

Conversation Questions for Secondary 3



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

- 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
- 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
- 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

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

DISASTERS

STUDENT A

1. What is a disaster?
2. Have you ever been in a disaster?
3. Do you know anyone who has been in a natural disaster?
4. What are some different kinds of disasters?
5. What kinds of disasters are common in Canada?

STUDENT B

1. What is the difference between a tornado and a hurricane?
2. What is disaster insurance?
3. Are there ways we can prepare ourselves in advance to cope with disasters?
4. How are businesses affected by disasters?
5. How are families affected by disasters?

STUDENT C

1. How are the problems solved after a disaster?
2. If you had the power to stop a natural disaster that has happened in the past, which would you choose? Why?
3. What is the difference between natural disasters and manmade disasters?
4. Do some natural disasters occur repeatedly in the same area?
5. What are examples of manmade disasters?

STUDENT D

1. What examples are there of natural disasters?
2. What can you do to prepare for a disaster?
3. How can we help children who are victims of disasters?
4. Does your family have a plan for what to do in the event of a disaster?
5. What would you do if you knew there would soon be a serious natural disaster and this could be your last day on earth?

ENGLISH LITERATURE & BOOKS

STUDENT A

1. How many English authors can you name?
2. Do you like science-fiction books?
3. Which book have you read recently?
4. What is your favourite book?
5. What makes a 'classic' book?

STUDENT B

1. Have you read a translation of any English books in your language?
2. Do you like historical stories?
3. Who are the most famous writers in your country?
4. What kinds of books or which authors don't you like?
5. Some people don't read books or read very rarely, Why?

STUDENT C

1. Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction?
2. How many books do you read per year?
3. Are book prices too high to buy?
4. Tell us a little about a book you have read recently?
5. Do you give books to your friends as a present? If so what was the last book you gave? Why did you choose that book?

STUDENT D

1. Have you ever read a book and then seen a film of that book? Which one?
2. Do you like love stories?
3. Do you think that books are a thing of the past?
4. Some people say that "books are best friends". Is that true for you?
5. Do you keep a journal?

FACEBOOK

STUDENT A

1. Do you have a Facebook account?
2. Do you have your boy/girlfriend on Facebook?
3. Do you accept every friend request?
4. Do you post pictures? What types of pictures do you post?
5. What are some privacy concerns when using Facebook?

STUDENT B

1. How often do you check your Facebook account?
2. What's something you don't like about Facebook?
3. Do you have any celebrity on Facebook?
4. What was the last post you wrote on Facebook?
5. Do you know any story about a problem because of Facebook?

STUDENT C

1. What do you do on Facebook?
2. Have you ever had a problem on Facebook? What was it?
3. How do you protect your album privacy on Facebook?
4. Which pages did you "like"?
5. Do you have any private album that none of your friends can see?

STUDENT D

1. What's the best thing about Facebook?
2. Do you chat on Facebook?
3. Are you parents on Facebook? Are you friends with them?
4. How many friends do you have on Facebook? Do you know them all?
5. What's something you don't like about Facebook?

FASHION

STUDENT A

1. What is fashion?
2. Why do some people ignore fashion?
3. Would you go to a fancy dress party? Why or why not?
4. What is the most useful article of clothing in your wardrobe?
5. What two things wouldn't you wear together?

STUDENT B

1. Do you read fashion magazines?
2. Who is fashionable that you know?
3. What's your favourite color for clothes? Why?
4. Describe the most expensive thing you own.
5. Do you think dress codes should be adhered to if requested on an invitation?

STUDENT C

1. Which season is it the easiest to be fashionable?
2. Do you like to wear a school uniform? Why or why not?
3. What would you wear to meet royalty or the Prime Minister of your country?
4. What accessories do men wear/carry?
5. What clothes or hairstyles are from the 70s or 80s?

STUDENT D

1. Can you be fashionable without spending money?
2. What fabrics do you think are beautiful?
3. What would you wear on a first date?
4. What is a major fashion faux pas? (What doesn't fit together?)
5. What wouldn't you wear to a wedding?

