

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 (eg: shawls, practice skirt or hat) and hand props are allowed (eg: 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.

Solo

Entry Level

Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

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

Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

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

Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform one song of their own choice.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The song
 - The character who sings it

Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform two contrasting songs of their own choice.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The meaning of the songs
 - The characters who sing them

Marks
Awarded

90

10

90

10

90

10

90

10

Level 1 - Foundation

Grade 1 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform two contrasting songs of their own choice
(Time limit 5 minutes)
 - One up-tempo
 - One lyrical
2. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - One of the chosen songs
 - Discuss the story of the Musical from which it is taken

Grade 2 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform one song from any film Musical.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Perform one contrasting song written after 1970.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - Either the composer or the lyricist of their first selection
 - How the song features in the story of the film.

Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene in character, either using the original script or a devised one, leading into a song of their own choice.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting song of their own choice taken from any Musical by Walt Disney.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - Either the composer or the lyricist of their first selection
 - The vocal ranges

Marks
Awarded

90

10

45

45

10

45

45

10

Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of their own choice.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice expressing a strong emotion.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - Breathing techniques and vocal support
 - Effective ways of warming up and cooling down the voice pre- and post-performance
 - The vocal changes that happen with age

Grade 5 (25 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of their own choice by either:
(Time limit 6 minutes)
 - Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber
 - Kander and Ebb
 - Steven Schwarz
2. Perform a contrasting comedy song of the Learner's own choice.
(Time limit 4 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - Three facts about Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber, Kander and Ebb, Steven Schwarz
 - How have acting styles changed as Musicals have evolved?
 - How does the physicality of a character impact on the voice?

Marks
Awarded

40

40

20

40

40

20

Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of the Learner's own choice by either:
(Time limit 6 minutes)
 - Rodgers and Hammerstein; or
 - Steven Sondheim
 - Frank Loesser
2. Perform a contrasting song taken from any modern pop compilation musical
(Time limit 5 minutes)
3. Perform a short acting improvisation, suggested by the lyrics or situation of one of the selections, which will be given by the Examiner in the examination room. A short time will be allowed for preparation
(Time limit 6 minutes)
4. Discuss in depth with the Examiner:
 - Compare and contrast the different styles used in the two selections
 - The vocal techniques used to sing/perform their selections
 - Methods of sustaining vocal health and consistency over an extended period of performance

Marks
Awarded

30

20

30

20

Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 7 - Silver Medal (35 Minutes)

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 1900 – 1985
(Time limit 6 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice written in the last 15 years.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
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)
4. Perform a short acting improvisation, suggested by the lyrics or situation of one of the selections, which will be given by the Examiner in the examination room. A short time will be allowed for preparation.
(Time limit 6 minutes)
5. Discuss in depth with the Examiner:
 - Two contrasting styles of musical theatre (e.g. compilation, through-sung, book musical, operetta) selected by the Learner
 - The Preparation for the two styles selected
 - The changing use and techniques of amplification in the stage musical

Marks
Awarded

20

20

20

20

20

Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (35 Minutes)

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

Learners should:

- | | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Perform a short scene in character leading into a song of the Learner's own choice from a Musical written between 1920 and 2000.
(Time limit 6 minutes) | 20 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting song of the Learner's own choice from the same era.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 3. Perform a song of the Learner's own choice which must contrast in style, period, mood and performance to the two songs.
(Time limit 5 minutes) | 20 |
| 4. Perform a short acting improvisation, suggested by the lyrics or situation of one of the selections, which will be given by the Examiner in the examination room. A short time will be allowed for preparation.
(Time limit 5 minutes) | 20 |
| 5. Discuss in depth with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The process needed to approach a musical theatre performance▪ The styles that have changed the face of musical theatre▪ Ways of preparing for a role in a musical. | 20 |

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.