

READING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Reading syllabus seeks to offer candidates the opportunity to:

- read and perform for pleasure
- extend the breadth of literature and poetry read
- develop artistic skills
- develop fluency
- project the enjoyment of the printed word to the listener
- increase word recognition
- increase confidence in prepared reading
- increase confidence in sight reading
- instil an interest in reading and poetry

Guidelines for Reading candidates:

- In each grade candidates must prepare **TWO** pieces:
 - **ONE poem**
 - **ONE piece of prose** selected from the writers for the relevant grade
(With the exception of the Grade 8 which requires **three** prepared pieces.)
- Entries are welcomed and encouraged from candidates who have special learning difficulties, or have difficulty with fluency and word recognition; these Grades are particularly useful to increase their confidence and ability.
- **OVERSEAS CANDIDATES** taking exams at a centre outside the British Isles may, if they wish, substitute the prose selection in each grade for an appropriate author from their own culture. (For Grade 8 candidates this will apply to both the own choice selections.)
- **TWO** copies of **each** piece must be brought **to the examination**, one set for the use of the examiner.
- **The candidate's copies must include:**
 - **the book for the prose selection**
 - **a suitably presented copy of the poetry selection**

ENTRY LEVEL

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Candidates should:

- gain confidence
- read with a basic level of competency
- experience examination procedure
- achieve a sense of performance
- understand how to prepare work

Marks awarded at this level:

Speech **40** marks

At this level no piece should exceed 2 minutes.

PREPARATORY GRADE (5 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a short poem of their own choice. (30 marks)
2. Read a short passage from :
 - Any "Elmer the Elephant" story by David McKee or
 - Any story from "Percy's Park" series by Nick Butterworth (30 marks)

INTRODUCTORY GRADE (5 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a short poem by either:
 - Rose Fyleman
 - or
 - John Foster (30 marks)
2. Read a passage from :
 - "The Lighthouse Keeper" stories by Ronda and David Armitage or
 - any story by A. A. Milne (30 marks)

PRELIMINARY GRADE (5 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a short poem by either:
 - Jack Prelutsky
 - or
 - Karla Kuskin (30 marks)
2. Read a passage from:
 - the "Dilly the Dinosaur" stories by Tony Bradman
 - or
 - any story by Elizabeth Laird (30 marks)

TRANSITION GRADE (10 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Elizabeth Fleming
 - or
 - Richard Edwards (25 marks)
2. Read a passage from:
 - the "Unfortunate Series of Events" stories by Lemony Snickett
 - or
 - any story by Dick King-Smith (25 marks)
3. Read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Candidates should:

- read with a greater level of competency
- read a greater sense of imagination
- demonstrate an awareness to the needs of the listener
- achieve a sense of performance
- achieve reasonable fluency in sight reading

Marks awarded at this level:

Speech **30** marks

At this level no piece should exceed 2 minutes.

GRADE 1 (10 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - John Agard
 - or
 - Judith Nicholls(25marks)
2. Read a passage from:
 - any story by Frances Hodgson-Burnett
 - or
 - Eoin Colfer(25marks)
3. Read at sight a passage of poetry. (10 marks)
4. Read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

GRADE 2 (10 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Christina Rossetti
or
 - Roger McGough(25marks)
2. Read a passage from a story by:
 - Eva Ibbotson
or
 - Robert Louis Stevenson(25 marks)
3. Read at sight a passage of poetry. (10 marks)
4. Read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

GRADE 3 Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either :
 - Elizabeth Barrett Browning
or
 - Charles Causley(25marks)
2. Read a passage from any fantasy novel by:
 - Terry Pratchett
or
 - Michelle Paver(25 marks)
3. To read at sight a passage of poetry. (10 marks)
4. To read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

LEVEL 2 – INTERMEDIATE

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Candidates should:

- read with a flexibility of tone and technique
- interpret different styles of literature
- read with full projection
- read in such a way as to involve the listener
- achieve a sense of performance
- demonstrate expressive sight reading that reflects the mood of the writer

Marks awarded at this level:

Speech **30** marks

At this level no piece should exceed 3 minutes.

GRADE 4 (15 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Carol Ann Duffy
 - or
 - Walter de la Mare(25marks)
2. Read a passage from the works of:
 - Bernard Cornwell
 - or
 - Virginia Woolf(25 marks)
3. Read at sight a passage of poetry. (10 marks)
4. Read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

GRADE 5 Intermediate Medal (15 Minutes)

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Edward Thomas
 - or
 - Wendy Cope(25 marks)
2. Read a passage from the travel works of:
 - Mark Twain
 - or
 - Paul Theroux(25 marks)
3. Read at sight a passage of poetry. (10 marks)
4. Read at sight a passage of prose. (10 marks)

LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Candidates should:

- read fluently, effectively and competently in public to any audience
- demonstrate a high standard of reading both technically and artistically
- read with a sense of style and period
- read in such a way as to engage the listener
- perform and read with ease and confidence
- demonstrate fluent, accurate and accomplished sight reading that reflects the mood and style of the pieces
- present a programme that is interesting and diverse in style and mood
- demonstrate a sound understanding and knowledge of literature

At this level no piece should exceed 4 minutes.

GRADE 6 Bronze Medal (15 Minutes)

Marks awarded at this grade:

Speech **30 marks**

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Maya Angelou
 - or
 - Wilfred Owen

(25 marks)

2. Read a passage from the works of:
 - Maeve Binchy
 - or
 - Anthony Trollope

(25 marks)

3. Read at sight a passage of poetry.

(10 marks)

4. Read at sight a passage of prose.

(10 marks)

GRADE 7 Silver Medal (20 Minutes)

Marks awarded at this grade:

Speech **30 marks**

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem by either:
 - Sylvia Plath
or
 - John Donne

(25 marks)

2. Read a passage from the works of:
 - Dan Brown
or
 - Charlotte Bronte

(25 marks)

3. Read at sight a passage of poetry.

(10 marks)

4. Read at sight a passage of prose.

(10 marks)

GRADE 8 Gold Medal (25 Minutes)

Marks awarded at this grade:

Speech **20 marks**

Candidates should:

1. Read a poem of their **own choice** written **AFTER 1970**.

(20 marks)

2. Read a sonnet by:
 - Robert Herrick
or
 - Robert Bridges

(20 marks)

3. Read a passage selected from an autobiography or biography of their **own** choice.

(20 marks)

4. Read at sight a passage of poetry.

(10 marks)

5. Read at sight a passage of prose.

(10 marks)