



## SOLO VERSE SPEAKING

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Solo Verse Speaking Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop the art of speaking verse
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instill a love of poetry
- Understand the diverse forms of poetry
- Specialise in the serious performance and art of verse speaking

### Guidelines for Solo Verse Speaking Learners:

- Learners should be at least 11 years old.
- All selections in these examinations must be spoken from memory.
- Each grade must be prepared as a short recital and Learners should, therefore, begin with a short introduction and provide linking narrative.

### LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION

At this Level no piece should exceed 2 minutes.

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

Foundation Level	Technique and Interpretation			Choice of Programme
Grade 1	45		45	10
Grade 2	45		45	10
Grade 3	30	30	30	10

### GRADE 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak a short poem of their own choice.
1. Speak a **contrasting poem** of their own choice.

## **GRADE 2 (10 Minutes)**

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:

Mrs Button by James Reeves  
Now we are Six by A.A. Milne  
On the Ning Nang Nong by Spike Milligan  
Bedtime by Elanor Farjeon

2. Speak a short lyrical poem of their own choice.

## **GRADE 3 Foundation Medal (10 Minutes)**

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:

Playgrounds by Berlie Doherty  
To a Child Dancing in the Wind by W.B. Yeats  
The Sea by James Reeves  
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost

2. Speak a poem of their own choice on the theme of either:

- Time; or
- Relationships

3. Speak another poem of their own choice.

## **LEVEL 2 – INTERMEDIATE**

At this Level no piece should exceed 2 minutes.

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

<b>Intermediate – Level 2</b>	<b>Technique and Interpretation</b>			<b>Choice of Programme</b>
Grade 4	30	30	30	10
Grade 5	30	30	30	10

### **GRADE 4 (15 Minutes)**

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:

Timothy Winters by Charles Causley  
Remember by Christina Rossetti  
The Listeners by Walter de la Mare  
The Way Through the Woods by Rudyard Kipling

2. Speak a sonnet written after 1950.
3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.

### **GRADE 5 (15 Minutes)**

Learners should:

1. Speak an extract of their own selection from one of the following:

Lines from – The Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning  
Lines from – The Lady of Shalott by Alfred Lord Tennyson  
Lines from – The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes

2. Speak a poem by Elizabeth Jennings or John Clare.
3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.

### **LEVEL 3 – ADVANCED**

At Grades 6 and 7 no piece should exceed 10 minutes, and at Grade 8 no piece should exceed 15 minutes.

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

<b>Advanced – Level 3</b>	<b>Technique and Interpretation</b>				<b>Choice of Programme</b>
Grade 6	30	30	30	30	10
Grade 7	30	30	30	30	10
Grade 8	20	20	20	20	20

#### **GRADE 6 Bronze Medal (15 Minutes)**

Learners should present a short recital to include the following poems:

- Adlestrop by Edward Thomas
- War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy
- How do I love Thee? By Elizabeth Barrett Browning

(Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 10 minutes).

#### **GRADE 7 Silver Medal (15 Minutes)**

Learners should present a short recital of their own choice from the poetry of one of the following poets:

- Elizabeth Jennings
- Robert Frost
- Carol Ann Duffy
- Seamus Heaney

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 10 minutes).

#### **GRADE 8 Gold Medal (20 Minutes)**

Learners should:

Present a varied programme of their own choice to include:

1. Four poems:

- Three poems being of a different period and
- One sonnet

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 15 minutes).

