



New Era Academy Syllabus 2023- 2026

**Communications Exams
Speech & Drama Syllabus Extract**

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COMMUNICATION EXAMS

Speech & Drama

General Guidance

- Poems and prose for this syllabus are free choice.
- 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 guidance.
- Please ensure that own choice reflects the expected standard for each level.

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

General Objectives

This Speech and Drama Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop communication, reading and performance techniques
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instil a love of literature and drama

Speech & Drama: Entry Level

Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory one short poem. (Minimum of 6 lines) | 90 |
| 2. Talk with the Examiner about something of their own choice brought to the examination. (e.g. toy, book, photograph) | 10 |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory two short poems. (Minimum of 6 lines) | 90 |
| 2. Talk with the Examiner about their choices. | 10 |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a short poem. (Minimum of 8 lines). | 45 |
| 2. Speak from memory a contrasting poem. | 45 |
| Or | |
| A contrasting piece of prose of the Learner's own choice.
(Time limit 1 minute) | |
| 3. Talk with the Examiner about the pieces chosen | 10 |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a poem. (Minimum of 10 lines). | 45 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of prose of their own choice taken from any suitable book. (Time limit 2 minutes). | 45 |
| 3. Talk with the Examiner about: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces chosen • Word pictures | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Speech & Drama: Level 1 - Foundation

Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a short poem. (Minimum 10 lines) | 45 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of prose of their own choice.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces chosen • Phrasing | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Grade 2 (15 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a poem. (Minimum 12 lines) | 40 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of prose taken from any book of the
Learner's choice,
Or
Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play or
adaptation. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book
chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces chosen • Reading aloud. | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

The Peggy Law Certificate of Excellence is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a poem. (Minimum of 12 lines) | 40 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of contrasting prose taken from any
book of the Learner's choice.
Or
Perform a scene from memory arranged for one character from
a play or adaptation. (Time limit 2 minutes). | 40 |
| 3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book
chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces and authors chosen • Use of the sense pause • Use of the suspensory pause • Use of the dramatic pause | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Speech & Drama: Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (20 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a 20th Century poem. (Minimum of 14 lines) | 35 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of prose of the Learner's choice written or set in a different era from section 1. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 35 |
| Or
Perform from memory a scene from a modern play written or set post 1980. (Time limit 2 minutes) | |
| 3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces and authors chosen • The vocal preparation of the pieces, with particular focus on modulation | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
----------------------------	------------

Grade 5 (20 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a 19th Century poem. (Minimum of 16 lines) | 35 |
| 2. Speak from memory a passage of prose of the Learner's choice written or set in a different era from section 1. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 35 |
| Or
Perform from memory a scene from a play written or set pre 1950. (Time limit 2 minutes) | |
| 3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces and authors chosen • The vocal preparation of the pieces, with particular focus on breathing and breath support, resonance and projection | |

Total Marks Awarded	100
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Speech & Drama: Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 – Bronze Medal - (20 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a poem written by any 20th century War Poet | 35 |
| 2. Speak from memory a passage of prose taken from any book written pre 1950,
Or
Perform from memory a scene arranged for one character from a play written or set in a different era from section 1. | 35 |
| 3. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces and authors chosen • The formation of vowel sounds and the neutral vowel • Give examples for each vowel sound from your work | |

Total Marks Awarded

100

Grade 7 – Silver Medal - (30 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a poem written by any award-winning poet. | 20 |
| 2. Speak from memory a piece of prose written in the Victorian Era. | 20 |
| 3. Perform from memory a scene arranged for one character from a play written or set in a different era from sections 1 and 2. | 20 |
| 4. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner, from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 5. Give a short presentation on one of the pieces and author chosen. Bullet point notes may be used. (1 - 2 minutes) | 10 |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces and authors chosen • The formation of consonant sounds • Give examples of each type of consonant sound from your work | |

Total Marks Awarded

100

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (45 Minutes)**Marks Awarded**

The Ray Cooney Certificate of Excellence is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak from memory a sonnet of their own choice taken from one of the following periods: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elizabethan of Jacobean Era (1500 - 1625) • The Romantic Era (1780-1830) • Contemporary (1900 - 2020) | |
| 2. Speak from memory a passage of prose taken from a novel written by any author from 1800 – 1950 but in a contrasting era from the poem. | 20 |
| 3. Perform from memory a scene from a play or soliloquy by a well-known playwright. | 20 |
| 4. Read at sight a short passage selected by the Examiner from a book chosen and brought to the examination by the Learner. | 10 |
| 5. Give a short presentation on the social, historical and cultural context of one of the selections presented in the examination. (1 - 2 minutes) | 10 |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pieces chosen and the periods in which they were written • Aspects of vocal and physical preparation through to performance • The vocal preparation of the pieces with focus on rhythm and metres of English Poetry • Verse forms, to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ode ○ Elegy ○ Lyrical ○ Narrative ○ Ballad ○ The various forms of the sonnet | |

Total Marks Awarded**100**

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

20th 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

19th 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



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