

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATIONS 2003- 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

The new syllabus has been extended and contains many revisions and changes. It is important that these are given special attention.

In addition to the poems listed for each grade in Speech and Drama and Choric Verse Speaking, candidates may select a poem from the **RIAM First Anthology of Poetry** for the relevant grade.

Drama and prose publications may be obtained in the main bookshops.

Popular monologues and sketches are not acceptable after Grade 4. From Grade 5 onwards selections must be taken from full plays or adaptations of novels.

In all Grades of Speech and Drama, selections must be memorised, with the exception of prepared reading and talks (for which notes are allowed).

An own choice selection must not be taken from the current syllabus, although the syllabus may be used as a guide to the required standard of the relevant grade.

Suitability of length should also be given consideration, ie neither overly long, causing problems with memorisation, nor too short to allow candidates to show their skills in interpretation and presentation.

There is no upper age limit. However, in some examinations suggested age suitability has been included.

Candidates **must** bring copies of their selections with them for the use of the Examiner; photocopies are **not** acceptable.

Candidates must bring to the examination room copies of any books used in prepared reading tests.

GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS

In the performance of:

Verse

Candidates should show good use of voice and speech and a sensitive and imaginative response to content, mood and rhythm.

Reading

Candidates should show an appreciation of the style of the writer and convey a sense of enjoyment, with colourful communication and good eye-contact.

Prose

Candidates should respond imaginatively to the text and show a sensitive approach to content and mood, with an awareness of both narrative delivery and direct speech.

Drama

Candidates should show an imaginative response to the text, character and situation and also spontaneity of thought, movement, gesture and emotion. Good use of the acting area should also be achieved and effective vocal projection.

Duologues

The performance of each candidate will be assessed simultaneously. Each part must be of equal importance. The standard of the chosen excerpts should be suitable to the age of the candidate(s) and the grade of the examination.

Group Drama

All members of the group will be expected to take part in both sections (scene and mime). A sense of group organisation and team work should be shown as well as full involvement, whether speaking or listening. Basic furniture and hand and other properties may be used.

Costume, practice dress or leotards and tights may be worn. Maximum time allowed includes any time taken in setting and striking furniture and properties. The Examiner will assess the group as a whole and may also refer to individual performances.

Mime

Mime will be examined as a complete scene where everything, except basic furniture, is created by the performer - the setting, the properties and, in solo performances, the character or characters within the scene. Improvisation should include the use of words.

Scenes should have simplicity, involvement, credibility and originality.

Theory

Candidates should be familiar with the theory of previous grades and they should be able to link theoretical knowledge with practical work.

Public Speaking and Oral Communication

Candidates should aim to communicate with clarity, conviction, sincerity, spontaneity and suitable use of vocal technique. All talks and speeches should be given with specific audiences in mind and these should be made known to the Examiner. Notes may be used but should not hinder communication or eye contact. Visual aids may be used, where appropriate.

Group Examinations

Candidates should show confidence, fluency and clarity of expression in group discussion and in interviews.

Choral Speaking

Groups should aim to achieve a colourful and controlled vocal orchestration, with good use of modulation and a sense of group communication and enjoyment.

English as a Second Language

Candidates should aim for clarity of speech and thought and show an understanding of vocabulary used in tasks and discussions.

Definitions of play periods for examination purposes:

A **Modern** play is a published play set in any period after 1940.

A **Restoration** play refers to plays written between 1660 and 1730 and must not be confused with **Eighteenth Century Comedy**, eg Sheridan and Goldsmith.

A **Classical** play is a play written by a major Irish, English or Foreign dramatist before 1940.

A **Period** play is one which is set in a period outside the modern (see above) and which demands appropriate awareness of costume and movement.

A **Contemporary** play is one which is set in the present.

SPEECH AND DRAMA

Kindergarten to Primary Grades

Section A — Poetry	30	Section B — Prose	30
Section C — Mime	20	Section D — Conversation	20

Grades 1 - 8: 20 marks in each section (A, B, C, D, E)

All poetry, prose and drama selections must be spoken from memory.
Own choice pieces may not be selected from another grade in the syllabus.

