



# **New Era Academy Syllabus 2023- 2026**

---

**Communications Exams  
Reading Syllabus Extract**

## NEW ERA ACADEMY

**Contact Details:** T: 0330 133 1885  
M : 07418 609 612  
E: exams@neweraacademy.co.uk  
W: www.neweraacademy.co.uk

**Registered Office:** Redington Court,  
69 Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2BB

**Postal Address:** 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden,  
London, WC2H 9JQ

**Officers:** **Chief Executive:** Derren Nesbitt  
**Examinations Director:** Miranda Jacobs, FNEA, LNEA  
**Chief Examiner:** Tina Doyle MNATD, FNEA

## PATRONS

**Bill Kenwright CBE**

**Ray Cooney OBE**

**Ray Winstone**

**Jenny Seagrove**

**Will Brenton**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tina Doyle**  
MNATD, FNEA

**Brian Ellis**  
FNEA

**Christine Faithfull**  
FNEA, LRAM

**Kim Ismay**  
BA (Hons), FNEA, ANEA

**Miranda Jacobs**  
FNEA, LNEA

**Derren Nesbitt**

*NEA is a Corporate Member of the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama*

## **Copyright Statement**

All syllabus materials, including but not limited to curriculum, outlines, presentations, handouts, exams, and reports, are copyrighted by New Era Academy of Drama & Music (London) Limited (The), trading as New Era Academy. Individuals and/or businesses may not reproduce, distribute, or share these materials without the express written permission of New Era Academy.

Teachers may use the syllabus materials for their own personal use and to distribute to their learners, but they may not sell, rent, or represent the syllabus materials as their own. Teachers and learners may also not post syllabus materials online or in any other public forum without the express written permission of New Era Academy.

Violation of this copyright statement may result in disciplinary actions and/or penalties.

# Contents

---

<b>COMMUNICATION EXAMS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Reading</b> .....	<b>1</b>
General Guidance.....	1
General Objectives .....	1
Reading: Entry Level.....	3
Reading: Level 1 Foundation .....	3
Reading: Level 2 Intermediate .....	4
Reading: Level 3 Advanced .....	5
<b>Guidance for Poetry and Prose</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<i>For Speech &amp; Drama, Reading, Spoken English, EAL and Verse Speaking</i> .....	6
Entry Level Poems – Age 5+ .....	6
Level 1 – Age 7-12 – Grade 1 - 3.....	7
Level 2 - Age 13 – 15 – Grades 4 and 5 .....	8
Level 3 – Age 15 – 17 – Grades 6 and 8.....	9

# COMMUNICATION EXAMS

## Reading

### General Guidance

- Poems and prose for this syllabus are free choices.
- Suggestions from either the anthology below or from the Public Domain can be used for poetry.
- Suggested poems and books for prose can be found in the guidance.
- Please ensure that your own choice reflects the expected standard for each level.

**Resource:**      **A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan**  
**ISBN – 9780330543743**

- For the prose sight reading Grades Transition to 8, a piece will be selected by the Examiner, during the examination, from the Learner's book used in section 2.
- For the poetry sight reading the teacher will have access to a selection of poems. The Examiner will pick one of them during the examination.
- TWO copies of each piece must be brought to the examination, one set for the use of the Examiner.
- The learner's copies must include:
  - the book for the prose selection.
  - a suitably presented copy of the poetry selection.

### General Objectives

This Reading Syllabus seeks to offer Learners 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

## Reading: Entry Level

### Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a short poem of their own choice.                      | 50 |
| 2. Read a short passage from any story. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 50 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

### Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                           | 50 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 50 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

### Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                           | 50 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 50 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

### Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                 | 45 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes)       | 45 |
| 3. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book in section 2 | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

## Reading: Level 1 Foundation

### Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                     | 40 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes)           | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                          | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2. | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

**Grade 2 (10 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                     | 40 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes)           | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                          | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2. | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

**Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                     | 40 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes)           | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                          | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2. | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

**Reading: Level 2 Intermediate****Grade 4 (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                     | 40 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 3 minutes)           | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                          | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2. | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

**Grade 5 (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                     | 40 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice. (Time limit 3 minutes)           | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                          | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2. | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------



## Reading: Level 3 Advanced

### Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (20 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

**Learners should:**

- |                                                                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                                      | 35 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice from a different period.<br>(Time limit 4 minutes) | 35 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                                           | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2.                  | 10 |
| 5. Discuss with the Examiner                                                             | 10 |
| • The choice of poetry and prose.                                                        |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

### Grade 7 - Silver Medal (20 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

**Learners should:**

- |                                                                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice.                                                      | 35 |
| 2. Read a passage of their own choice from a different period.<br>(Time limit 4 minutes) | 35 |
| 3. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                                           | 10 |
| 4. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 2.                  | 10 |
| 5. Discuss with the Examiner                                                             | 10 |
| • The choice of poetry and prose.                                                        |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

### Grade 8 - Gold Medal (25 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

*The Jenny Seagrove Certificate of Excellence is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.*

