occupations of your family members?
- 6) Should children help with the housework?
- 7) How much or how often should children help their parents?

STUDENT D

- 1) What kinds of housework are not appropriate for children to do?
- 2) What's the best thing about your mom?
- 3) If you could have a different number of siblings, what would it be?
- 4) What's the best thing about your grandparents?
- 5) Should parents give their children an allowance?
- 6) How often does your family eat dinner together?
- 7) What's the best thing about your dad?

FRIENDS

STUDENT A

- 1) Describe one of your closest friends.
- 2) Do you have any childhood friendships that are still strong today?
Tell us about them.
- 3) Do you have any long distance friends? How do you keep in touch with your long-distance friends? How often do you see your long-distance friends?
- 4) Do you think it is a good idea to borrow money from a friend?
Why or why not?
- 5) Do you make friends easily?

STUDENT B

- 1) Has a friend ever let you down?
- 2) How do you maintain a good friendship?
- 3) How do you make new friends?
- 4) How many people do you consider your "best friends?"
- 5) There is a saying *"To have a good friend, you need to be a good friend."* How can you be a good friend?

STUDENT C

- 1) What do you usually do with your friends?
- 2) What is the longest friendship that you have had?
- 3) What makes friends different from family?
- 4) What qualities do you think are important in a friend?
- 5) What things should friends never do?

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you think it is possible to have a best friend of the opposite sex?
- 2) Do you believe your parents should be your friends?
- 3) What do you do when you have a misunderstanding with your friend?
- 4) How long have you known your best friend? Where did you meet and what did you have in common?
- 5) Do you tell your best friend everything?

Name : _____

Group : _____

C1 – Oral Interaction Self-Evaluation

5 4 3 2 1
+ -

Did I listen to others in the group?

Did I extend the ideas of
others/build on what others said?

Did I participate actively?

Did I speak English consistently?

Did I react to what others said?

What I need to improve

What I am good at

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