Verse Speaking

General Objectives
This Solo Verse Speaking Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop the art of speaking verse
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instil a love of poetry
- Understand the diverse forms of poetry
- Specialise in the serious performance and art of verse speaking

Guidelines for Solo Verse Speaking Learners
- Learners should be at least 11 years old.
- All selections in these examinations must be spoken from memory.
- Each grade must be prepared as a short recital and Learners should, therefore begin with a short introduction and provide linking narrative.
# Foundation Level

## Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak a short poem of their own choice.
2. Speak a contrasting poem of their own choice.

### Marks Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poem Type</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short poem</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrasting poem</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
   - Best Friends by Bernard Young
   - A Teacher's day in bed by David Orme
   - Yes by Adrian Mitchell
   - Quack said the Billy Goat by Charles Causley
   - From a Railway Carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson

2. Speak a short lyrical poem of their own choice.

### Marks Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poem Type</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected poem</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short lyrical poem</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
   - Where do all the Teachers go? by Peter Dixon
   - The Kings Breakfast by AA Milne
   - Dear Mum by Brian Patten
   - The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear
   - The Evacuee by Shirley Tomlinson

2. Speak a poem of their own choice on the theme of either:
   - People
   - Places
   - Animals

3. Speak another poem of their own choice.

### Marks Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poem Type</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected poem</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own choice on theme</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (5 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
   - I Remember by Thomas Hood
   - Apple Blossom by Louis MacNeice
   - Sea Fever by John Masefield
   - The Way Through the Woods by Rudyard Kipling

2. Speak a sonnet written after 1950.

3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.

Grade 5 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak an extract of their own selection from one of the following:
   - Lines from - Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning
   - Lines from – The Lady of Shalott by Alfred Lord Tennyson
   - Lines from – The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes

2. Speak a poem by
   - Robert Frost
   - William Wordsworth
   - John Clare
   - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.
Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a short recital to include the following poems:

- A classical poem
- War poem
- Modern Poem

(Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 10 minutes).

Grade 7 - Silver Medal - (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a short recital of their own choice including 3 styles of poetry. Two should be selected from the following list:

- Romantic era
- Ballad Poem (extract acceptable)
- Nature Poem
- Classical Poem

The third poem is own choice and can be from any era or style

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 10 minutes).
Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

Present a varied programme on a chosen theme of their own choice to include:

- Four poems:
  - One Shakespearean poem
  - Two contrasting poems from different eras
  - One sonnet

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 15 minutes).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marks Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choice of Programme 20