

Conversation Questions for Secondary 5



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

ARGUING

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you feel bad after you have an argument?
 - 2) What are some reasons why people argue?
 - 3) What does your family argue about?
 - 4) How do you avoid arguments?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you think it is best to argue or just walk away? Why?
 - 2) Do you get along with argumentative people?
 - 3) Are you passionate about your beliefs?
 - 4) Do you ever try to impose your beliefs on others?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you at times enjoy "playing the devil's advocate" (debating for the fun of it)?
 - 2) Would you describe yourself as an argumentative person?
 - 3) What other adjectives would you associate with an argumentative person?
 - 4) In your opinion is being argumentative a positive trait or a bad thing?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you ever try to impose your beliefs on others?
 - 2) Do you at times enjoy "playing the devil's advocate" (debating for the fun of it)?
 - 3) How do you feel when someone disagrees with everything you have to say?
 - 4) Do you think it's disrespectful to argue with your elderly people?
-

BOOKS AND READING

STUDENT A

- 1) What is your favourite story?
 - 2) Who is your favourite author?
 - 3) Who is your favourite character?
 - 4) What is the longest book you have ever read?
 - 5) What is the funniest book you have ever read? The saddest?
 - 6) How many books have you read in your life?
 - 7) How many hours do you spend reading in a week?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Have you ever been to a book signing or met an author?
 - 2) Do you read books based on recommendations?
 - 3) What are some of the books that were recommended to you?
 - 4) What books have you recommended for other people?
 - 5) How often do you go to the library?
 - 6) How many books do you check out from the library at one time?
 - 7) How do you choose the books you are going to read?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How important is the cover of the book?
 - 2) Most people say the book is better than the movie. Is this true for you?
 - 3) Do you enjoy reading books in school?
 - 4) What was your favourite book growing up?
 - 5) Is there a book that you have read more than once? What was the title? How many times did you read it?
 - 6) Is there a book you just couldn't finish? What was the title?
 - 7) What is your favourite time of day for reading?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Where is your favourite place to read?
 - 2) Do you listen to music while you read?
 - 3) Do you often read books before go to bed?
 - 4) What factors are important to you when choosing a book to read?
Reviews? A recommendation from a friend? The front cover?
 - 5) Have you ever read a book and then watched the movie? Which was better? Why?
 - 6) Who is the most famous writer from your country? Have you read any of their books? Do you think that they are overrated?
 - 7) What genre of book do you enjoy most?
-

CHEATING

STUDENT A

- 1) What is your definition of cheating?
 - 2) Have you ever cheated?
 - 3) Why do you think that people cheat?
 - 4) Have you ever cheated in an exam?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Have you ever been caught cheating on an exam?
 - 2) If you had a chance to cheat now, would you take it?
 - 3) In what situations do people usually cheat?
 - 4) Describe a time when you cheated and it helped you.
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you think if people stopped cheating the world would be a better place?
 - 2) What do you think of people who cheat in their relationships?
 - 3) What do you think can be done to prevent cheating?
 - 4) What are some things you can do to prevent cheating?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What would you do if you saw someone cheating at something?
 - 2) If a cashier gives you too much change and you don't return it- is that cheating?
 - 3) If you find a wallet in the washroom and don't bring it to the "lost and found," ... is that cheating?
 - 4) When is it acceptable to cheat?
-

