

Vanguard Examinations

Formerly The Poetry Vanguard

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS from Spring 2011



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THE POETRY VANGUARD was founded in 1980 by the Cheltenham teacher, Enid Barraclough, when The Poetry Society ceased their poetry speaking examinations. At that time only poetry examinations were offered. Over the years the syllabus has grown to cover a variety of disciplines in performance and communication. Hence the change of name in 2007 to **VANGUARD EXAMINATIONS**.

Examinations are available in the following subjects:

Poetry Speaking
Poetry Reading
Prose Reading
Poetry and Prose*
Bible Reading
Shakespeare Solo
Shakespeare Duologue
Choral/Group Speaking
Solo Acting
Duologue Acting
Group Acting
Spoken English & Public Speaking
* New addition to Syllabus

VANGUARD EXAMINATIONS aim to:

Provide opportunities for candidates, including those with special needs,
to develop skills in performance and communication
Encourage candidates to fulfil their capabilities
Broaden candidates' experience in poetry, drama and literature
Improve standards of spoken communication

Our well qualified and experienced examiners encourage the candidates to develop confidence and grow in self esteem while assessing their performances in a positive and constructive way.

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Please contact the Registrar if you have any queries.

REGULATIONS

- 1. Requests for an Examination Session** at a Centre or School should be sent to the Registrar not less than **8 weeks** before the proposed date. **Earlier application is essential for dates near the end of school terms as these are very busy times.** Entries must be received at least **4 weeks** before the Examination date.
- 2. Examinations can be arranged at any Centre or School** providing the number of candidates is considered sufficient. Please contact the Registrar.
3. Candidates may enter any section within the age range indicated. Exceptions can be made – please specify reasons.
- 4. Absence through illness** – Candidates may re-enter at the next session at a charge of £5.00 for administration.
5. In all sections the **Pass** mark is 65, **Merit** 75 – 84, **Distinction** 85 – 89, **Honours** 90+.
- 6. Gold Medal.** In the Senior, Adult & Advanced grades this examination may only be entered when the candidate has passed the appropriate Silver Medal.
7. The **report forms** will be sent in advance to the teacher/organiser. Each candidate will take their report form into the examination.
The **results** of the exams will be available at the end of each day. Teachers are advised that this arrangement gives examiners the opportunity to check their reports more fully.
The examiner will bring the **certificates** on the Examination day for the Teacher or Centre Organiser to complete and give to the Candidates on that day or by their own arrangement.
Badges and Medals will also be brought by the Examiner for the teacher to give to the candidates when they wish. Any medals not awarded should be returned to the Examiner.
- 8. Group Work.** One Certificate will be awarded per group, but if additional certificates are required these can be obtained from the Registrar at a charge of **£1.00** each. This request should be made at the time of entry. **No medals** will be awarded for Group work, but the certificates will show **silver or gold standard**.
- 9. Vanguard Examinations** welcomes candidates of all ages and abilities, including those who have particular needs. Disability, including dyslexia, need not be a handicap. Candidates can work from the syllabus and take grades according to ability with no age limitation.
Teachers are requested to enclose with their entries information about any particular difficulty so that it can be taken into consideration by the examiner, who will help and encourage the candidate. Extra time can be given to prepare sight reading.
- 10. Discussion:** In all grades and Medals beyond Junior Grade 1 candidates will be expected to discuss the selections with the Examiner. Knowledge of the chosen writers and increasing understanding of technique and artistry will be looked for through the grades. **Technical questions will be asked in the higher grades of each section.**

11. **Candidates must bring copies of ALL their selections** with them for the use of the Examiner. In Prose Reading exams **two** copies of the chosen books are requested.

12. **Introductions:** Candidates should announce their pieces with titles and authors. Fuller, but not lengthy, introductions are expected in the Prose Reading and Acting sections.

13. In all **Acting** examinations **no scenery is permitted and props should be kept to a minimum. Full costume is not allowed**, but long skirts may be worn and accessories such as hats, scarves, shawls etc. as appropriate.

14. **Examination Room:** Teachers should please ensure that the room is suitable in all respects with a comfortable chair and table for the Examiner and sufficient space for Duologue and Group work if such examinations are to be presented.

15. **Please complete Entry forms carefully.** In the SECTION column make it clear whether the entry is for Poetry Speaking, Poetry Reading, Prose Reading etc.

16. **ENTRY FEES:** A separate list is enclosed with each syllabus. Extra copies are available on application to the Registrar.
Teachers should please send **ONE OVERALL CHEQUE** for the total amount of entry fees.

17. **TIMING:** A “*Total time allowance*” appears by the title for each examination in the syllabus. **Teachers/organisers should use these timings to work out their exam timetable**, allowing some contingency time, particularly when there is a long run of short examinations. Please note that the minimum time for the early grades is now 10 minutes.

THE EXAMINER’S DECISION MUST BE CONSIDERED FINAL.

POETRY SPEAKING

Introductory and Junior Preliminary (4 - 7 years) *Total time allowance 10 minutes*

Speak from memory TWO own choice poems, no longer than one minute each.

In these grades each poem will be marked out of 45 with 10 marks for conversation.

JUNIOR GRADES (7 – 11 years)

Junior Grade 1

Total time allowance 10 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **W. de la Mare** or **Jean Kenward**
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 3 minutes max.

