

# Speech & Drama

## **Poems for Grades Preparatory to Grade 5**

### **chosen from:**

- The Works chosen by Paul Cookson - ISBN 978-1-4472-7349-3
- Best Loved Poems edited by Neil Philip - ISBN 978-0-3167-2438-8

## **General Objectives**

This Speech and Drama Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop communication, reading and performance techniques
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instil a love of literature and drama

# Entry Level

## Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory one short poem.  
(Minimum of 6 lines)
2. Talk with the Examiner about something of their own choice brought to the examination (eg; toy, book, photograph)

## Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory two short poems  
(Minimum of 6 lines)
2. Talk with the examiner about their choices.

## Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a short poem  
(Minimum of 8 lines).
2. Speak from memory a second poem

Or

A piece of prose of the Learner's own choice.  
This should show a contrast to the piece in Section 1.  
(Time limit 1 minute)

3. Talk with the Examiner about
  - The pieces chosen

## Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a poem  
(Minimum of 10 lines).
2. Speak from memory a piece of prose of their own choice taken from any suitable book (Time limit 2 minutes).
3. Talk with the Examiner about:
  - The pieces chosen
  - Word pictures

Marks  
Awarded

90

10

90

10

45

45

-

10

45

45

10

# Level 1 - Foundation

## Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a short poem  
(Minimum 10 lines).
2. Speak from memory a piece of prose of their own choice  
taken from any story written on a theme of Schools  
(Time limit 2 minutes).
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces chosen
  - Phrasing

## Grade 2 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a poem  
(Minimum of 12 lines)
2. Speak from memory a piece of prose taken from any story  
written on a theme of people, friends or relatives

Or

Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play or  
adaptation  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from  
a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces
  - Reading aloud

Marks  
Awarded

45

45

10

40

40

10

10

# Level 1 - Foundation - (Continued)

## Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

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

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a poem  
(Minimum of 12 lines)
2. Speak from memory a piece of contrasting prose taken from any book written by Michael Morpurgo or Roald Dahl;

Or

Perform a scene from memory arranged for one character from a play or adaptation (Time limit 2 minutes).

3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces and authors chosen
  - Use of the sense pause
  - Use of the suspensory pause
  - Use of the dramatic pause

Marks  
Awarded

40

40

10

10

## Level 2 - Intermediate

### Grade 4 (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a classic or traditional poem  
(Minimum of 14 lines)
2. Speak from memory a passage of prose from any modern book written or set post 1980  
(Time limit 2 minutes)

Or

Perform from memory a scene from a modern play written or set post 1980 (Time limit 2 minutes)

3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces and authors chosen
  - The vocal preparation of the pieces, with particular focus on modulation

### Grade 5 (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a modern poem post 1980  
(Minimum of 16 lines)
2. Speak from memory a passage of prose written or set pre 1950  
(Time limit 2 minutes):

Or

Perform from memory a scene from a play written or set pre 1950 (Time Limit 2 minutes)

3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces and authors chosen
  - The vocal preparation of the pieces with a particular focus on breathing and breath support, resonance and projection.

Marks  
Awarded

35

35

10

10

35

35

10

20

## Level 3 - Advanced

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

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a poem written by any Romantic Poet.
2. Speak from memory a passage of prose taken from a book written in the Victorian Era

Or

Perform a scene from memory arranged for one character from a play written in the Victorian Era

3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces and authors chosen
  - The formation of vowel sounds and the neutral vowel.
  - The physical and vocal preparation of the pieces

### Grade 7 - Silver Medal - (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak from memory a poem written by any War Poet.
2. Speak from memory a passage of prose taken from any book written from 1920 - 2020
3. Perform from memory a scene arranged for one character from a play written between 1900-1960.
4. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.
5. Give a short presentation on one of the pieces and author chosen. Bullet point notes may be used. (1 - 2 minutes)
6. Discuss with the Examiner:
  - The pieces and authors chosen
  - The formation of consonant sounds
  - The physical and vocal preparation of the pieces

Marks  
Awarded

35

35

10

20

20

20

20

10

10

20

## Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

### Grade 8 - Gold Medal (45 Minutes)

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

Learners should:

- |   | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Speak from memory a sonnet of their own choice taken from one of the following periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Elizabethan or Jacobean Era (1500 - 1625)</li><li>▪ The Romantic Era (1780-1830)</li><li>▪ Contemporary (1900 - 2020).</li></ul>   | 20            |
| 2. Speak from memory a passage of prose taken from a novel written by any author from 1850 – 1950 but in a contrasting era from the poem  | 20            |
| 3. Perform from memory a scene from a play soliloquy or monologue by a well known playwright.   | 20            |
| 4. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner.  | 10            |
| 5. Give a short presentation on the social, historical and cultural context of one of the selections presented in the examination. (1 - 2 minutes)  | 10            |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The pieces chosen and the periods in which they were written</li><li>▪ Aspects of vocal and physical preparation through to performance</li><li>▪ The vocal preparation of the pieces with focus on rhythm and metres of English Poetry</li><li>▪ Verse forms to include;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ode</li><li>- Elegy</li><li>- Lyrical</li><li>- Narrative</li><li>- Ballad</li></ul></li><li>▪ The various forms of the sonnet</li></ul> | 20            |