CHILDHOOD

STUDENT A

- 1) What did you like to do when you were a child?
 - 2) Where were you born?
 - 3) When were you born?
 - 4) How old were you when you learned to ride a bicycle?
 - Do you remember who taught you to ride a bicycle?
 - Did you have a bad bicycle accident?
 - 5) Who was your favourite teacher? Why?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What was your favourite game?
 - Who did you play it with?
 - When did you like to play it?
 - 2) Do you remember anything about your personality as a child?
 - 3) Were you good at making friends in elementary school?
 - Did you have a lot of friends?
 - What did you enjoy doing with your friends?
 - 4) What were some embarrassing situations when you were a child?
 - 5) What did you like about elementary school?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What didn't you like about elementary school?
 - 2) Who was your best friend in elementary school?
 - How did you meet this friend?
 - What did you do together?
 - Do you still do things with this childhood friend?
 - 3) Can you remember specific things from your childhood clearly?
 - How old were you at the time of your first memories?
 - 4) What was your favourite toy when you were a child?
 - Who gave you this toy?
 - Did it have a name?
 - Do you still have it?
 - 5) What was your worst punishment as a child?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) How are you similar to your parents? How are you different?
 - 2) Describe the first memory you have of going to school.
 - 3) What childhood diseases did you have?
 - 4) Did you have any nicknames?
 - 5) What were your favourite cartoons and TV shows?
-

CRIME

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you know anyone who has been attacked?
 - 2) Do you know someone who has been a victim of a violent crime?
 - 3) Do you think abortion is a crime?
 - 4) Do you think gun control is a good idea? Explain.
 - 5) Do you think that punishment for violent crimes should be the same for juveniles and adults? Why/why not?
 - 6) Do you think prostitution is a crime?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Does prison help rehabilitate criminals? Should it?
 - 2) How can you prevent things from being stolen?
 - How can you avoid having things stolen from you?
 - 3) If a person steals a loaf of bread because he needs to feed his starving family, should he be punished?
 - 4) Is it ever O.K. to break the law? If so, when?
 - 5) Under what situations would you think of committing a crime?
 - 6) What are some things that are legal that you personally think should be illegal?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What crimes have you heard about recently in the news?
 - 2) What do you think is the worst crime a person could commit? Why?
 - 3) What do you think of the death penalty?
 - 4) What is a gang?
 - What are the characteristics of gangs?
 - 5) What kinds of crime are most common in your country? What are the penalties for these crimes?
 - 6) What would you do if you heard a burglar in your house?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Why do you think people steal things?
 - 2) Do you think that "corporate criminals" are sufficiently punished for their crimes?
 - 3) Do you think graffiti is vandalism or art?
 - 4) Have you ever been robbed?
 - 5) Do you agree that terrorism is the evil of the 21st century?
 - What are the roots of terrorism?
 - What act of terrorism terrifies you most of all?
 - 6) Is piracy a great problem in your country?
-

CULTURE

STUDENT A

- 1) When people from other countries think about your culture, what do they usually think of?
 - 2) What has surprised you when you've met people from other countries?
 - 3) What do you like about your culture?
 - 4) What don't you like about your culture?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Are there many people of different cultures in your country?
 - 2) Who in your culture do you admire most?
 - 3) Why do you think culture is important?
 - 4) If you could change one thing about your culture, what would it be?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Would you ever consider marrying or dating someone from another culture?
 - 2) Would you ever consider living permanently in a country other than your home country? Why or why not?
 - 3) What does it mean to be polite in your culture?
 - 4) What is considered rude in your culture?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) If a group of people just came to your country from overseas, what advice would you give them?
 - 2) What do you think is important when visiting another culture?
 - 3) What is culture shock?
 - 4) On what occasions do you exchange flowers in your country?
-

ENGLISH STUDY

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you think English is a difficult language to learn?
 - 2) Have you ever spoken English on the phone?
 - 3) How often do you practice your English?
 - 4) What is your favourite way to practice your English?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What is the most difficult thing about English?
 - 2) Why are you learning English?
 - 3) What do you think you will be able to do in English in the future?
 - 4) Do you think that English will completely dominate all the other languages in the future? If yes, how will it affect the world?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How do you use the Internet to learn English?
 - 2) What search engine do you use most often when you study? Why?
 - 3) What is your favourite way to practice your English?
 - 4) How can speaking English help you advance in your career?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Which country is the best place to study English?
 - 2) Are you willing to get a tutor to help you learn English?
 - 3) How can I listen to conversations and improve my pronunciation?
 - 4) What do you like about your English class?
-

