

CHORAL SPEAKING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Choral Speaking syllabus seeks to offer candidates the opportunity to:

- develop the art of choral speaking
- interpret poems (and prose) effectively
- develop effective use of combining voices in a choir
- develop imagination and creativity
- encourage the teamwork required when working as a choir
- develop a sense of performance

Guidelines for Choral Speaking choirs:

- All selections in these examinations **must be spoken from memory**
- Each grade must be prepared as a short recital
- Choirs must therefore begin with a short introduction and link the pieces performed
- It is important that at each Level material should be chosen carefully to suit the ability of the choir
- Choirs should have at least six voices, there is no upward limit
- Visual presentation is important so movement and background music are permitted but these must enhance rather than impede the performance

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Choirs should:

- understand how to prepare work
- demonstrate basic technical skills
- show a sense of rhythm
- demonstrate an ability to share mood and meaning
- speak poems with clarity and enjoyment
- demonstrate a sense of performance

Marks awarded at this level include:

Speech 30 marks

GRADE 1 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice
(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a **contrasting** poem of their own choice
(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)

GRADE 2 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice based on the theme of:
 - People and Places(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a **contrasting** poem of their own choice.
(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)

GRADE 3 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice based on the theme of:
 - “Once upon a Time....”(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a **contrasting** poem of their own choice.
(Time limit 2 minutes) (35 marks)

LEVEL 2 - INTERMEDIATE

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Choirs should:

- demonstrate increased technical skills
- demonstrate an ability to connect with their audience
- demonstrate well modulated speaking
- demonstrate effective and expressive interpretation of their chosen pieces
- convey style and mood of their chosen pieces
- demonstrate a increased sense of performance

Marks awarded at this level include:

Speech 30 marks

GRADE 4 (15 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item on the theme of :
 - "The Changing Seasons"This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 3 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a contrasting poem of their own choice.
(Time limit 3 minutes) (35 marks)

GRADE 5 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item telling:
 - all or part of a storyThis may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 3 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a sharply **contrasting** poem.
(Time limit 3 minutes) (35 marks)

LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Choirs should:

- present a programme of a standard suitable for public performance
- present a programme that is interesting, stimulating and expressive
- perform work that is of high quality both technically and artistically
- present a well balanced programme with contrasting moods and styles
- demonstrate an ability to capture the interest of the audience throughout the program
- demonstrate the ability to modulate their voices in such a way that they effectively orchestrate the words spoken

Marks awarded at this level include:

Speech 30 marks

GRADE 6 (15 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item based on the theme of:
 - FestivalsThis may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice.
This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)

GRADE 7 (15 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item based on the theme of:
 - RelationshipsThis may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice.
This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)

GRADE 8 (15 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item based on the theme of:
 - “If music be the food of love, play on ...” **or**
 - “Travel in time and place ...”This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)
2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice.
This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
(Time limit 4 minutes) (35 marks)