Junior Grade 2

Total time allowance 10 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Lilian Moore** or **Spike Milligan**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 3 minutes max.

Junior Grade 3

Total time allowance 10 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Berlie Doherty** or **Gervase Phinn**
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 4 minutes max.

DISCUSSION in Junior Grades 1, 2 & 3 will cover meaning of words in the poems, some knowledge of the poets and their works and the importance of clear speech.

Marking: In these grades each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

Junior Silver Badge

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Clare Bevan** or **Wes Magee**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem by a different poet on a **SIMILAR THEME** to that of the selected poem.

Total speaking time 5 minutes max.

DISCUSSION: As for grades above plus the candidate should understand the mood, content and style of the poems and be able to talk about **rhyme and rhythm**, as well as having some knowledge of the poets and their work. They should also have a basic understanding of how speech is made and used expressively.

Marking: In this grade each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES (11 years to 14 years)

Intermediate Grade 1

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Richard Edwards** or **Kit Wright**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 4 minutes max.

Intermediate Grade 2

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Edward Lear** or **Brian Moses**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 4 minutes max.

Intermediate Grade 3

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Judith Nicholls** or **Pie Corbett**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 5 minutes max.

DISCUSSION in Intermediate Grades 1, 2 & 3 will cover the vocabulary and structure of the poems, knowledge of the writers and their work. Candidates should also know how the voice is produced and how to use it effectively.

Marking: In these grades each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

Intermediate Silver Medal

Total time allowance 20 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Roger McGough** or **John Clare**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem by a different poet on a **SIMILAR THEME** to that of the selected poem.

Total speaking time 6 minutes max.

DISCUSSION: As for Grades above. Also the candidate should understand the mood, content and style of the poems and be able to talk about **metre and rhythm**. Questions will also be asked about breathing and voice production, the use of emphasis and modulation.

Marking: In this grade each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

POETRY SPEAKING

SENIOR GRADES (14 to 17 years)

Senior Grade 1

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Brian Patten** or **Jackie Kay**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.
Total speaking time 5 minutes max.

Senior Grade 2

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **John Agard** or **Ogden Nash**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.
Total speaking time 5 minutes max.)

Senior Grade 3

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Benjamin Zephaniah** or
Edward Thomas.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.
Total speaking time 6 minutes max.

DISCUSSION in Senior Grades 1, 2 & 3 will cover vocabulary and structure, the poets' styles and use of language, together with knowledge of their lives and works. Candidates should have a full knowledge of breathing, voice production, modulation and the use of pause and emphasis.

Marking: In these grades each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

Senior Silver Medal

Total time allowance 25 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Seamus Heaney** or
Christina Rossetti.
2. Speak from memory an own choice **sonnet**
Total speaking time 6 minutes max.
3. Read at sight a poem chosen by the examiner.

DISCUSSION: As for Senior Grades 1, 2 & 3 plus the candidate should have researched into the forms and history of sonnets.

Marking: Each poem will be out of 30, sight reading 20 with 20 marks for discussion.

Senior Gold Medal

Total time allowance 30 minutes

1. Present a recital of memorised poetry on an own choice theme or from the works of a poet. (Total speaking time 12 minutes max.)
There must be an introduction, linking commentary and a conclusion on the chosen theme or poet. (See NOTE TO TEACHERS page 8.)
2. Read at sight a poem chosen by the Examiner

DISCUSSION will be on the work presented, and the **techniques required**. **The examiner may also bring up subjects covered in previous grades**

Marking: The performance of the poems will be marked out of 50, presentation out of 10, sight reading out of 20 and discussion out of 20.

ADULT GRADES (18 years and over.)

Adult Grade 1

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **William Blake** or **Wendy Cope**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 5 minutes max.

Adult Grade 2

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Maya Angelou** or **John Keats**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 5 minutes max.

Adult Grade 3

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Robert Frost** or **Jenny Joseph**.
2. Speak from memory an own choice poem.

Total speaking time 6 minutes max.

DISCUSSION in Adult Grades 1, 2 & 3 will cover vocabulary and structure, the poets' styles and use of language, together with knowledge of their lives and works. Candidates should have a full knowledge of breathing, voice production, modulation and the use of pause and emphasis.

Marking: In these grades each poem will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion

Adult Silver Medal

Total time allowance 25 minutes

1. Speak from memory a poem by either **Wilfred Owen** or **John Betjeman**.
2. Speak from memory a poem written by a poet born since 1960.

Total speaking time 7 minutes max.

3. Read at sight a poem chosen by the examiner.

DISCUSSION: As for Adult Grades 1, 2 & 3 plus the candidate should know about other poets contemporary with their chosen ones. **Verse forms will also be discussed and questions asked on technique.**

Marking: Each poem will be out of 30, sight reading 20 with 20 marks for discussion.

Adult Gold Medal

Total time allowance 30 minutes

1. Speak from memory poems chosen from the works of one of the **Poets Laureate**. (Total speaking time 10 minutes max.)
2. Read at sight a poem chosen by the Examiner.
3. Speak about the poet and his/her work. (3 minutes max.)

DISCUSSION: Questions will be asked on all aspects of technique and the candidate should have a thorough knowledge of the poets' style, language, life and works as well as their literary era and contemporaries. (See NOTE TO TEACHERS page 8.)