ENVIRONMENT AND POLLUTION

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you think cars should be banned from city centers?
 - 2) How often is garbage collected in your neighborhood?
 - 3) What are some things that can be recycled?
 - 4) What are some things that your community is doing to help?
 - 5) What are some things which you recycle?
 - 6) What are some types of pollution?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What are some ways that you can reduce pollution in this country?
 - 2) What can you do to help prevent pollution?
 - 3) Who do you think is more responsible for pollution, individual people or the government? Explain.
 - 4) What is the most important issue facing the environment today?
 - 5) Do you know about any anti-pollution programs in your community?
 - 6) Do you usually drink bottled water? Why or Why not?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) If you could choose one alternative energy source to develop which one would you choose? Why?
 - 2) Are companies more or less environmentally responsible now than they were in the past? Why do you think that is?
 - 3) What are some ways energy is wasted?
 - 4) How can we protect the environment and at the same time improve people's standard of living?
 - 5) Should an environmental levy be imposed on SUVs not used in the farming community?
 - 6) Should gas for motorists be more expensive?
- What would be the advantages and disadvantages of this?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do think global warming is real?
 - 2) What's happening to forests in the world?
 - 3) What can we do to protect forests?
 - 4) What are the benefits/ disadvantages of a smoking ban in public places?
 - 5) In what ways can we save more water? Please tell your experiences.
 - 6) What should we do to increase the awareness about environmental pollution?
-

FUTURE

STUDENT A

- 1) What will the future be like?
 - 2) Will robots replace humans?
 - 3) Can you think of movies that have robots in them?
 - 4) Is there anything that does not yet exist that you would like to see invented? What is it?
 - 5) Where do you plan on going to college?
 - 6) What type of job would you like to do in the future?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) How can we preserve the future for the next generation?
 - 2) What kind of developments might happen in health care in the future?
 - 3) Can fortune-tellers predict the future?
 - 4) Is it possible to know the future?
 - 5) Where do you hope to travel in the future?
 - 6) What do you hope to do in your life?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How will technology change?
 - 2) Do you think life will be more difficult or easier for your grandchildren? In what ways?
 - 3) How long will people live in the future?
 - 4) What is the future of paper money?
 - 5) What if you could program your children's genetics? Would you want to? What would you change?
 - 6) If it were possible to read minds, would you want to?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What will the cars of the future do and look like?
 - 2) What will future houses look like?
 - 3) Would you become half-robot if it meant living 1000 years?
 - 4) Do you think the Earth will become overpopulated? Will there be any forests left?
 - 5) Would you like to have a robot in your house?
 - 6) What will education be like in the future?
-

GENDER ROLES

STUDENT A

- 1) Are the responsibilities of a mother the same as the responsibilities of a father?
 - 2) Are fathers capable of carrying out the duties of a mother and vice versa?
 - 3) Are there different expectations for sons and daughters?
 - 4) What behaviors are deemed as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?
 - 5) What jobs are deemed as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Are men and women equal in ability and intelligence?
 - 2) What things can either men or women do that the other cannot do and why?
 - 3) Can men wear women's clothing or can women wear men's clothing? Why or why not?
 - 4) Is it OK for men to cry? Is it OK for women to cry?
 - 5) What would people think of a man who backs down from a fight?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What would people think of two women involved in a fist fight?
 - 2) In your home, who does the cooking, cleaning and household chores?
 - 3) What do you think of women joining the army?
 - 4) Who is regarded as the head of the family?
 - 5) Should boys and girls be brought up differently?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What would happen if your parents changed roles for one day?
 - 2) When a woman and a man are together, who does most of the talking? What makes you think so?
 - 3) Can a man and a woman be only friends?
 - 4) Do men/men friendships differ from women/men or women/women friendships? How?
 - 5) Who do you think has life easier, girls or guys? Why?
-