- Candidates must bring reading matter to examination where required.
- Copies of pieces **must** be presented to the Examiner on the examination day. Photocopies of the original text breach copyright regulations and are not acceptable.
- No marks will be awarded for incorrect texts presented at examination
- Candidates using photocopies of text will be disqualified

It is acceptable for two candidates, who have been entered for the same grade in the same examination session, to present a mime as a Duo. They will be marked separately.

Marking Scheme

Distinction	-	90% or above
Honours	-	80% - 89%
Merit	-	70% - 79%
Pass	-	60% - 69%
Fail	-	below 60%

KINDERGARTEN GRADE

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Large and Small by Daphne Lister (A Red Poetry Paint Box)
The Giant and the Boy by John Foster (A Red Poetry Paint Box)
That's What you Think by Doreen Dean (A Green Poetry Paint Box)
My Den by Tony Mitton (A Green Poetry Paint Box)
Night Fun, by Judith Viorst (A World of Poetry)
Secrets by Judith Viorst (A World of Poetry)
The Peanut Seller New Orleans Street Cry (A World of Poetry)
Happiness by A A Milne (When We Were Very Young)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose

Storytelling in candidate's own words — own choice — not more than one minute's duration.

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Conversation

Discussion on work presented, to test understanding and appreciation.

PRELIMINARY GRADE

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Back to School by Allan Ahlberg (Please Mrs Butler)
Swops by Allan Ahlberg (Please Mrs Butler)
Winter Walk by Wendy Larmont (An Orange Poetry Paint Box)
The Barn Owl by Richard James (An Orange Poetry Paint Box)
The Corner Shop by Richard James (An Orange Poetry Paint Box)
Secret by John Agard (Unzip Your Lip Again)
Grandad Says by Irene Yates (A Green Poetry Paint Box)
The Leader by Roger McGough (One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose

Storytelling in candidate's own words — own choice — not more than one minute's duration.

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Conversation

Discussion on work presented, to test understanding and appreciation.

PRIMARY GRADE

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Spaceship Race by Charles Thomson (a Blue Poetry Paint Box)

Pebbles by John Kitching (A Blue Poetry Paint Box)

The Shell by Stanley Cook (A Blue Poetry Paint Box)

As I was Coming to School by Allan Ahlberg (Please Mrs Butler)

The Sea by John Foster (A Green Poetry Paint Box)

Night Ride by Celia Warren (A Green Poetry Paint Box)

Mr Mad's Machine by Tony Mitton (A Green Poetry Paint Box)

I wonder if She Knows by Sali Tagliamonte (A World of Poetry)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose

Storytelling in candidate's own words — own choice — not more than one minute's duration.

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Conversation

Discussion on work presented, to test understanding and appreciation.

GRADE 1

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

The Voyage by Albert Rowe (Another Third Poetry Book)

Music by Tony Mitton (A Purple Poetry Paint Box)

If it's Raining by Julie O'Callaghan (Two Barks)

The People Upstairs by Ogden Nash (A World of Poetry)

Temper, Temper by Mike Jubb (Unzip Your Lips Again)

I had a Little Cat by Charles Causley (Read me 1)

First Morning by John Agard (Read me 1)

Supply Teacher by Allan Ahlberg (Please Mrs Butler)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose

Storytelling in candidate's own words — own choice — not more than one minute's duration.

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage which will be selected by the Examiner from the prepared chapter or lesson from any book chosen by the candidate from his/her School English Syllabus, or from a book of comparable standard.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

Candidates will be expected to discuss the selection spoken, and have a knowledge and understanding of the use of pause in prose.

GRADE 2

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg (Please Mrs Butler)

9 Years Old by Lorraine Simeon (A World of Poetry)

Hill Rolling by Andrew Taylor (A World of Poetry)

Calculation by Julie O’Callaghan (Two Barks)

Something Told the Wild Geese by Rachel Field

(One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children)

Not my Day by Russell Hoban (One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children)

Whatif by Shel Silverstein (One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children)

Everyone Sang by Sigfried Sassoon. (One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to speak one of the following prose excerpts or to perform a speech (edited if necessary) from any play of their own choice (time limit three minutes).

