

CHORAL SPEAKING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Choral Speaking Syllabus seeks to offer Learners 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 and not detract from the performance.

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

At this Level no piece should exceed 2 minutes

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

Foundation Level 1	Technique, Communication and Interpretation	
Grade 1	50	50
Grade 2	50	50
Grade 3	50	50

GRADE 1 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice.
1. Perform a contrasting poem of their own choice.

GRADE 2 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice based on the theme of People and Places.
2. Perform a **contrasting** poem of their own choice.

GRADE 3 (10 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Perform a poem of their own choice based on the theme of "Once upon a Time...."
2. Perform a **contrasting** poem of their own choice.

LEVEL 2 - INTERMEDIATE

At this Level no piece should exceed 3 minutes

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

Intermediate - Level 2	Technique, Communication and Interpretation	
Grade 4	50	50
Grade 5	50	50

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.
2. Perform a contrasting poem of their own choice.

GRADE 5 (15 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item telling all or part of a story. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
2. Perform a sharply contrasting poem.

LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED

At this Level no piece should exceed 4 minutes

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

Advanced - Level 3	Technique, Communication and Interpretation	
Grade 6	50	50
Grade 7	50	50
Grade 8	50	50

GRADE 6 (20 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item based on the theme of Festivals. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.

GRADE 7 (20 Minutes)

Choirs should:

1. Present an item based on the theme of relationships. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.
2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.

GRADE 8 (20 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.

2. Perform a selection of dramatic choral speaking of their own choice. This may consist of prose or poetry or a combination of both.

