



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

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**Performance Exams**

**Musical Theatre Syllabus Extract**

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# Contents

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<b>PERFORMANCE EXAMS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Musical Theatre</b> .....	<b>1</b>
General Objectives .....	1
Guidelines for Musical Theatre Learners .....	1
Musical Theatre: Solo - Entry Level.....	3
Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 1 Foundation .....	4
Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 2 Intermediate .....	5
Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 3 Advanced.....	6
<b>Musical Theatre: Duologues</b> .....	<b>8</b>
General Objectives .....	8
Guidelines for Musical Theatre Duologue Learners .....	8

# PERFORMANCE EXAMS

## Musical Theatre

### General Objectives

This Musical Theatre Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Aim to be accurate in both lyrics and tuning
- Demonstrate an awareness of the various and appropriate musical theatre styles
- Perform selections with flow and enjoyment
- Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of acting techniques throughout the performance.

### Guidelines for Musical Theatre Learners

- All selections must be performed from memory.
- Selections must be taken from published and recognised Musical Theatre works, and must be sung in English.
- Own compositions are not permitted.
- Learners should bring legible copies of the libretti to the examination for the Examiner, and must adhere to all copyright laws.
- Unless specified in the individual musical, selections must be accompanied; this can be live or recorded, and must be arranged by the Learner.
- Any pre-recorded backing tracks should not include vocals or vocal harmonies.
- Accompanists and sound operators are only permitted to remain in the examination room for the duration of the specific selection in which they are involved.
- The use of vocal amplification is not permitted.
- Full costume or make up is not permitted, although a suggestion of costume (e.g.: shawls, practice skirt or hat) and hand props are allowed (e.g.: fans, bags, walking sticks, etc.)

- In line with current standard Health and Safety advice, all Learners should ensure they are warmed up both vocally and physically before the examination.
- Teachers should ensure that the key of the song is within the Learner's comfortable range to avoid vocal damage. (Songs may be transposed from the original key to accommodate this.) Similarly, "belting" or "chesting" should be avoided unless the Learner has received specific training in that technique.
- Should the Examiner feel that there is a risk of damaging the Learner's vocal apparatus they have the right to curtail the examination.

## Musical Theatre: Solo - Entry Level

### Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

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

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform one song of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 90 |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner:                                   | 10 |
| • The song  |    |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

### Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

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

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform one song of their own choice. (Time limit 2 minutes) | 90 |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner:                                   | 10 |
| • The song  |    |
| • The reason for choosing it                                    |    |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

### Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

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

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform one song from a musical of their own choice.<br>(Time limit 2 minutes) | 90 |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner:   | 10 |
| • The song  |    |
| • The character who sings it  |    |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

### Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

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

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform two contrasting songs from musicals of their own choice.<br>(Time limit 3 minutes) | 90 |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner:   | 10 |
| • The meaning of the songs  |    |
| • The characters who sing them  |    |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

## Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 1 Foundation

### Grade 1 (15 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

#### Learners should:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform two contrasting songs of their own choice<br>(Time limit 5 minutes)  | 90 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One up-tempo</li><li>• One lyrical</li></ul>  |    |
| 2. Discuss with the Examiner:   | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the chosen songs</li><li>• Discuss the story of the Musical from which it is taken</li></ul> |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 2 (15 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

#### Learners should:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform one song from any film Musical. (Time limit 3 minutes)  | 45 |
| 2. Perform one contrasting song written after 1970.<br>(Time limit 3 minutes)  | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner:  | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The two songs and why you chose them</li><li>• The story of the musical and how the song(s) feature.</li></ul> |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 3 – Foundation Medal (20 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

#### Learners should:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character, either using the original script<br>or a devised one, leading into a song of their own choice.<br>(Time limit 5 minutes) | 45 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song of their own choice taken from any<br>Musical by Walt Disney. (Time limit 3 minutes)  | 45 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner:   | 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The story from which the songs were taken.</li><li>• The various vocal ranges</li></ul>                                 |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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## Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 2 Intermediate

### Grade 4 (20 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

#### Learners should:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song from a musical of their own choice. (Time limit 5 minutes) | 40 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice expressing a strong emotion. (Time limit 3 minutes)        | 40 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner:  | 20 |
| • The storyline of the musical chosen  |    |
| • Effective ways of warming up and cooling down the voice pre- and post-performance                                  |    |
| • Intercostal breathing and vocal support  |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 5 (25 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

#### Learners should:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of their own choice from any professional musical. (Time limit 6 minutes) | 40 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting comedy song of the Learner's own choice. (Time limit 4 minutes)  | 40 |
| 3. Discuss with the Examiner:   | 20 |
| • The storyline of the musical chosen   |    |
| • How you developed your character from rehearsal to performance  |    |
| • How does the physicality of a character impact on the voice?  |    |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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## Musical Theatre: Solo - Level 3 Advanced

### Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (30 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

**Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of the Learner's own choice from a West End or Broadway musical. (Time limit 6 minutes)   | 30 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song taken from any contemporary musical (Time limit 5 minutes)  | 20 |
| 3. Devise an original scene for one of the character(s) from one of your musical selections. (Time limit 6 minutes)   | 30 |
| 4. Discuss in depth with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast the different styles used in the two selections</li> <li>• The process of devising a scene with alternative storyline.</li> <li>• Methods of sustaining vocal health and consistency over an extended period of performance</li> </ul> | 20 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 7 - Silver Medal (35 Minutes)

### Marks Awarded

**Learners should:**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of the Learner's own choice by a renowned composer or lyricist from 20 <sup>th</sup> century. (Time limit 6 minutes)   | 20 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice written in the last 20 years. (Time limit 5 minutes)   | 20 |
| 3. Perform a song of the Learner's own choice which must be in an accent or dialect other than the Learner's own. (Time limit 5 minutes)   | 20 |
| 4. Give a short presentation on a renowned composer or lyricist. (Time limit 6 minutes)  | 20 |
| 5. Discuss in depth with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How musicals have changed throughout the 20th century comparing at least two different styles (e.g., compilation, through-sung, book musical, operetta)</li> <li>• The techniques you explored when preparing your pieces.</li> <li>• The changing use and techniques of amplification in the stage musical</li> </ul> | 20 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Grade 8 - Gold Medal (35 Minutes)****Marks Awarded**

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

**Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of the Learner's own choice from Musical Hall.<br>(Time limit 6 minutes)  | 20 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice from a different genre. (Time limit 4 minutes)  | 20 |
| 3. Perform a song of the Learner's own choice which must contrast in style, period, mood and performance songs in section 1 and 2.<br>(Time limit 5 minutes)  | 20 |
| 4. Give a short presentation on the social, political and historical context of a musical produced in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.<br>(Time limit 5 minutes)   | 20 |
| 5. Discuss in depth with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The process needed to approach a musical theatre performance when in different historical periods.</li><li>• The styles that have changed the face of musical theatre</li><li>• Practical ways of preparing for a role in a musical both vocally and physically.</li></ul> | 20 |

**Total Marks Awarded****100**

## Musical Theatre: Duologues

### General Objectives

The Duologue section of this Syllabus provides Learners with the opportunity to:

- Work with a partner in equally weighted roles
- Explore different texts
- Increase confidence
- Understand a sense of dependency

### Guidelines for Musical Theatre Duologue Learners

- Learners may enter for the Musical Theatre examinations specified above in Duologue form up to and including Grade 8.
- Duologues are marked as one performance. The criteria for marking Duologues is the same as that for the Solo Grades.
- Learners should put the word Duologue on their entry form together with the name of the Learner with whom they are entering.



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