YOU’RE A DISGRACE DAISY, by Jenny Oldfield. Chapter 3 from ‘*No more school*’ to ‘*I thought it was something serious.*’ (Hodder Childrens’ Books)

THE SADDLE CLUB, HORSEWISE, by Bonnie Bryant. Chapter 9 from ‘*Lisa, you’d better come over*’ to ‘*Lisa had to tell them soon.*’ (Bantam)

THE TWITS BY Roald Dahl. Chapter - “Mrs. Twit has the Shrinks” from ‘*As soon as Mrs. Twit sat down*’ to ‘*The worst in the world.*’ (Puffin)

A FAMILY OF FOXES by Eilis Dillon. Chapter 3 from ‘*For a few minutes*’ to ‘*the others disagreed with this.*’ (Puffin)

I WAS A RAT by Philip Pullman. Chapter 12 “Where’s He Gone?” from ‘*When Roger didn’t come back*’ to ‘*to see what that man’s been up to.*’ (Corgi)

CHARLOTTE’S WEB by E B White. Chapter 13 from ‘*Tell me a story, Charlotte,*’ to ‘*the web swayed and stretched.*’ (Puffin)

BLACK BEAUTY by Anna Sewell. Chapter 6 Liberty from ‘*I was quite happy in my new place*’ to ‘*he was always good and patient.*’ (Puffin)

STIG OF THE DUMP by Clive King. Chapter 5 from '*Barney jumped fallen tree trunks*' to '*but Barney made signs to be quiet.*' (Puffin)

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage which will be selected by the Examiner from two prepared chapters or lessons from any book chosen by the candidate from his/her School English Syllabus, or from a book of comparable standard.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To answer questions on the selections spoken, and on phrasing, in addition to the subject dealt with in the previous grade.

GRADE 3

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

The Railway Children by Seamus Heaney (The Ring of Words)

Sea Fever by John Masefield (The Ring of Words)

Stevie Scared by Rachael Edwards (The Ring of Words)

People by D H Lawrence (The Ring of Words)

Communion Dress by Julie O'Callaghan (Two Barks)

The Word Party by Richard Edwards (Read Me 1)

The Sound Collector by Roger McGough (Read Me 1)

Sir Smashum Uppe by E V Rieu (Read Me 1)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to speak one of the following prose excerpts or to perform a speech (edited if necessary) from any play of their own choice (time limit three minutes).

THE IRON MAN by Ted Hughes. Chapter 5 from '*And so it was fixed*' to '*from the giant singer in space.*' (Faber & Faber)

ARTEMIS FOWL by Eoin Colfer. Chapter 3 from '*Holly couldn't think*' to '*A gesture of peace.*' (Viking)

RUN SWIFT RUN FREE by Tom McCaughren. Chapter 2 from *'Here and there at the edge of the lake'* to *'and made his neck stiff said Little Running Fox.'* (Wolfhound)

SEASCAPE WITH BARBER'S HARP by Mary Arrigan. Chapter 16 from *'If I thought'* to *'drama and emotion of a time like this.'* (The Childrens' Press)

NORTHERN LIGHTS by Jack Pullman. Chapter 21 from *'Lyra's first glimpse of her father's prison'* to *'Lyra wearily pushed back her hood.'* (Scholastic)

THE HORSE THIEF by Hugh Galt. Chapter 12 from *'Joe suddenly grabbed Rory's arm'* to *'head low and nostrils flaring.'* (O'Brien Press)

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE by J K Rowling. Chapter 8 from *'There were a hundred and forty-two staircases at Hogwarts'* to *'Professor Quirrell who was passing.'* (Bloomsbury)

IT WASN'T ME by Creina Mansfield. Chapter 6 Collision from *'When school ended, Jack had to go to the school office'* to *'the pirouetting Andrew.'* (O'Brien Press)

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage which will be selected by the Examiner from three prepared chapters or lessons from any book chosen by the candidate from his/her School English Syllabus, or from a book of comparable standard.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, to answer questions on the use of pause in prose and verse, in addition to subjects dealt with in previous grades.

GRADE 4

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

The Feet by Tony Wayman (A World of Poetry)

Description of the Morning by Jonathan Swift (A World of Poetry)

The Song of Wandering Aengus by William Butler Yeats (A World of Poetry)

Tich Miller by Wendy Cope (100 Years of Poetry for Children)

It Was Long Ago by Eleanor Farjeon (100 Years of Poetry for Children)

My Mother Saw a Dancing Bear by Charles Causley (The Ring of Words)

Lovesick by Jackie Kay (The Ring of Words)

The Blind Boxer by W H Davies (The Ring of Words)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to speak one of the following prose excerpts or to perform a speech (edited if necessary) from any play of their own choice (time limit three minutes).

