

Devised Drama

General Objectives

This Devised Drama Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Develop a range of stage techniques
- Instill enthusiasm and enjoyment
- Develop creative and interpretive skills
- Develop an understanding of dramatic structure and narrative
- Work spontaneously
- Employ language, movement, role and situation appropriate to the fictional context being created

The group exam is also useful “practice” for GCSE Drama, A level Drama and Theatre Studies.
Higher grades, carry UCAS points.

Guidelines for Devised Drama Learners

- The Examiner will give appropriate preparation time during the examinations for preparation of a new scene, redirection and enactment unless specifically stated.
- Full costume or make up is not permitted, although a suggestion of costume (eg: shawls, practice skirt or hat) and hand props are allowed. (e.g: 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. Devise a scene around a nursery rhyme or short story.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. The Examiner will question the Learner in role.

Introductory Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a short scene to act out in the role of a well-known character.
(Learners may bring a prop to assist them).
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. The Examiner will question the Learner in role.

Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a short scene based on a character with special or magical powers.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. The Examiner will question the Learner in role.

Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene involving a box, a map or a key.
(Time limit 2 minutes)
2. The Examiner will question the Learner in role.

Marks
Awarded

90

10

90

10

90

10

90

10

Level 1 - Foundation

Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on lost and found
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Perform a contrasting scene with a prop of choice.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss the scenes with the examiner.

Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on one of the following locations
(Time limit 3 minutes)
 - Fairground
 - Garden
 - Beach
 - Shopping centre.
2. Devise a scene based on an emotion.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss the scenes with the examiner.

Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on a well-known proverb.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
2. Perform the scene again with a different outcome/meaning.
(Time limit 3 minutes)
3. Discuss the scenes with the examiner.

Marks
Awarded

45

45

10

45

45

10

45

45

10

Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on dreams or nightmares:
(Time limit 4 minutes)
2. Devise a scene inspired by a pair of shoes.
(Time limit 4 minutes)
3. Discuss with the examiner the scenes and the structure needed in devised drama.

Grade 5 (15 Minutes)

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

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on greed, jealousy, love or hate.
(Time limit 4 minutes)
2. Devise a contrasting scene of the Learner's choice.
(Time limit 4 minutes)
3. Discuss with the examiner the scenes, characters and process when devising original work.

Marks
Awarded

40

40

20

40

40

20

Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene on a theme of conflict or war.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
2. Devise a scene showing a change of status.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
3. The Examiner will question the Learner on their roles and on their research.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The challenges faced when portraying characters with changing status.

Grade 7 - Silver Medal (25 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene using a piece of text, visual image or music as your stimulus.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
2. Devise a scene based on a recent news event.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
3. The Examiner will question the Learner on their roles and on their research.
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - The preparation and construction of the pieces
 - What are the considerations when using factual material as opposed fictional.

Marks
Awarded

40

40

10

10

40

40

10

10

Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (30 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Devise a scene based on a historical or political event or situation.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
2. Devise a scene based on an individual who is key to the event you have chosen.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
3. Devise a scene as a journalist reporting the event.
(Time limit 5 minutes)
4. Discuss with the Examiner:
 - Why they chose the event
 - The explorative strategies used
 - Their research and how they reached the final Performances

Marks
Awarded

40

20

20

20

Duologues

The criteria for Duologue examinations are as for Solo Examinations.

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 ideas
- Increase confidence
- Understand a sense of dependency

Guidelines for Devised Drama Duologue Learners:

Duologues are marked as one performance. The criteria for marking Duologues are 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.