Marking: The poems will be marked out of 40, sight reading out of 20, the talk out of 20 with 20 marks for discussion.

POETRY READING

Grades as for Poetry Speaking – Except Medals.

The timing for these examinations is the same as the equivalent Poetry Speaking Grades.

For each Grade:

1. One poem of the candidate's own choice to be read.
2. One poem of the examiner's choice to be read at sight.

The chosen poem should increase in difficulty and length according to the grade. For guidance in length refer to the poetry speaking grades.

Discussion: The requirements will be the same as the parallel Poetry Speaking Grades.

Marking: Each poem will be marked out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

POETRY READING MEDALS

The exams will take the form of a poetry reading **Recital**, chosen either from the work of one poet or on a theme. The type of audience should be specified and the programme linked in an interesting way. Audio-visual material may be used where appropriate.

DISCUSSION will be about the programme and the poet/s, verse forms and vocal technique.

Junior Silver Badge, Intermediate Silver Medal	10 minutes for the poems. <i>Total time allowance 20 minutes</i>
Senior and Adult Silver Medal	12 minutes for the poems. <i>Total time allowance 25 minutes</i>
Senior Gold Medal	15 minutes for the poems. <i>Total time allowance 30 minutes</i>
Adult Gold Medal	20 minutes for the poems. <i>Total time allowance 35 minutes</i>

Marking – out of 50 for the poems, 25 for presentation and 25 for discussion.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Take care not to choose too much material. On occasions Examiners have commented that the number of pieces selected has made candidates rush through their programmes. Do encourage your students to pace their presentations to allow the “audience” to follow and fully appreciate the recital.

PROSE READING

Grades as for Poetry Speaking – except for Medals

The timing for these examinations is the same as the equivalent Poetry Speaking grades.

1. A prepared passage to be read from a book of the candidate's own choice.

Time limits	Junior Grades	2 minutes
(ex a brief introduction)	Intermediate	3 minutes
	Senior & Adult	4 minutes
2. A passage chosen by the examiner from the same book to be read.

In Junior grades the passage will come from the same chapter (or adjacent pages) as the candidate's selection.

In all grades a brief introduction to the passage is required and presentation skills are important.

Discussion: The candidate should have read the whole book, have knowledge of the author and be aware of the skills required for reading aloud.

Marking: Each passage will be marked out of 40 and discussion out of 20.

PROSE READING MEDALS

Junior Silver Badge, Intermediate, Senior & Adult Silver Medals

1. TWO contrasting passages from one book of the candidate's choice.

Junior Silver Badge 4 minutes reading time.

Total time allowance 15 minutes

Intermediate Silver 5 minutes reading time.

Total time allowance 20 minutes

Senior Silver 6 minutes reading time.

Total time allowance 25 minutes

Adult Silver 8 minutes reading time.

Total time allowance 30 minutes

2. A sight reading passage chosen by the examiner from **another** book.

In all grades introductions to the passages are required and presentation skills are important.

Discussion: The candidate should have read the whole book, have knowledge of other books by the author and be aware of the skills required for reading aloud including breathing and voice production.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen passage, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

Senior Gold Medal

Total time limit 30 minutes

1. A prepared passage to be read from a book written before 1900.
2. A prepared passage to be read from a novel written since 1900.

Total reading time 8 minutes

3. A sight reading passage chosen by the examiner from **another** book.

Introductions to the passages are required and presentation skills are important.

Discussion: The candidate should have read both books, have knowledge of other books by the authors, and be aware of the skills required for reading aloud including breathing and voice production.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen passage, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

Adult Gold Medal

Total time limit 30 minutes

1. A prepared passage to be read from a prose work written before 1800.
2. A prepared passage to be read from a book written since 1900.
The styles of the chosen readings should be contrasted.
One must be substantially dialogue and the other either narrative or descriptive. Total reading time 8 minutes.
3. A sight reading passage taken from **another** book chosen by the examiner.
Introductions to the passages are required and presentation skills are important.
4. **Discussion:** The candidate should have read both books, have knowledge of other books by the authors, and be aware of the skills required for reading aloud including breathing and voice production.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen passage, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

POETRY AND PROSE

In the numbered grades each exam will consist of a poem from the choices set for the Poetry Speaking syllabus and an own choice prose passage.
In all grades the poem must be memorised and the prose passage can be either memorised or read.

Junior Grades 1, 2 & 3

Time allowance 15 minutes

1. A poem selected from those set for equivalent Junior Poetry Speaking grade.
2. An own choice prose passage (time limit 2 minutes).

Discussion in the Junior Grades will cover meaning of words in the poem and prose passage, some knowledge of the writers and their work and the importance of clear speech. Also the candidate should have read the whole book and be aware of the skills required for reading aloud.

Marking: 40 marks for the poem, 40 marks for the passage and 20 for discussion.

Junior Silver Badge

Time allowance 20 minutes

1. Speak a poem by either **Clare Bevan** or **Wes Magee**.
2. Speak or read an own choice prose passage on a similar theme to that of the chosen poem. (time limit 2 minutes).
3. Sight read a short prose passage chosen by the examiner.
4. **Discussion:** As above for Junior Grades plus a knowledge of phrasing, rhythm and rhyme.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen piece, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

Intermediate Grades 1, 2 & 3

Time allowance 20 minutes

1. A poem selected from those set for equivalent Intermediate Poetry Speaking grade.
2. An own choice prose passage (time limit 3 minutes).