LIVING IN IMPERIAL ROME by Eilis Dillon. Chapter 2 from *'The customer is a middle-aged man'* to *'if he wished.'* (O'Brien Press)

ANIMAL FARM by George Orwell. Chapter 7 from *'It was a bitter winter'* to *'starvation seemed to stare them in the face.'* (Penguin)

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, by C S Lewis. Chapter 8 from *'And did he tell you'* to *'as far as **that** is concerned.'* (Harper Collins)

WATERSHIP DOWN by Richard Adams. Chapter 13, Hospitality from *'The knowledge that the gathering was safely around the corner'* to *'so he was the one who went.'* (Puffin)

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH by Roald Dahl. Scene 1, **NARRATOR** from *'Wow! What a beginning to a story'* to *'Let's take a closer look at what's happening.'* (Unwin Hyman)

THE BOY WHO FELL INTO A BOOK by Alan Ayckbourn. Act 1 **KEVIN** from *'Rockfist Slim, ace detective'* to *'in deep impenetrable darkness.'* (Faber)

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS by Neil Simon. Act 1 **NORA** from ‘*Where’s Mom, Aunt Kate*’ to ‘*I’m going to be in a Broadway show, Momma.*’ [Omit all other characters] (Samuel French)

THE WITCHES by Roald Dahl (Plays for Children, Adapted by David Wood). The Witches Annual Meeting **GRAND HIGH WITCH** from ‘*Vitches of Inkland. Miserrable vitches*’ to ‘*Now vee can get down to business.*’ [Omit other characters] (Samuel French).

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — one minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage which will be selected by the Examiner from four prepared chapters or lessons from any book chosen by the candidate from his/her School English Syllabus, or from a book of comparable standard.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, to answer questions on the various means of achieving emphasis, on the classification of vowel sounds and on the specific organs of speech used in their formation, in addition to subjects dealt with in previous grades.

GRADE 5

Suggested age 13 years or over

In sections A and B, the candidate must offer two pieces, one of which will be his/her own choice, as follows:

Own Choice: Poetry

Set Piece: Poetry

or

Set Piece: Prose/Drama

Own Choice: Prose/Drama

In selecting drama, popular monologues are not acceptable from Grade 5 upwards: choose only from published plays.

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

My Son Aged Three by Vernon Scannell (The Ring of Words)

The Trees by Philip Larkin (The Ring of Words)

Vocation by Rabindranath Tagore (A World of Poetry)

Old Soldier by Brendan Kennelly (Begin)

Peace by Patrick Kavanagh (Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Mother to Son by Langston Hughes (Myriad English for Junior Certificate)

Flight by Barrie Wade (Myriad English for Junior Certificate.)

First Day at School by Roger McGough (Myriad English for Junior Certificate)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to perform any one of the following:

THE HOBBIT by J R R Tolkien. Chapter 7 from *'The next morning Bilbo woke up with the early sun'* to *'and let go his clutch just a tiny bit.'* (Unwin)

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES by L M Montgomery. Chapter 14 from *'When her dishes were washed and her bread sponge set'* to *'and drive you down to the picnic ground.'* (Puffin)

SILAS MARNER by George Eliot. Chapter 12 from *'He had plenty to do through the next hour'* to *'and half covered with the shaken snow.'* (Pan Books)

THE COLOUR OF MAGIC BY Terry Pratchett. Chapter 1 from *'The twin city of Ankh-Morport,'* to *'The beggar shrugged.'* (Corgi)

OLIVER TWIST by Charles Dickens. Chapter 12 from *'The coach rattled away'* to *'he looked anxiously around.'*

EXTRACT FROM THE BIBLE (Any Version) MARK 6.30-44 *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand Men.*

INVISIBLE FRIENDS by Alan Ayckbourne. Act 1 **LUCY** from *'Come with me if you will'* to *'out of the corner of my eye.'* (Collected Plays 2, Faber)

BAR AND GER by Geraldine Aron. **GER** from 'My heart has been thumping since I left Cape Town' to 'And changed my mind.' (Samuel French)

MY VERY OWN STORY by Alan Ayckbourn. Act 1 **PETER** from 'Thank you, everyone, so very much' to 'Take it away, Mr. Notes.' (Collected Plays 2, Faber)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare. Act 5 Scene 1 **PETER QUINCE** from 'Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show' to 'while here they do remain.'

