

ACTING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Acting Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Develop vocal techniques
- Develop physical stage techniques
- Instill an enthusiasm and interest in the theatre

Guidelines for Acting Learners:

- All selections must be performed from memory.
- Learners should bring legible copies of their pieces to the examination for the Examiner, and must adhere to all copyright laws.
- Full costume or make up is not permitted, although a 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 both vocally and physically before the examination.

SOLO

ENTRY LEVEL

At this Level no scene should exceed 2 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Entry Level	Technique and Interpretation		Discussion
Preparatory Grade	90		10
Introductory	45	45	10
Preliminary	45	45	10
Transition	45	45	10

PREPARATORY GRADE (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
1. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The character chosen

INTRODUCTORY GRADE (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

PRELIMINARY GRADE (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

TRANSITION GRADE (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

At this Level no scene should exceed 3 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Foundation – Level 1	Technique and Interpretation			Discussion
Grade 1	45	45		10
Grade 2	45	45		10
Grade 3	40	40	10	10

GRADE 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen
 - The settings of the pieces

GRADE 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters
 - The settings of the pieces

GRADE 3 Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
3. Perform a short piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner
 - The two characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken

LEVEL 2 – INTERMEDIATE

At this Level no scene should exceed 3 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Intermediate – Level 2	Technique and Interpretation			Discussion
Grade 4	35	35	10	20
Grade 5	35	35	10	20

GRADE 4 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character set in a different period.
3. Perform a piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken
 - Techniques they employed in characterisation, imagination and movement

GRADE 5 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play by any well-known dramatist and set in a period before 1920.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a well-known contemporary play post 1980.
3. Perform a piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken
 - Techniques they employed in characterisation, imagination and movement

LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED

At Grade 6 and 7 no scene should exceed 3 minutes. At Grade 8 no scene should exceed 4 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Advanced – Level 3	Technique and Interpretation				Discussion	
Grade 6	30	30	10	10	20	
Grade 7	20	20	20	10	10	20
Grade 8	20	20	20	10	10	20

GRADE 6 Bronze Medal (25 Minutes)

The Myrtle Moss Certificate of Excellence

Is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character only from an Elizabethan playwright.
2. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play written between 1900 and 1970 by a well-known dramatist.
3. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Perform an improvisation which will be set by the Examiner during the examination. (Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform).
5. Discuss in detail with the Examiner:
 - The characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken
 - The vocal techniques, including modulation, required in performance

GRADE 7 Silver Medal (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from any play written in verse.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a play written between 1850 and 1950 by a well-known dramatist.
3. Perform a short scene in dialect (from any period) in contrast to the other two pieces.
4. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner.
5. Perform a short improvisation or mime, the subject of which will be set by the Examiner during the examination. (Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform).
6. Discuss in detail with the Examiner
 - The characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken
 - The importance of good breath support and practice in performance

GRADE 8 Gold Medal (40 Minutes)

*The Sir Roger Moore Certificate of Excellence
Is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.*

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play of the Restoration period.
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a play by a well-known dramatist written in the last 20 years.
3. Perform a short scene in dialect (from any period) in contrast to the other two pieces.
4. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner and take redirection on the piece.
5. Perform an improvisation set by the Examiner during the examination. Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform)
6. Discuss in detail with the Examiner:
 - The characters chosen
 - The plays from which their pieces are taken
 - The creative thought and technical details involved in preparing to play a character in performance
 - The practical application of good breath support including resonance, forward placing and projection

DUOLOGUES

The criteria for Duologue examinations are as for Solo Examinations. Five minutes is added for each exam from Grade 3 upward.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

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

- Work with a partner
- Explore different texts
- Increase confidence
- Understand a sense of dependency

Guidelines for Acting Duologue Learners

- Learners may enter for the Acting 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.

GROUP EXAMINATIONS

A group must contain a minimum of three persons and up to a maximum of twelve persons and will be marked as one performance. If it is intended to enter a larger group, please contact the NEA Office first.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

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

- Perform acted scenes
- Experience the exciting challenge of working together as a team
- Demonstrate an awareness of each other and a sense of sharing

Guidelines for Group Acting Learners

Selections can be taken from plays or adaptations.

ENTRY LEVEL

At this Level no scene must exceed 5 minutes. It is permissible to adapt a one act play to the time restriction.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Entry Level	Technique, and Interpretation	
Preparatory Grade	50	50
Introductory	50	50
Preliminary	50	50
Transition	50	50

PREPARATORY (10 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

INTRODUCTORY (10 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

PRELIMINARY (10 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

TRANSITION (10 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

At this Level no scene must exceed 10 minutes. It is permissible to adapt a one act play to the time restriction.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Foundation – Level 1	Technique and Interpretation	
Grade 1	50	50
Grade 2	50	50
Grade 3	50	50

GRADE 1 (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

GRADE 2 (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

GRADE 3 (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

LEVEL 2 – INTERMEDIATE

At this Level no scene must exceed 15 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Intermediate – Level 2	Technique and Interpretation	
Grade 4	50	50
Grade 5	50	50

GRADE 4 (20 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

GRADE 5 (20 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED

At this Level no scene must exceed 20 minutes.

Marks awarded at this Level taking into consideration technique and interpretation throughout each section:

Advanced – Level 3	Technique and Interpretation	
Grade 6	50	50
Grade 7	50	50
Grade 8	50	50

GRADE 6 (25 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

GRADE 7 (25 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

GRADE 8 (25 Minutes)

Learners should present a one act play or a scene from a longer play.

