



New Era Academy Syllabus 2023- 2026

**Performance Exams
Acting Syllabus Extract**

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PERFORMANCE EXAMS

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.
- Instil 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.

Acting: Solo - Entry Level

Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 90 |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The character chosen. | 10 |

Total Marks Awarded	100
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Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The two characters chosen. | 10 |

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

Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The two characters chosen and their costume. | 10 |

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

Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The two characters chosen and their costume. | 10 |

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

Acting: Solo - Level 1 Foundation

Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two characters. • The settings of the pieces. | |

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

Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person.
(Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two characters. • The settings of the pieces. | |

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

Grade 3 – Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or a scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation. (Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 40 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation. (Time limit 2 ½ minutes) | 40 |
| 3. Perform a short, devised piece based on one of your scenes
OR sight read a piece given by the examiner from one of the selections for the grade. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two characters. • The plays or back stories from which their pieces are taken. | |

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

Acting: Solo - Level 2 Intermediate

Grade 4 (15 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation. (Time limit 3 minutes) | 35 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation set in a different period. (Time limit 3 minutes) | 35 |
| 3. Perform a short, devised piece based on one of your scenes
OR sight read a piece given by the examiner from one of the selections for the grade | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two characters. • The plays or adaptations from which their pieces are taken. • Modulation – pitch, pace, pause, inflection, emphasis. | 20 |

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

Grade 5 (15 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

Learners should:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a monologue or scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation written or set in 1900 – 2000. (Time limit 3 minutes) | 35 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting monologue or scene adapted for one person from a published play or adaptation, written or set in a different era from section 1. (Time limit 3 minutes) | 35 |
| 3. Perform a short, devised piece based on one of your scenes
OR sight read a piece given by the examiner from one of the selections for the grade | 10 |
| 4. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two characters. • The plays or adaptations from which their pieces are taken. • The impact of the social and historical period when developing your character. | 20 |

Total Marks Awarded	100
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Acting: Solo - Level 3 Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (25 Minutes)

Marks Awarded

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 from a play written by: | 30 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J B Priestley • Alan Ayckbourn • Noel Coward • Charlotte Keatley • Or by any published playwright between 1900-2000 | |
| 2. Perform a scene from a published play written or set in a different century from section 1. (Time limit 4 minutes) | 30 |
| 3. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner. | 10 |
| 4. Perform a short improvisation or mime which will be set by the Examiner during the examination.
(Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform). | 10 |
| 5. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each character. • The plays from which the pieces are taken. • The context and subtext from each scene. | |

Total Marks Awarded

100

Grade 7 - Silver Medal (30 Minutes)**Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a scene from a published play by an Elizabethan or Jacobean playwright. (Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 2. Perform a scene from a play written by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henrik Ibsen• Oscar Wilde• George Bernard Shaw• Anton Chekov• Or any published playwright between 1850 and 1950 (Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 3. Perform a scene from a published play in dialect or accent (from any period). (Time limit 3 minutes) | 20 |
| 4. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner. | 10 |
| 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). | 10 |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The plays from which the pieces are taken.• The context and subtext of your scenes.• The importance of good breath support and practice in performance including resonance and projection. | 20 |

Total Marks Awarded**100**

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (40 Minutes)**Marks Awarded**

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 from a published play written between 1660 - 1780.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 2. Perform a scene from a play written by: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hare • Eugene O'Neill • Caryl Churchill • April de Angelis • Or any published playwright between 1950 and 2020
(Time limit 4 minutes) | |
| 3. Perform a scene from a published play in dialect or accent (from any period). (Time limit 3 minutes) | 20 |
| 4. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner and repeat with an alternative emotion given by the examiner. | 10 |
| 5. Perform an improvisation or mime set by the Examiner during the examination.
(Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform). | 10 |
| 6. Discuss with the Examiner: | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plays from which the pieces are taken. • The context, subtext and status of your roles • How your character evolves throughout the play • In detail the playwright from one of your selections | |

Total Marks Awarded**100**

Acting: Duologues / Combination

The criteria for Duologue examinations are as for Solo Examinations.

Duologue students are marked individually and given individual marks and reports.

The criteria for Combination examinations are as for Duologue Examinations except one solo scene each and one duologue scene are required.

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.
- Learners may enter for the Acting examinations as specified above in Combination form from Preliminary Grade to Grade 5.
- The criteria for marking Duologues and Combination are the same as that for the Solo Grades.
- All selections must be in duologue form for Duologue Examinations.
- One selection must be in duologue form and one selection in solo form for Combination Examination.

Guidance for Acting Pieces

Recommended Playwrights, Plays and Adaptations for Acting Syllabus

Entry Level - Age 5+ - Grades Preparatory – Transition

Entry Level Age 5+

- Beatrix Potter
- Jaqueline Wilson
- Roald Dahl
- J M Barrie
- Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Frank L Baum
- Michael Morpurgo
- Kenneth Graham
- C S Lewis
- Ellen Dryden
- Lewis Carroll
- Francesca Simon
- Anne Fine

Level 1 - Age 7 - 12 - Grades 1 – 3

Level 1 Age 7-12

- Roald Dahl
- Jaqueline Wilson
- Frances Hodgson Burnett
- J M Barrie
- Michael Morpurgo
- Frank L Baum
- C S Lewis
- Kenneth Graham
- Lewis Carroll
- Ellen Dryden
- Francesca Simon
- Anne Fine
- Alan Ayckbourn

Level 2 - Age 13 - 15 Grades 4 – 5

Level 2 Age 13 -15

Different Era

- Charlotte Bronte
- Jane Austen
- L M Montgomery
- Charles Dickens
- William Makepeace Thackeray
- L M Alcott

1900 -2000

- Willy Russell
- Tom Stoppard
- Alan Ayckbourn
- Michael Frayn
- JB Priestley
- Lillian Hellman

Level 3 - Age 15 - 17 Grades 6 – 8

Level 3 Age 15 - 17

1900 - 2000

- Harold Pinter
- Arthur Miller
- David Edgar
- Edward Bond
- Jim Cartwright
- Bryony Lavery
- Terrence Rattigan
- Joe Orton
- April de Angelis
- John Arden
- David Hare
- Tennessee Williams

Level 3 Age 15 - 17

1850 - 1950

- Somerset Maugham
- August Strindberg
- P G Wodehouse
- Henry James
- Thomas Hardy
- George Bernard Shaw
- Anton Chekov
- Thornton Wilder
- Noel Coward
- Bram Stoker
- Eugene O'Neill
- Oscar Wilde

Level 3 Age 15 - 17

1660 - 1780

- Richard Brinsley Sheridan
- William Wycherley
- John Fletcher
- John Vanbrugh
- George Farquhar
- David Garrick
- Frances Beaumont
- Aphra Benn
- William Congreve



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