POETRY AND PROSE

Discussion: In the Intermediate Grades the candidate should show an understanding of the mood, content, style and structure of the poem and the prose passage and have knowledge of the writers and their work. Also the candidate will be expected to discuss the techniques required for performance including breathing and voice production.

Marking: 40 marks for the poem, 40 marks for the passage and 20 for discussion.

Intermediate Silver Medal

Time allowance 25 minutes

1. Speak a poem by either **Roger McGough** or **John Clare**.
2. Speak or read an own choice prose passage on a similar theme to that of the chosen poem (time limit 3 minutes).
3. Sight read a poem chosen by the examiner
4. **Discussion:** As above for Intermediate grades plus a knowledge of rhythm, rhyme and metre.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen piece, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

Advanced Grades 1, 2 & 3

Time allowance 20 minutes

1. Speak a poem selected from those set for equivalent Adult Poetry Speaking grade.
2. Speak or read an own choice prose passage (time limit 3 minutes).

Discussion: In the Advanced Grades the candidate should show an understanding of the mood, content, style and structure of the poem and the prose passage and have knowledge of the writers and their work. Also the candidate will be expected to discuss the techniques required for performance including breathing and voice production.

Marking: 40 marks for the poem, 40 marks for the passage and 20 for discussion.

Advanced Silver Medal

Time allowance 30 minutes

1. Speak a poem by any Poet Laureate (time limit 2 minutes).
2. Speak or read an own choice prose passage on a similar theme to that of the chosen poem (time limit 3 minutes 30 secs).
3. Sight read a sonnet chosen by the examiner.
4. **Discussion:** As above for Advanced grades plus a knowledge of rhythm, rhyme and metre. Also the candidate should have researched into the forms and history of the sonnet.

Marking: 30 marks each chosen piece, 20 marks for sight reading, 20 for discussion.

Advanced Gold Medal

Time allowance 35 minutes

1. Present a recital of poetry and prose of no more than 20 minutes on an own choice theme or from the work of a writer. The candidate may choose to speak from memory or to read the material or mix both skills.
An introduction, linking commentary and a conclusion on the chosen theme or writer must be included in the performance time.
2. Sight read a prose passage **and** a poem chosen by the examiner.
3. **Discussion** will be on the work presented and the writers' styles, language, life and works. Verse forms will also be discussed and the candidate should have a full knowledge of breathing, voice production, modulation and the techniques required for effective performance.

Marking: The performance of the recital will be marked out of 50, presentation out of 10, each sight reading out of 10 and discussion out of 20.

BIBLE & SACRED TEXT READING
BIBLE AND SACRED TEXT READING

BIBLE READING

Grades and timing as for Poetry Speaking

For all Grades (except Gold Medals) **TWO** passages are to be read, one chosen by the candidate and one chosen by the examiner from adjacent chapters of the same book.

All grades and Medals will include relevant **discussion. Marking:** 40 marks for each passage and 20 for discussion. (Except Gold Medals – see below*).

Junior Grades: A prepared passage to be read from any translation of the Bible. (time limit 2mins).

Junior Silver Badge: The prepared passage should be from the **Gospel of St. Mark** (time limit 2 mins).

Intermediate, Senior & Adult Grades: A prepared passage to be read from any translation of the Bible (time limit 3mins).

Intermediate Silver Medal: The prepared passage should be chosen from **Genesis** (time limit 3 mins).

Senior Silver Medal: The prepared passage should be chosen from the **First Book of Kings** (time limit 3 mins).

Adult Silver Medal: The prepared passage should be chosen from **The Book of Psalms** (time limit 3 mins).

Senior and Adult Gold Medals: The candidate should choose one Old Testament and one New Testament passage, one of which must be from the **Authorised Version** (total time limit 6 mins).

The examiner will choose a sight reading passage from the candidate's choice of Book.

***Marking:** 30 for each passage, 20 for sight reading and 20 for discussion.

SACRED TEXT READING

Grades, time limits and marking as for Bible reading.

Choice of material should come from religious writing of the candidate's own faith and should be appropriate to age and examination level and spoken in English.

All grades and Medals will include relevant **discussion. Marking:** 40 marks for each passage and 20 for discussion. (Except Gold Medals – see below*).

Senior and Adult Gold Medals: Two contrasting passages should be chosen (total time limit 6 mins).

***Marking:** 30 for each passage, 20 for sight reading and 20 for discussion.

CHORAL/GROUP SPEAKING

CHORAL/GROUP SPEAKING

Grades as Verse Speaking

The Group to speak from memory two contrasting poems.

Time limits:- Junior and Intermediate 6 minutes
Total time allowance 15 minutes.
Senior and Adult 8 minutes
Total time allowance 15 mins.

Marking: 50 for each poem.

Silver Standard (Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Adult)

The Group to speak from memory a programme of verse and prose on a chosen theme.

Time limits:- Junior and Intermediate 10 minutes.
Total time allowance 15 minutes.
Senior and Adult 15 minutes.
Total time allowance 20 minutes.

Marking: 20 for choice and balance of programme & 80 for performance.

