

# TIPS TO PERFORM WELL IN GPE (GROUP PLANNING EXERCISE)

## INTRODUCTION TO GROUP PLANNING EXERCISE (GPE)

The **Group Planning Exercise (GPE)** is a vital part of the **GTO (Group Testing Officer) series** in the SSB interview. It evaluates a candidate's **logical thinking, leadership skills, problem-solving ability, and teamwork**. Candidates are required to analyze a situation map and devise a practical solution while working as a group.

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## STRUCTURE OF A GPE TASK

Here's what typically happens during a GPE:

1. A **situation map** with multiple problems is shown to the group.
2. The assessor reads the story aloud once.
3. Candidates are given **5-10 minutes** to read and write their **individual plans**.
4. A **group discussion** is conducted to arrive at a common plan.
5. One person from the group narrates the **final plan**.

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## TIPS TO PERFORM WELL IN GPE

### 1. Understand the Situation Thoroughly

Carefully observe the map and read the situation. Identify key issues, note down the time and distance constraints, and understand the available resources. This will help in building a logical approach.

### 2. Prioritize the Problems

Handle life-threatening issues first (such as injuries or fire), followed by time-bound tasks (like reaching a location), and lastly, minor problems (like social events).

### 3. Create a Logical and Realistic Plan

Make sure your solution is practical. Assign roles based on the number of people and resources available. Use logical assumptions and consider speed, time, and distance when planning movements.

### 4. Practice Map Orientation

Become comfortable with symbols and layouts used in GPE maps. Avoid unrealistic

travel between places and always explain how you move from one point to another.

## **5. Write a Structured Individual Plan**

Use a standard format:

- **Introduction**
- **List and prioritize problems**
- **Step-by-step action plan**
- **Time and distance management**
- **Conclusion**

## **6. Participate Actively in the Group Discussion**

Speak logically and clearly. Support valid points made by others and refute unrealistic ones respectfully. Avoid interrupting others. If possible, take the initiative to start the discussion.

## **7. Work Towards Group Consensus**

Try to unite the group's ideas into one final plan. Promote agreement rather than division. Demonstrating leadership and flexibility earns more points than being rigid.

## **8. Volunteer to Narrate the Final Plan**

If confident, offer to present the final group plan. Ensure you explain the problems, the action taken, the people involved, and the time required. Maintain eye contact and a clear tone.

## **9. Show Officer-Like Qualities (OLQs)**

Demonstrate leadership, responsibility, logical thinking, and the ability to work in a team. Avoid being aggressive, quiet, or confused.

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## **SAMPLE FORMAT FOR INDIVIDUAL GPE PLAN**

### **Introduction:**

We, a group of five friends, reached XYZ town and encountered the following problems.

### **Problem Identification and Prioritization:**

The problems in the order of priority are: accident victim, fire in the building, robbery attempt, and flag hoisting ceremony.

### **Execution Plan:**

Two members rush the victim to the hospital using a vehicle. One person calls the fire brigade and helps control the fire. Two others go to stop the robbery with help from locals or police. After resolving the urgent issues, all regroup to attend the ceremony.

### **Time and Movement:**

Distances are covered on foot, bicycles, or available vehicles, calculated using approximate speed and distance logic.

### **Conclusion:**

All tasks are resolved efficiently with proper coordination, logical division of duties, and time management.

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## **COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID**

Mistake	Why to Avoid It
Ignoring time and distance	Makes your plan unrealistic
Dominating discussion	Shows poor team spirit
Not prioritizing problems	Leads to inefficient solutions
Being over-detailed	Misses the bigger picture
Staying silent	Misses an opportunity to show OLQs

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## **PRACTICE TIPS**

- Solve 10–15 GPE practice scenarios regularly.
- Focus on improving time-bound planning and group communication.
- Record your mock GPE discussions to analyze your voice clarity, logic, and participation.
- Learn basic emergency handling (first aid, fire safety, communication with authorities).

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## **CONCLUSION**

Success in GPE is not just about creating the best plan but about **how you think, interact, and contribute to your group's decision**. Show leadership, be cooperative, and stay composed under pressure. Practicing regularly and focusing on core officer-like qualities will ensure you perform well.

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **Q1. What is the main objective of GPE in the SSB interview?**

The main objective is to test your logical thinking, teamwork, leadership, and ability to handle multiple challenges under pressure.

**Q2. Can we use Hindi during the GPE discussion?**

English is preferred, but occasional Hindi is acceptable if needed to communicate better.

**Q3. Is volunteering for the final narration important?**

Yes, it reflects confidence and leadership. If you are clear about the final plan, volunteering is a good choice.

**Q4. Do we need to solve all the problems in the GPE?**

Yes, but priority should be given to critical ones. Your plan should be balanced and realistic.

**Q5. How long is the GPE task usually?**

The entire exercise, including map reading, individual writing, discussion, and final narration, takes around 30 to 40 minutes.

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