FEARS

STUDENT A

1. Are there certain weather conditions that scare people? What are they?
Why do people become scared?
2. Are you afraid of flying?
3. Do you fear certain insects or animals? Why?
4. Do you think young children should be allowed to watch horror movies?
5. How would you help someone to get over their fear?

STUDENT B

1. Are you afraid of ghosts?
2. Are you afraid of giving a speech in public?
3. Do you know anyone with a phobia? What is it?
4. What are some things many people are afraid of?
Why are they afraid of them?
5. What facial expressions accompany fear?

STUDENT C

1. Are you afraid of going to the dentist?
2. Were you afraid on your first day of school? How do you feel now?
3. How do you react when you see something frightening?
4. What animal do you think is the scariest?
5. Are you afraid of speaking English? In front of many people?

STUDENT D

1. Are you afraid of heights?
2. What is the scariest movie you have ever seen?
3. What kinds of things make you nervous?
4. What was the most frightening experience you've had?
5. Are you afraid of germs?

FREE TIME & HOBBIES

STUDENT A

1. What are you doing this weekend?
2. Where do you spend your free time?
3. What do you really hate having to do in your free time?
4. Which hobbies are the most expensive?
5. How do the men in your family usually spend their free time?

STUDENT B

1. What did you do last summer vacation?
2. Who do you spend your free time with?
3. Do you ever feel that you waste your free time? How?
4. Which hobbies are the cheapest?
5. How do the women in your family usually spend their free time?

STUDENT C

1. What did you do last weekend?
2. How do you like to spend your free time?
3. If you had more free time, what would you do with it?
4. Which hobbies cost nothing at all?
5. What new activity would you like to try doing in your free time?

STUDENT D

1. What hobbies do you have?
2. If it were suddenly announced that tomorrow was a national holiday, what would you do?
3. Are there any hobbies you would like to try?
4. Which hobbies are the most popular in Canada?
5. Are there any dangerous hobbies?

HAPPINESS

STUDENT A

1. Are you a happy person?
2. What are the three most important things for you to be happy?
3. What makes you unhappy?
4. Does your happiness change during different times of the day, week, month or year?
5. What's the most miserable you've been?

STUDENT B

1. What do you think is the color for happiness?
2. What is the effect that animals/pets have on people to make them feel happy?
3. How happy are you compared with your friends?
4. What is missing in your life that would make you very happy?
5. Would you be happier with a boyfriend/girlfriend or single?

STUDENT C

1. Do you think that happiness lies within you?
2. When was the happiest time of your childhood?
3. Do you wake up happy every morning?
4. Does happiness have a different meaning for each person?
5. Is happiness a goal?

STUDENT D

1. What is happiness for you?
2. How can you become happy again when you are sad?
3. What is there to be happy about in the world today?
4. Is happiness a state of mind?
5. Can money buy happiness?

ART

STUDENT A

1. Do you consider yourself a good artist?
2. Do you think music and dancing are forms of art?
3. Do you enjoy taking photographs?
4. Have you ever seen performance art?
5. Are movies a form of art?

STUDENT B

1. Do you enjoy your art classes at school?
2. Do you visit museums when you go to another city?
3. What would life be like without art?
4. Do you consider photography an art form?
5. Do you like to doodle? What kinds of doodles do you make?

STUDENT C

1. Do you like paintings?
2. Have you ever been jealous of someone else's artwork?
3. Do you think of cartoons and comics as art?
4. Do you think graffiti is art?
5. Why is art important?

STUDENT D

1. Do you like to visit art museums?
2. What famous painters do you know? What are they famous for?
3. Do you feel proud after finishing a work of art?
4. Is design a great importance in your daily life?
5. What art form do you like best?

BEACH

STUDENT A

1. When was the last time you went to the beach? Where did you go?
2. Have you ever been fishing on the beach?
3. Do you think suntan lotion is important?
4. Have you ever used a surf board or body board?
5. Have you ever been to a famous beach?

STUDENT B

1. What do people do at the beach?
2. What do you wear to the beach?
3. Do you prefer a calm sea or do you prefer big waves?
4. Should dogs be allowed on the beach?
5. Is pollution a problem on beaches?