Gold Standard (Senior and Adult)

The Group to speak from memory a programme of verse and prose on a chosen theme.

Time limits:- Senior and Adult 20 minutes.
Total time allowance 30 minutes.

Marking: 20 for choice and balance of programme & 80 for performance.

Note to teachers: The group members should be told to expect some informal conversation with the examiner, but this will not be marked.

ACTING

The number of Junior Acting examinations has been extended to allow candidates as young as 8 years to enter. To give greater breadth in choice, mime, improvisation or “dramatised poetry” are offered as second options in the Junior and Intermediate sections.

The former Senior and Adult sections have been combined in one section, Advanced Acting, for candidates from 15 years old to adult. In all acting examinations no scenery is permitted and props should be kept to a minimum. Full costume is not allowed, but long skirts may be worn and accessories such as hats, scarves, shawls etc. as appropriate.

These examinations may be taken as solo or duologue

Junior Grade 1 (min age 8 years.) *Total time allowance 10 mins solo/15 mins duo*

1. Perform one short scene taken from a scripted play or adapted from a novel.
2. Perform a mime or dramatised poem.
Total performing time 5 minutes maximum.
3. Discuss the characters and plots/stories.

Junior Grade 2 (min age 9 years.) *Total time allowance 12 mins solo./15 mins duo*

1. Perform one short scene taken from a scripted play or adapted from a novel.
2. Perform a mime or dramatised poem.
Total performing time 6 minutes maximum.
3. Discuss the characters and plots/stories.

Junior Grade 3 (min age 10 years) *Total time allowance 15 mins solo/ 20 mins duo*

1. Perform one short scene taken from a scripted play or adapted from a novel.
2. Perform a mime, prepared improvisation or dramatised poem.
Total performing time 7 minutes maximum.
3. Discuss the characters and plots/stories.

In Duologue Junior grades 1 to 3, in response to requests, item 2 can be a Solo for each candidate.

Marking: In grades 1, 2 & 3 each item will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

Junior Silver Badge (min age 11 years.) *Total time allowance 20 mins solo/30 mins duo*

1. Perform **two** contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays or adapted from novels. Total acting time 8 minutes maximum
2. Perform a mime, prepared improvisation or dramatised poem
(time limit 3 mins).
3. Discuss the characters and plots/stories

In Duologue Junior Silver examinations, in response to requests, one scene in item 1 can be a Solo performance for each candidate.

Marking: In this grade each scene will be marked out of 30, item 2 out of 20 with 20 marks for discussion.

ACTING

Intermediate Grade 1 (min age 12 years) *Total time allowance 15 mins solo/20 mins duo*

1/2. Either perform two contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays or adapted from novels,
or one scene as above plus a mime or prepared improvisation.

Total performing time 7 minutes maximum.

3. Discuss the characters and plots/stories.

Intermediate Grade 2 (min age 13 years.) *Total time allowance 15 mins solo/20 mins duo*

1/2. Either perform two contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays
or one scene as above plus a mime or prepared improvisation.

Total performing time 8 minutes maximum.

3. Discuss the characters and plays and have knowledge of the playwright/s.

In Duologue examinations, in response to requests, item 2 can be a Solo performance for each candidate.

Marking: In grades **1 & 2** each performance will be out of 40 with 20 marks for discussion.

Intermediate Silver Medal (min age 14 years.) *Total time allowance 20 mins solo/
30 mins duo*

1/2. Perform **two** contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays.

Total acting time 9 minutes maximum.

3. Perform a prepared mime or improvisation based on a character or characters from one of the chosen scenes (time limit 3 minutes).

4. Discuss the characters, plots and writers, have knowledge of the playwright/s and show awareness of stage technique.

In Duologue examinations, in response to requests, item 2 can be a Solo performance for each candidate.

Marking: In this grade each scene will be out of 35, mime or improvisation out of 10 with 20 marks for discussion.

ADVANCED ACTING

For candidates from 15 years to adult

Advanced Grade 1*Total time allowance 25 mins solo/ 30 mins duo*

1. Perform two contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays.
Total acting time 10 minutes maximum.
2. Perform a prepared mime or improvisation on a theme which links to one of the chosen scenes. (time limit 3 minutes).
3. The candidate should show knowledge of stage technique and discuss the characters, plots and writers.

Advanced Grade 2*Total time allowance 25 mins solo/30 mins duo.*

1. Perform two contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays.
Total acting time 10 minutes maximum.
2. Perform an improvisation on a subject given by the examiner 15 minutes before the examination. (time limit 3 minutes)
3. The candidate should show knowledge of stage technique and discuss the characters, plots and writers.

Marking: In these grades each scene will be out of 35, the mime or improvisation out of 10 with 20 marks for **discussion**.

Advanced Silver Medal*Total time allowance 30 mins solo/35 mins duo.*

1. Perform two contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays.
Total acting time 10 minutes maximum.
2. Perform a prepared mime or improvisation based on a character or characters from one of the chosen scenes.
3. Sight read a short speech chosen by the examiner.
4. The candidate should show knowledge of stage technique and discuss the characters, plays and writers.

Marking: In this grade each scene will be out of 30, the mime or improvisation out of 10, sight reading out of 10 with 20 marks for **discussion**.

