

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.

Solo

Entry Level

Preparatory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The character chosen

Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters chosen

Marks Awarded

90

10

45

45

10

45

45

10

45

45

10

Level 1 - Foundation

Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters
 - The settings of the pieces

Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
3. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters
 - The settings of the pieces

Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a short scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 2 and a half minutes)
3. Perform a short piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner
 - The two characters
 - The plays or back stories from which their pieces are taken

Marks
Awarded

45

45

10

45

45

10

40

40

10

10

Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character set in a different period.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Perform a piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters
 - The plays or adaptations from which their pieces are taken
 - Modulation – pitch, pace, pause, inflection, emphasis

Grade 5 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play by any well-known dramatist and set in a period before 1920.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a well-known contemporary play post 1980.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Perform a piece of sight reading from a play chosen by the Examiner.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The two characters
 - The plays or adaptations from which their pieces are taken
 - Techniques they employed in characterisation

Marks Awarded

35

35

10

20

35

35

10

20

Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (25 Minutes)

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

Learners should:

- | | Marks Awarded |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Perform a scene arranged for one character only from an Elizabethan or Jacobean playwright.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 30 |
| 2. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play written by a well known dramatist of the twentieth century.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 30 |
| 3. Perform at sight a short passage from a play chosen by the Examiner. | 10 |
| 4. Perform an improvisation which will be set by the Examiner during the examination.
(Time will be given for preparation and 3 minutes to perform). | 10 |
| 5. Discuss in detail with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Each character (See theory book)▪ The plays from which their pieces are taken▪ The structure needed when creating an improvisation | 20 |

Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 7 - Silver Medal (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

- | | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from any play written in verse.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a play written between 1850 and 1980 by a well-known dramatist.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 3. Perform a short scene in dialect (from any period) in contrast to the other two pieces.
(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 in detail with the Examiner <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Each character (See theory book)▪ The plays from which their pieces are taken▪ The importance of good breath support and practice in performance | 20 |

Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (40 Minutes)

The Sir Roger Moore Certificate of Excellence is awarded annually to the Learner gaining the highest Distinction mark in this examination.

Learners should:

- | | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Perform a scene arranged for one character from a play of the Restoration period (1660 - 1780).
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 2. Perform a contrasting scene arranged for one character from a play by a well-known dramatist written in the last 50 years.
(Time limit 4 minutes) | 20 |
| 3. Perform a short scene in dialect (from any period) in contrast to the other two pieces.
(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 in detail with the Examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Each character (See theory book)▪ The plays from which their pieces are taken▪ The creative thought and technical details involved in preparing to play a character in performance▪ The practical application of good breath support including resonance, forward placing and projection | 20 |

Duologues/Combination

The criteria for Duologue examinations are as for Solo Examinations.

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 Examinations