HEALTH

STUDENT A

- 1) Are you afraid of needles?
 - 2) Are you healthy? Are your parents healthy?
 - 3) Do you always eat healthy food?
 - 4) Do you bruise easily?
 - 5) Do you catch a cold more than once a year?
 - 6) Do you consider alcohol a drug?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you eat a lot of vegetables? Do you eat lots of fruit?
 - 2) Do you ever get headaches?
 - 3) What kind of exercise do you do? How often do you exercise?
 - 4) Do you go for regular medical check-ups?
 - 5) Do you go to the dentist twice a year?
 - 6) Do you have a lot of stress? How can you reduce stress in your life?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you have any allergies?
 - 2) Do you have any scars?
 - 3) Do you often eat fast food?
 - 4) Do you smoke? Do you take vitamins?
 - 5) Do you think pets are good for a person's health?
 - 6) Do you usually get enough sleep?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Have you ever been hospitalized? Have you ever broken a bone?
 - 2) Have you ever burned yourself with hot water?
 - 3) Have you ever had braces on your teeth?
 - 4) Have you ever had stitches?
 - 5) What do you think of cosmetic surgery? Would you ever consider having cosmetic surgery?
 - 6) What drinks do you think are healthy? What drinks do you think are unhealthy?
-

PARTIES

STUDENT A

- 1) When do you go to a party?
- 2) What do you like to do at parties?
- 3) Who do you invite to your parties?
- 4) Do you let people smoke at your party?
- 5) Do you let people drink at your party?

STUDENT B

- 1) What can people do at a party that will annoy you?
- 2) Do you serve food at your parties? What kind of food do you serve?
- 3) Would you rather go to someone else's house for a party or have it at yours? Why?
- 4) Describe the best party that you have been to.
 - Why was it the best?
- 5) Would you mind if others get drunk at your party in your house?

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you play games at your party? If so, what games?
- 2) What is there to do at a party?
- 3) What would you do if someone broke something at a party in your house?
- 4) If you are invited to a party but you don't want to go, what do you tell the person inviting you?
- 5) What does RSVP mean?

STUDENT D

- 1) What are some polite and impolite excuses to give for not going to a party?
 - 2) Did you ever have dance parties in your high school?
 - 3) Did you ever organize a surprise party for someone?
 - 4) If you had to do a surprise party for a friend, how would you proceed?
 - 5) Do you participate in family parties? Describe a memorable moment.
-

NAMES

STUDENT A

- 1) What's the most beautiful girl's name you've heard?
 - 2) What's the best boy's name you've heard?
 - 3) How did your parents choose your name?
 - 4) Are you happy with your name?
 - If not, why not?
 - 5) What are some of the most common names for boys and girls in your school?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What are some really unusual names you've heard?
 - 2) Do you think names shape our personality? To what degree?
 - 3) Does your name have a meaning?
 - If so, what does it mean?
 - 4) Do you have a middle name?
 - What is it?
 - If you have multiple middle names, what are they?
 - 5) Do you have a nickname?
 - How did you get it?
 - Do you like it?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How many letters are in your name?
 - How many syllables are in your name?
 - How many duplicate letters are in your name?
 - 2) What do you think of people who name their children after months, seasons or days of the week?
 - 3) Some parents give their children names in alphabetical order. Do you think this is a good idea?
 - 4) Do you think it is okay to give pets human names?
 - What are some popular names for pets?
 - 5) Do you have names in two different languages?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Can you name the seven continents?
 - How many Canadian province names do you know?
 - 2) If you could change your name what would it be? Why this name?
 - 3) Do you remember any kids whose names other kids in school made fun of? Why? What were their names?
 - 4) Have you ever known a boy that has a "girl's name" or a girl that had a "boy's name"?
 - 5) Do you wish your name was less common, or more unusual?
-

Name : _____

Group : _____

C1 – Oral Interaction Self-Evaluation	
<div> <div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div> <div> + - </div> </div>	
Did I listen to others in the group?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I extend the ideas of others/build on what others said?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I participate actively?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I speak English consistently?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I react to what others said?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
What I need to improve	
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	
What I am good at	
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	

Name : _____

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