Advanced Gold Medal*Total time allowance 35 mins solo/ 45 mins duo.*

1. Perform three contrasting scenes taken from scripted plays, one written in verse, two own choice. The selected scenes must come from different historical periods.
Total acting time 18 minutes maximum.
2. Perform an impromptu improvisation on a subject given by the examiner.
1 minute "thinking time". (time limit 3 minutes).
3. Sight read a speech chosen by the examiner.
4. The candidate should show knowledge of stage technique and discuss the characters, plots and other plays by the chosen playwrights.

Marking: In this grade each scene will be out of 20, improvisation out of 10, sight reading out of 10, with 20 marks for **discussion**.

GROUP DRAMA EXAMINATIONS

Groups should consist of a minimum of three performers.

No scenery is permitted and props should be kept to a minimum. Full costume is not allowed, but long skirts may be worn and accessories such as hats, scarves, shawls etc. as appropriate.

In all these examinations candidates may play roles of the opposite gender to their own. All scripted scenes must be taken from published plays or adapted from novels.

In each grade there is a choice between scripted work and a performance on a theme chosen by the group. This option can include verse, prose, improvisation, mime, movement, dance, music (live or recorded) and sound effects.

Titles must be announced clearly before each performance.

MARKING: When one scene or programme is performed the mark is out of 100. When two scenes or extracts are performed the mark for each will be out of 50.

JUNIOR GRADES (7 – 11 years)

Introductory

Total time allowance 20 mins

- Either:** Perform a scene from a scripted play or dramatised from a novel.
Time limit up to 10 minutes.
- Or:** Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
Time limit up to 10 minutes.

Grade 1

Total time allowance 25 mins

- Either:** Perform a scene from a scripted play or dramatised from a novel.
Time limit up to 12 minutes.
- Or:** Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
Time limit up to 12 minutes.

Grade 2

Total time allowance 30 mins

- Either:** Perform two short contrasting scenes, from scripted plays or dramatised from novels. (all members must perform in both scenes)
Time limit up to 15 minutes.
- Or:** Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
Time limit up to 15 minutes.

MARKING: When one scene or programme is performed the mark is out of 100. When two scenes or extracts are performed the mark for each will be out of 50.

Note to teachers: The group members should be told to expect some informal conversation with the examiner, but this will not be marked.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES (11 – 15 years)

- Grade 3** *Total time allowance 30 mins*
Either: Perform a scene, or scenes, from a scripted play or dramatised from a novel.
 Time limit up to 15 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
 Time limit up to 15 minutes.

- Grade 4** *Total time allowance 35 mins*
Either: Perform a scene, or scenes, from a scripted play or dramatised from a novel.
 Time limit up to 20 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
 Time limit up to 20 minutes.

- Grade 5** *Total time allowance 40 mins*
Either: Perform two contrasting scenes, from scripted plays or dramatised from novels. (all members must perform in both scenes)
 Time limit up to 25 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
 Time limit up to 25 minutes.

ADVANCED GRADES (any age from 15 upwards)

- Grade 6** *Total time allowance 40 mins*
Either: Perform a scene, or scenes, from a scripted play or dramatised from a novel.
 Time limit up to 25 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on a theme chosen by the group.
 Time limit up to 25 minutes.

- Grade 7** *Total time allowance 45 mins*
Either: Perform two contrasting extracts from two different plays, one written before 1900. (all members must perform in both scenes)
 Time limit up to 30 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on the theme of “Memories” or “Barriers”.
 Time limit up to 30 minutes.

- Grade 8** *Total time allowance 50 mins*
Either: Perform two contrasting extracts from two different plays, one written before 1800. (all members must perform in both scenes)
 Time limit up to 35 minutes.
Or: Perform a programme based on the theme of “Man is his own Worst Enemy” or “Once Upon a Time....”.
 Time limit up to 35 minutes.

MARKING for Intermediate & Advanced : When one scene or programme is performed the mark is out of 100. When two scenes or extracts are performed the mark for each will be out of 50. **Note to teachers:** The group members should be told to expect some informal conversation with the examiner, but this will not be marked.

SHAKESPEARE

**FOR ALL SHAKESPEARE EXAMINATIONS A FULL TEXT OF THE CHOSEN PLAY MUST BE PROVIDED FOR REFERENCE IN DISCUSSION.
A KNOWLEDGE OF BLANK VERSE IS EXPECTED AT ALL LEVELS.
ALL SELECTIONS TO BE SPOKEN FROM MEMORY**

In all these examinations no scenery is permitted and props should be kept to a minimum. Full costume is not allowed, but long skirts may be worn and accessories such as hats, scarves, shawls etc. as appropriate.

In all these examinations candidates may play roles of the opposite gender to their own.

SOLO

These examinations start at Intermediate level for candidates of 11 years and above. Candidate to perform from memory ONE speech increasing in length and maturity.

Intermediate Grade 1 - time limit 3 mins. *Total time allowance 10 minutes.*

Intermediate Grade 2 - time limit 4 mins. *Total time allowance 12 minutes.*

Intermediate Grade 3 - time limit 5 mins. *Total time allowance 15 minutes.*

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen play.

Marking: The speech will be out of 80 and 20 marks allocated for discussion.