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — two minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage of prose or verse at sight.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, including the full text and the background of ONE of the authors. To answer questions on breath-control, relaxation, posture and the subjects dealt with in previous grades.

GRADE 6

Suggested age 14 years or over

In sections A and B, the candidate must offer two pieces, one of which will be his/her own choice, as follows:

Own Choice: Poetry

Set Piece: Poetry

or

Set Piece: Prose/Drama

Own Choice: Prose/Drama

In selecting drama, popular monologues are not acceptable: choose only from published plays.

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Night Feed by Eavan Boland (Selected Poems)

The Choosing by Liz Lochhead (Real Cool)

Hands by Mary Dorcey (Real Cool)

Going Home to Mayo, Winter 1949 by Paul Durcan (Real Cool)

Field of Vision by Seamus Heaney (Real Cool)

Take a Poem Miss Smith by Roger McGough (Real Cool)

Portrait by Brendan Kennelly (Begin)

Piano by D H Lawrence (100 Years of Poetry for Children)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to perform any one of the following:

THE LITTLE PRINCE by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Chapter 25 from ‘ “Men”, said the little prince “set out on their way in express trains” ’ to ‘One must look with the heart.’ (Piccolo Pan Books)

THE HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY by Douglas Adams. Chapter 20 from ‘Five figures wandered slowly over the blighted land’ to ‘thinnish atmosphere and the wind.’ (Heinemann)

THE JUNGLE BOOK by Rudyard Kipling. Chapter Tiger! Tiger! from ‘But Mowgli’s plan was simple enough’ to ‘Down, Rama, down!’ (Piccolo Pan Books)

THE PICKWICK CLUB (From The Pickwick Papers) by Charles Dickens. Chapter 6 from ‘Several guests who were assembled’ to ‘He don’t care for an old ‘ooman like me, I dare say.’

EXTRACT FROM THE BIBLE (any version) St Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians 13.1-13 Love.

MOLLY SWEENEY by Brian Friel. Act 1 **MOLLY** from ‘By the time I was five years of age’ to ‘You’re my nemophila.’ (Gallery Books)

THE TINKER’S WEDDING, by J M Synge. ACT 1 **SARAH** from ‘And a big fool I was, too, maybe;’ to ‘and the bats squeaking in the trees.’ [Omit Michael] (Oxford University Press)

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare. Act 3, Scene 4
PORTIA from ‘*Come on, Nerissa, I have work in hand*’ to ‘*measure twenty miles today.*’

THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams. Scene 7 **JIM** from ‘*You know - you’re - well - very different!*’ to ‘*well, you’re - Blue Roses.*’ (Heinemann)

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS by Robert Bolt. Act 2 **CROMWELL** from ‘*Now, Sir Thomas, you stand upon your silence*’ to ‘*but most eloquent denial.*’ [Omit More] (Samuel French)

THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare. Act 2, Scene 2 **STEPHANO** from ‘*What’s the matter? Have we devils here?*’ to ‘*open your chaps again.*’

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — two minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage of prose, verse or drama at sight.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, including the full text and the background of ONE of the authors. To answer questions on resonance, and on the classification of consonant sounds and the organs used in their formation, in addition to subjects dealt with in previous grades.

GRADE 7

Suggested age 15 years or over

In sections A and B, the candidate must offer two pieces, one of which will be his/her own choice, as follows:

Own Choice: Poetry

Set Piece: Poetry

or

Set Piece: Prose/Drama

Own Choice: Prose/Drama

In selecting drama, popular monologues are not acceptable: choose only from published plays.

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Framed by Fleur Adcock (Poems 1960-2000)

A Blessing by James Wright (Real Cool)

It Ain't What You Do It's What It Does To You by Simon Armitage (Real Cool)

The Country Fiddler by John Montague (The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Reflections by Louis Mac Neice (Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Sonnet No 23 "As an Imperfect Actor on the stage..." by William Shakespeare

Perfect Light by Ted Hughes (Birthday Letters).