STUDENT C

1. Have you ever collected seashells?
2. What sorts of animals live at the beach?
3. Have you ever been on a sail boat or a row boat?
4. Would you like to live near a beach?
5. Are lifeguards essential on beaches?

STUDENT D

1. What is the "tide"?
2. Do you like to suntan?
3. Have you ever played sports on the beach? Which sports have you played?
4. Should cars be allowed on the beach?
5. Do you think that people should be allowed to drink beer or other drinks with alcohol on the beach?

BEHAVIOUR

STUDENT A

1. What is good behaviour? What is bad behaviour?
2. Can music influence your behaviour?
3. Is it possible to change one's behaviour?
4. What kind of punishment do you think is the most effective?
5. Should children be punished in public?

STUDENT B

1. What influences you to make good choices?
2. How has the media affected society?
3. Should parents be held responsible for their children's behaviour?
4. Have you ever got embarrassed by your friend's misbehaviour?
5. Is there any behaviour that you would not find acceptable?

STUDENT C

1. Are you influenced by what you see on TV? Or by what you read?
2. Do you care what other people think of you?
3. Can bad behaviour lead to crime?
4. What is the right behaviour to use in a restaurant? At school?
5. What are some examples of bad behaviour?

STUDENT D

1. How can friends have a bad influence on you?
2. Should people act on their feelings? If you are in a bad mood, can people around you tell?
3. What behaviours are expected from children towards their parents?
4. In what ways have the choices of others affected you?
5. How does religion influence people's behaviour?

HOMEWORK

STUDENT A

1. What homework do you usually do?
2. Do you mind the presence of pets when you study?
3. Do you always write your homework in your agenda?
4. What do you prefer, a small room, open space or studying outside?
5. Do you listen to music while you do your homework?

STUDENT B

1. Is there anyone who makes you do your homework?
2. Do you interrupt your study activities or do all the homework at one sitting?
3. Do you feel you have too much homework?
4. Do you think it is a good idea to do homework in front of the TV?
5. Is it a good idea to study with friends? Why?

STUDENT C

1. Do you have your own room to study in?
2. Do you usually do your homework at the last minute?
3. When do you do your homework?
4. Do you believe students who text while doing their homework are 100% concentrated?
5. Why do you think some schools don't give homework?

STUDENT D

1. What's on your desk or table where you study?
2. What are some good excuses to give your teacher for not doing your homework?
3. Which subjects give the most homework?
4. Do you like doing homework at weekends? during vacations? Why?
5. When can homework be counterproductive?

INVENTIONS

STUDENT A

1. How did the invention of television change people's life?
2. How did the Internet influence such things as communication, correspondence, and access to information?
3. Can you name some inventions are you are looking forward to?
4. Do you think a time machine will ever be invented?
5. What technologies has space exploration brought to our daily life?

STUDENT B

1. Do you think television is a useful invention?
2. Do you use the Internet? How much time do you spend on it?
3. What is your attitude to human cloning?
4. Would you like to do some time traveling?
5. Do you believe that one day people will live on the moon and on other planets? Why isn't it possible today?

STUDENT C

1. When did you buy or get your first mobile phone?
2. What do you think is the worst invention of the mankind?
3. Do you think you can live without your mobile or is it now an important part of your daily life?
4. What time would you like to visit, what event would you like to witness?
5. What is the use of space exploration?

STUDENT D

1. What do scientists say about the influence of mobile phones on our health?
2. Do you think aging is the problem the mankind cannot fight?
3. Do you feel any addiction to the Internet?
4. Who would you like to meet if you could use a time machine?
5. What would you invent if you were a scientist?

Name : _____

Group : _____

C1 – Oral Interaction Self-Evaluation

5 4 3 2 1
+ -

Did I listen to others in the group?	5 4 3 2 1
Did I extend the ideas of others/build on what others said?	5 4 3 2 1
Did I participate actively?	5 4 3 2 1
Did I speak English consistently?	5 4 3 2 1
Did I react to what others said?	5 4 3 2 1

What I need to improve

What I am good at

Name : _____

Group : _____

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