Intermediate Silver (min age 14 years) *Total time allowance 20 minutes.*

1. A speech (time limit 5 mins)
2. A Shakespeare sonnet.
3. Discussion

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen play and the structure and speaking of the sonnet.

Marking: The speech and the sonnet will each be out of 40 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

ADVANCED SOLO

For candidates from 15 years to adult

Advanced Grade 1 *Total time allowance 15 minutes*

1. Two contrasting speeches (total time limit 7 mins).
2. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 40 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Grade 2 *Total time allowance 25minutes*

1. Two contrasting speeches (total time limit 7 mins).
2. A Shakespeare sonnet.
3. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the structure and speaking of the sonnet.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 30, the sonnet out of 20 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Silver Medal

Total time allowance 30 minutes

1. Two contrasting speeches (total time limit 8 mins).
2. A Shakespeare sonnet.
3. A speech from one of the chosen plays to be read at sight.
4. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the structure and speaking of the sonnet. The candidate should also have knowledge of Shakespeare and the Elizabethan theatre.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 25, the sonnet will out of 20, the sight reading out of 10 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Gold Medal

Total time allowance 35 minutes

1. Two contrasting speeches (total time limit 10 mins).
2. An extract from Shakespeare's verse other than a sonnet (time limit 3 mins).
3. A speech from a Shakespeare play of the examiner's choice to be read at sight.
4. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the structure and speaking of the verse extract. The candidate should also have knowledge of Shakespeare, his contemporaries and the Elizabethan theatre.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 25, the verse extract will out of 20, the sight reading out of 10 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

DUOLOGUE

These examinations start at Intermediate level for candidates of 11 years and above. Candidate to perform from memory ONE scene increasing in length and maturity.

Intermediate Grade 1 - time limit 4 mins. *Total time allowance 10 minutes.*

Intermediate Grade 2 - time limit 5 mins. *Total time allowance 12 minutes.*

Intermediate Grade 3 - time limit 6 mins. *Total time allowance 15 minutes.*

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen play.

Marking: The scene will be out of 80 and 20 marks allocated for discussion.

Intermediate Silver

Time allowance 20 minutes

1. A scene (time limit 5 mins).
2. Each candidate to speak a different prepared Shakespeare sonnet.
3. **Discussion** will cover the characters and plot of the chosen play plus the structure of Shakespearean sonnets.

Marking: The scene and the sonnet will each be out of 40 with 20 marks allocated for discussion.

ADVANCED DUOLOGUE

For candidates from 15 years to adult

Advanced Grade 1

Total time allowance 20 minutes

1. Two contrasting scenes (total time limit 8 mins)
2. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 40 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Grade 2

Total time allowance 25 minutes

1. Two contrasting scenes (total time limit 9 mins).
2. Each candidate to speak a different Shakespeare sonnet.
3. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the structure and speaking of the sonnet.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 30, the sonnet out of 20 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Silver Medal

Total time allowance 35 minutes

1. Two contrasting scenes (total time limit 10 mins).
2. Each candidate to speak a different Shakespeare sonnet.
3. A speech from one of the chosen plays to be read at sight.
4. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the history, structure and speaking of the sonnet. The candidates should also have knowledge of Shakespeare and the Elizabethan theatre.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 25, the sonnet will out of 20, the sight reading out of 10 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

Advanced Gold Medal

Total time allowance 40 minutes

1. Two contrasting scenes (total time limit 10 mins).
2. Each candidate will speak a different extract from Shakespeare's verse other than a sonnet (time limit 3 mins).
3. The candidates will read at sight a duologue scene from a Shakespeare play of the examiner's choice.
4. Discussion.

Discussion will cover the character and plot of the chosen plays and the structure and speaking of the verse extract. The candidates should also have knowledge of Shakespeare, his contemporaries and the Elizabethan theatre.

Marking: The scenes will each be out of 25, the verse extract will out of 20, the sight reading out of 10 and 20 will be allocated for discussion.

SPOKEN ENGLISH

JUNIOR GRADES

In these **Junior** exams a **talk** means a short informal address and **conversation** means a shared exchange between examiner and candidate. In preparing for conversation, candidates should be encouraged to respond fully, avoiding “yes” or “no” answers.

Local accents and dialects are acceptable provided the speech is clear and easily understood.

If required visual aids and equipment are the candidate’s responsibility.

We regret power point presentations and live animals, as visual aids, are not permitted.

Introductory (under 7 years)*Total time allowance 10 minutes*

1. Bring either a book or an object and talk about it for up to 2 minutes.
2. Conversation with the examiner.

Marking: 50 for each section.

Junior Grade 1 (minimum age 7)*Total time allowance 10 minutes*

1. Bring either a book or an object and talk about it for up to 2 minutes.
2. A talk about a special memory or person (family, friend, teacher etc.)
(up to 2 minutes)
3. Conversation based on 1 and 2.

Marking: 40 for each talk and 20 for conversation.

Junior Grade 2 (minimum age 8)*Total time allowance 15 minutes*

1. Bring either a book or an object and talk about it for up to 2 minutes.
2. A talk about a hobby or a pet. (up to 2 minutes)
3. Explain the importance of clear speech.
4. Conversation based on 1, 2 & 3.

Marking: 30 each for 1 & 2, 20 each for 3 & 4.

