

Verse Speaking

General Objectives

This Solo Verse Speaking Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop the art of speaking verse
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instil a love of poetry
- Understand the diverse forms of poetry
- Specialise in the serious performance and art of verse speaking

Guidelines for Solo Verse Speaking Learners

- Learners should be at least 11 years old.
- All selections in these examinations must be spoken from memory.
- Each grade must be prepared as a short recital and Learners should, therefore begin with a short introduction and provide linking narrative.

Foundation Level

Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak a short poem of their own choice.
2. Speak a contrasting poem of their own choice.

Marks
Awarded

45

45

Choice of
Programme
10

Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
 - Best Friends by Bernard Young
 - A Teacher's day in bed by David Orme
 - Yes by Adrian Mitchell
 - Quack said the Billy Goat by Charles Causley
 - From a Railway Carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson
2. Speak a short lyrical poem of their own choice.

45

45

Choice of
Programme
10

Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (10 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
 - Where do all the Teachers go? by Peter Dixon
 - The Kings Breakfast by AA Milne
 - Dear Mum by Brian Patten
 - The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear
 - The Evacuee by Shirley Tomlinson
2. Speak a poem of their own choice on the theme of either:
 - People
 - Places
 - Animals
3. Speak another poem of their own choice.

30

30

30
Choice of
Programme
10

Level 2 - Intermediate

Grade 4 (5 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak one of the following poems:
 - I Remember by Thomas Hood
 - Apple Blossom by Louis MacNeice
 - Sea Fever by John Masefield
 - The Way Through the Woods by Rudyard Kipling
2. Speak a sonnet written after 1950.
3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.

Grade 5 (15 Minutes)

Learners should:

1. Speak an extract of their own selection from one of the following:
 - Lines from - Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning
 - Lines from – The Lady of Shalott by Alfred Lord Tennyson
 - Lines from – The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes
2. Speak a poem by
 - Robert Frost
 - William Wordsworth
 - John Clare
 - Elizabeth Barrett Browning
3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.

Marks Awarded

30

30

30

Choice of
Programme
10

30

30

30

Choice of
Programme
10

Level 3 - Advanced

Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a short recital to include the following poems:

- A classical poem
- War poem
- Modern Poem

(Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 10 minutes).

Grade 7 - Silver Medal - (15 Minutes)

Learners should present a short recital of their own choice including 3 styles of poetry. Two should be selected from the following list:

- Romantic era
- Ballad Poem (extract acceptable)
- Nature Poem
- Classical Poem

The third poem is own choice and can be from any era or style

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 10 minutes).

Marks Awarded

30
30
30

Choice of
Programme
10

30

30

Choice of
Programme
10

Level 3 - Advanced (Continued)

Grade 8 - Gold Medal (20 Minutes)

Learners should:

Present a varied programme on a chosen theme of their own choice to include:

Four poems:

- One Shakespearean poem
- Two contrasting poems from different eras
- One sonnet

(Time – including introductions and linking material must not exceed 15 minutes).

Marks
Awarded

20

20

20

20

Choice of
Programme

20