**Learners should:**

- |                                                                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Read a poem of their own choice written after 1970.                                                    | 20 |
| 2. Read a sonnet from a different period to section 1.                                                    | 20 |
| 3. Read a passage selected from an autobiography or biography of their own choice. (Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 4. Read at sight a poem given by the Examiner.                                                            | 15 |
| 5. Read at sight a passage of prose from the same book as in section 3.                                   | 15 |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner                                                                              | 10 |
| • the choice of poetry and prose.                                                                         |    |
| • the challenges you faced in the exam preparation.                                                       |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
----------------------------	------------

## Guidance for Poetry and Prose

*For Speech & Drama, Reading, Spoken English, EAL and Verse Speaking*

### Entry Level Poems – Age 5+

**See Anthology: A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan & Public Domain**

- Anything That's Broken - Bernard Young – p70
- Kitten – Jill Townsend – p145
- My Face Says it All – Phillip Waddell p26
- Apple – James Carter – p48
- Where Am I – Mike Barfield – p43
- Gran's Old Diary – Wes Magee p 29
- My Dad – Peter Dixon – p28
- Hello – Barry Buckingham p188
- Rhubarb Ted – Ann O'Connor PD
- Snowball – Shel Silverstein PD
- The Crocodile – Lewis Carroll PD
- Snowball - Shel Silverstein PD
- How not to have to Dry the Dishes – Shel Silverstein PD

## Level 1 – Age 7-12 – Grade 1 - 3

### See Anthology: A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan & Public Domain

- Space Rocket – Richard Caley – p227
- I Did Not Eat the Goldfish – Roger Stevens – p138
- Jealousy – John Mole p38
- The Tiger - Sue Hardy Dawson - p288
- Sounds of School - Michaela Morgan - p194
- Shells and Stones - Eric Finley - p249
- We Share the Air - Kevin McCann - p284
- Boring Mr Grimble - Clare Bevan - p162
- Imagine the World - Moyra Andrew – p41
- Santa in Zooland p 128
- It's a Puzzle – Allan Ahlberg PD
- When Daddy fell into the Pond – Alfred Noyes PD

## Level 1 Authors

- Dick King Smith
- Roald Dahl
- David Walliams
- Cressida Cowell
- Varjak Paw
- Jill Tomlinson
- Jill Murphy
- Julia Donaldson
- Michael Morpurgo
- Eoin Colfer
- Jacqueline Wilson

## Level 2 - Age 13 – 15 – Grades 4 and 5

*All Poems are **free choice** but suggestions from the public domain can be found within this guidance pack.*

## Level 2 Poetry

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry

- The Listeners by Walter de La Mare
- The Gresford Disaster by Anon
- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost
- The Lockless Door by Robert Frost
- A Road Not Taken by Robert Frost
- My Typewriter by Edward Dyson
- Sea Fever by John Masefield
- Mistletoe by Walter de La Mare
- The Things We Dare Not Tell by Henry Lawson
- The Call by John Frederick Freeman
- At The Theatre: To The Lady Behind Me
- To E.T by Robert Frost
- Mid-Term Break by Seamus Heaney

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry

- The Star by Sara Teasdale
- If by Rudyard Kipling – verses 1,2 and 4
- Hope is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson
- The Tyger by William Blake
- The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W B Yeats
- A Dream within a Dream by E A Poe
- Break, Break, Break, by Alfred Lord Tennyson
- I Travelled among Unknown Men – William Wordsworth
- The Welcome by Thomas Osborne Davis
- Water of Gold by Henry Austin Dobson

## Level 2 Authors

- Philip Pullman
- Anthony Horowitz
- Patrick Ness
- Malorie Blackman
- RJ Palacio
- Suzanne Collins
- John Green

## Level 3 – Age 15 – 17 – Grades 6 and 8

### Level 3 Poetry

#### War Poets

- Dreamers by Siegfried Sassoon
- An Irishman Foresees his Death by WB Yeats
- Anthem for Doomed Youth by Wilfred Owen
- Rupert Brooke
- Robert Graves

#### Award Winning Poets

- Langston Hughes
- Still I Rise by Maya Angelou
- Caged Bird by Maya Angelou
- Blackberrying by Sylvia Plath
- You're by Sylvia Plath
- Age Appropriate by Phillip Schultz
- Greed by Philip Schultz
- The Evening Darkens Over by Robert Bridges
- Warming Her Pearls by Carol Ann Duffy
- Camera Obscura by Simon Armitage

### Sonnets from The Elizabethan or Jacobean Era (1500 - 1625)

- Sonnet 55 by William Shakespeare
- My heart I gave thee, not to do it pain by Sir Thomas Wyatt
- Death, be not proud by John Donne

### Sonnets from The Romantic Era (1780 – 1830)

- Lift not the painted veil which those who live by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Bright Star by John Keats

### Contemporary Sonnets – (1900 – 2020)

- I shall go back again to the bleak shore by Edna St Vincent Millay
- Glasgow Sonnet i by Edwin Morgan
- Acquainted with the Night by Robert Frost
- Love Sonnet XI by Pablo Neruda

### Level 3 Authors

- Laurie Lee
- George R R Martin
- Iris Murdoch
- Harper Lee
- F Scott Fitzgerald
- Graham Green
- Joanna Trollope
- John Steinbeck



**[www.neweraacademy.co.uk](http://www.neweraacademy.co.uk)**

[exams@neweraacademy.co.uk](mailto:exams@neweraacademy.co.uk)

Phone : 0330 133 1885

WhatsApp : 07418 609 612