Junior Grade 3 (minimum age 9)*Total time allowance 15 minutes*

1. An instructive talk on either a recipe, the rules of a game or directions for a journey (time limit 2.5 mins).
2. Tell a story with the title “Three Wishes” or “The Broken Window”
(time limit 2.5 mins).
3. Explain how to bring words alive.
4. Conversation based on 1, 2 & 3.

Marking: 30 each for 1 & 2, 20 each for 3 & 4.

Junior Silver Badge (minimum age 10)*Total time allowance 20 minutes*

1. A talk on a current news item (time limit 2.5 mins).
2. A talk of the candidate’s own choice (time limit 3 mins).
3. Explain how to give an effective talk including presentation and the importance of clear and expressive speech.
4. Conversation based on 1, 2 & 3.

Marking: 30 each for 1 & 2, 20 each for 3 & 4.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES from age 11.

(If a candidate has taken Junior Silver he or she can skip Grade 1 Intermediate as it is intended for those who have not taken a Spoken English exam before.)

A **talk** means a short informal address and **conversation** means a shared exchange between examiner and candidate. Local accents and dialects are acceptable provided the speech is clear and easily understood.

If required visual aids and equipment, including powerpoint, are the candidate's responsibility. Live animals are not permitted.

Intermediate Grade 1

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. Write and present your own CV (time limit 2.5 mins).
2. A talk on a hobby or personal interest (time limit 2.5 mins).
3. Conversation based on 1 & 2.

Marking: 40 for each talk and 20 for conversation.

Intermediate Grade 2

Total time allowance 15 minutes

1. A talk on either an aspect of "The Natural World" or "Food" (time limit 3 mins).
2. A talk on an own choice subject (time limit 3 mins).
3. Conversation based on 1 & 2 and also covering how to achieve clear communication.

Marking: 40 for each talk and 20 for conversation.

Intermediate Grade 3

Total time allowance 20 minutes

1. An informative talk on either a healthy diet or a leisure activity (time limit 3 mins).
2. A talk on an own choice subject (time limit 3 mins).
3. Give advice to a friend who has to speak in public for the first time.
4. Conversation based on 1, 2 & 3.

Marking: 35 each for 1 & 2, 10 for 3 and 20 for conversation.

Intermediate Silver Medal

Total time allowance 25 minutes

1. A talk, *with a specific audience in mind*, (time limit 3 mins) on one of the following:
 - a) Do children need two parents?
 - b) Should boys and girls be educated separately?
 - c) School Uniform.
2. A talk on either a humorous happening or recommending a holiday destination (time limit 3 mins).
3. An impromptu talk on a subject from a choice of three given by the examiner 15 minutes before the examination (time limit 3 mins).
4. Conversation based on 1, 2 & 3 and on how to construct and deliver a talk.

Marking: 30 each for 1 & 2, 20 for 3 and 20 for conversation.

PUBLIC SPEAKING
For candidates from 15 years to adult

In these **Advanced** grades a more formal approach is required and public presentation standard is expected. Each speech should be directed at a specific audience, which must be indicated to the examiner.

Cue cards and visual aids may be used and power-point presentations are permitted, provided they are well rehearsed and cause no technical hitches or delays.

Advanced Grade 1

Total time allowance 20 minutes

1. A speech, (time limit 5 mins), on one of the following:
 - a) Honesty is the best policy.
 - b) A woman's place...
 - c) An invention we could do without.
2. A speech on an own choice subject.(time limit 5 mins)
3. Respond to a question arising from either of the prepared speeches.
4. Discuss with the examiner the techniques of public speaking.

Marking: 35 each for 1 & 2, 10 for 3 and 20 for discussion.

Advanced Grade 2

Total time allowance 20 minutes

1. A speech, (time limit 5 mins), on one of the following:
 - a) Gardening.
 - b) Moderation in all things.
 - c) Keeping Fit.
2. A speech on an own choice subject (time limit 5 mins).
3. Imagine yourself at a meeting of Rotary, W.I. or similar society and introduce a visiting speaker.
4. Discuss with the examiner the techniques of public speaking and how to construct and deliver a vote of thanks.

Marking: 35 each for 1 & 2, 10 for 3 and 20 for discussion.

Advanced Silver Medal

Total time allowance 30 minutes

1. A speech (time limit 6 mins), either in support of or against one of the following:
 - a) Money is the root of all evil.
 - b) Capital Punishment
 - c) Motorists should pay to use the roads.
2. A speech on an own choice subject (time limit 6 mins).
3. An impromptu talk on a subject from a choice of three given by the examiner 15 minutes before the examination (time limit 3 mins).
4. Discuss with the examiner the techniques of public speaking including how to chair debates and meetings.

Marking: 30 each for 1 & 2, 20 for 3 and 20 for discussion.

Advanced Gold Medal

Total time allowance 35 minutes

1. A speech, (time limit 7 mins), on one of the following:
 - a) A subject of current political or moral concern.
 - b) The place of religion in society.
 - c) The right to die.
2. A speech on an own choice subject (time limit 6 mins).
3. A short speech for a special occasion (time limit 3 mins).
4. An impromptu talk on a subject from a choice of three given by the examiner 15 minutes before the examination (time limit 3 mins).
5. Discussion covering all aspects of public speaking.

Marking: 25 each for 1 & 2, 15 for 3 & 4, and 20 for discussion.

