

# Mime

## **General Objectives**

This Mime Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop imagination and creativity - Increase self-confidence
- Develop physical stage techniques
- Instill an enthusiasm and interest in the theatre
- Extend technical skills with poise and clarity
- Promote observation and attention to detail
- Encourage background study of the history of mime

## **Guidelines for Mime learners**

- Costume or make up is not permitted, although suggestion of costume (eg shawls, practice skirt or hat) and hand props are allowed (eg fans, bags, walking sticks, etc).
- Learners are not permitted to present work which they have already submitted at another grade. Learners found to be repeating work will be disqualified and fees will be forfeited.
- In line with current standard Health and Safety advice, all Learners should ensure they are warmed up physically before the examination.
- Any mime may be performed with musical accompaniment if desired but this must be operated by the Learner/s.
- Entries are welcomed from Learners who may be hard of hearing, deaf or who have oral Communication difficulties. We can arrange for these Learners to have a short written questionnaire immediately prior to the examination if questioning is an element of the examination.

Please contact the NEA Office to make these special arrangements.

# Entry Level

## Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Unwrap a sweet and eat – show facial expression  
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a narrative mime on a subject of their own choice.  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

## Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Open a parcel and take out a present – react accordingly  
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a narrative mime on a subject of their own choice.  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

## Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Peel a banana OR Flip a coin and placing on back of hand – react accordingly  
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a narrative mime on a subject of their own choice.  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

## Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Choose and perform one of the following:  
(Time limit 2 minutes)
  - Open a window and climb in
  - Take a cake out of the oven
  - Serve a tennis ball - 3 times
2. Perform a narrative mime of their own choice.  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

Marks  
Awarded

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

50

# Level 1 - Foundation

## Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Choose one of the following (Time limit 2 minutes):
  - Drink a hot or cold drink from a cup or glass
  - Eat an ice cream that is melting
  - Play snakes and ladders board game and react to dice throwing and results
2. Perform a narrative mime of their own choice (Time limit 3 minutes).

## Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Choose an episode to illustrate one of the following: (Time limit 2 minutes)
  - On a roller coaster,
  - Creep into a room, open a drawer, find a letter and react to contents
  - Walk across sand and jump into shallow water
2. Perform a narrative mime of their own choice. (Time limit 3 minutes).

## Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

The Ellen Ismay Certificate of Excellence is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.

Learners should:

1. Perform two of the specified actions (Time limit 2 minutes):
  - Look at yourself in the mirror and brush hair or teeth
  - Paint a picture on an easel – imagine you are outside
  - Read a newspaper and react to stories
2. Perform two of the following (Time limit 2 minutes):
  - Walk on a tight rope, lose balance and then recover
  - Play an instrument – badly then well
  - Walk the dog – it runs away
3. Perform a narrative mime illustrating a well-known proverb or saying (Time limit 3 minutes):

Marks  
Awarded

50

50

50

50

30

30

30

# Level 2 - Intermediate

## Grade 4 (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform two of the following:  
(Time limit 3 minutes)
  - Take books off a shelf and pack in a box then try to lift \*it is very heavy\*
  - Pick up weights (weightlifting) x 3
  - Pack a suitcase, try to lift then move on wheels
2. Perform a mime on one of the following:  
(Time limit 3 minutes)
  - A Profession e. g. Hairdressers/Doctors/Photographers
  - Characters – e. g. Old person/Magician/Musician
  - Event – e. g. Competition/Party/Wedding
3. Perform a narrative mime with a twist at the end (Time limit 4 minutes).

## Grade 5 (20 Minutes)

Learners should perform:

1. The following three specific actions (Time limit 4 minutes):
  - The dexterity of hands,
    - a) thread a needle and sew
    - b) Use mascara or lipstick
    - c) Screw a screw into the wall
    - d) Pick up money from the floor
  - Weight and Tension,
    - a) Lift two bags of shopping and place on table
    - b) Lift a suitcase into the boot of a car
    - c) Lift a dog or cat
    - d) Lift a heavy object of choice
  - Face,
    - a) Read a book and react accordingly
    - b) Watch a film on television
    - c) Watch a sports event
2. Depict a short mime based on one of following titles:  
(Time limit 3 minutes)
  - Park Bench
  - Circus
  - Camping
3. Perform a narrative mime involving a dream sequence.  
(Time limit 4 minutes)

Marks  
Awarded

30

30

40

30

30

40

## Level 3 - Advanced

### Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Present a character(s) from a different time and demonstrate at least three actions/movements that reflect the period that they are living in. Music and appropriate props may be used in this section. Learners should consider the clothes worn in their chosen era. (Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Present a present day narrative mime (Time limit 3 minutes).
3. Present a narrative mime depicting a character in an age group other than the Learner's own. (Time limit 3 minutes)

Or

- Present a narrative mime that involves an animal
4. Discuss with the Examiner the creation of mimed characters

### Grade 7 - Silver Medal (25 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Present a short mime based on one of the characters and their occupation (Time limit 4 minutes):
  - Painter and decorator
  - Farmer
  - Teacher
  - Musician
  - Surgeon
2. Present a mime on one of the following (Time limit 4 minutes):
  - Trapped in a lift – think of three ways to try to get out
  - Locked out of the car or house try three ways of getting in
  - Driving over rough terrain and getting lost use three ways to find direction e.g.
    - a) signpost
    - b) sat nav
    - c) map
3. Perform a narrative mime based on one of the following: (Time limit 4 minutes)
  - Love
  - Hate
  - Jealousy
  - Joy
  - Despair
4. Discuss with the Examiner relaxation, movement and timing.

Marks  
Awarded

25

25

25

25

25

25

25

25

## Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

### Grade 8 - Gold Medal (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a mime that involves a character, an occupation and an accident or problem and resolution  
(Time limit 4 minutes).
2. Present a character showing the following range of emotions as a continuous mime  
(Time limit 5 minutes for all four):
  - Confusion
  - Fear
  - Hysteria
  - Relief
3. Present a narrative mime on a subject given to them 10 minutes before the examination  
(Time limit 4 minutes).
4. Discuss with the Examiner any aspects of creating and performing mime.

Marks  
Awarded

20

30

30

20

# Duologues

## **General Objectives**

The Duologue section of this Syllabus provides Learners with the opportunity to:

- Work with a partner
- Increase confidence
- Understand a sense of dependency

## **Guidelines for Mime Duologue Learners**

- Learners may enter for the Mime examinations as specified above in Duologue form up to and including Grade 8.
- Duologues are marked as one performance. The criteria for marking Duologues are the same as that for the Solo Grades.
- All selections must be in duologue form.
- Learners should put the word Duologue on their entry form together with the name of the Learner with whom they are entering.