Mouse's Nest by John Clare (The Rattle Bag)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to perform any one of the following:

FALLING LEAVES by Adeline Yen Mah, Chapter 5 from *'My own memories of Tianjin are nebulous'* to *'but managed, as usual, to escape.'* (Penguin)

MANSFIELD PARK by Jane Austen. CHAPTER 9 from *'The situation of the house excluded the possibility'* to *'"Every generation has its improvements" said Miss Crawford, with a smile, to Edmund.'* (Penguin Classics)

THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE by Oscar Wilde. From *'At noon the student opened his window and looked out'* to *'pulled out a great dusty book, and began to read.'*

ELECTRA by Sophocle. **ELECTRA** from *'Dear Sister, do not let these offerings come near his tomb'* to *'All others, him who now is dead - our father.'* [Line 431 to 464] (Extract quoted is from Oxford World's Classics, Translated by H D F Kitto; other translations are acceptable)

DEIRDRE OF THE SORROWS by J M Synge. Act 3. **DEIRDRE** from *'Draw a little back with the squabbling of fools when I am broken up with misery'* to *'a joy and triumph to the ends of life and time.'* [Omit other characters](Oxford University Press).

THE SEAGULL by Anton Chekhov. Act 4. **NINA** from ‘*Why did you say you kissed the ground I trod on*’ to ‘*I’m not afraid of life.*’ (Extract quoted is from Oxford World Classics, Translated by Ronald Hingley, other translations are acceptable).

AS YOU LIKE IT by William Shakespeare. Act. 3. Scene 2. **ROSALIND** from ‘*Love is merely a madness*’ to ‘*every day to my cote and woo me.*’

THE RIVALS by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Act 3. SCENE 2. **FAULKLAND** from ‘*I do not mean to distress you*’ to ‘*curse my folly half the day and all the night.*’

LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT by Eugene O’Neill. **EDMUND** from ‘*Don’t lie about it*’ to ‘*You stinking old miser - !*’

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE by Oscar Wilde. **GERALD** from ‘*Mother, how changeable you are*’ to ‘*to be just like Lord Illingworth.*’

CYMBELINE by William Shakespeare. Act 2. Scene 2. **IACHIMO** from ‘*The crickets sing*’ to ‘*To the maddening of her lord.*’

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — two minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage of prose, verse or drama at sight.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, including the full text and the background of ONE of the authors. To answer questions on modulation, on Sonnet Forms, on the structure and speaking of Blank Verse, and on subjects dealt with in previous grades.

GRADE 8

Suggested age 16 years or over

In sections A and B, the candidate must offer two pieces, one of which will be his/her own choice, as follows:

Own Choice: Poetry

Set Piece: Poetry

or

Set Piece: Prose/Drama

Own Choice: Prose/Drama

In selecting drama, popular monologues are not acceptable: choose only from published plays.

Section A: Poetry

Candidates to speak one of the following poems:

Leaving the Tate by Fleur Adcock (Poems 1960-2000)

The Wanderer by W H Auden (The Rattle Bag)

The Harvest Bow by Seamus Heaney (The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Sunday Morning by Louis MacNeice (The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Anne Frank Huis by Andrew Motion (Real Cool)

Innocence by Patrick Kavanagh (The Rattle Bag)

The Sofa by Medbh McGuckian (The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry)

Afterwards by Thomas Hardy (The Rattle Bag)

or any poem in the RIAM First Anthology of Poetry for this grade.

Section B: Prose/Drama

Candidates to perform any one of the following:

ON THE EVE by Ivan Turgenev. Chapter 33 from *'The gondola in which Insarov and Elena were sitting'* to *'they set off for the theatre.'* (Heinemann)

THE EUROPEANS by Henry James. Chapter 7. From *'Felix Young finished Gertrude's portrait'* to *'and almost asked his nephew's advice.'* (Wordsworth Classics)

A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen. Act 3. **NORA**. From '*That's just it. You have never understood me.*' to '*That's been our marriage, Torvald.*' (Extract quoted is from Oxford World Classics, Translated by James McFarlane and Jens Arup, other translations are acceptable)

THE HOUSE OF BERNADA ALBA by Federico Garcia Lorca. Act 1 **PONCIA** from '*Thirty years washing her sheets*' to '*a wolf had got into the church.*' (Omit Maid). (Extract quoted is from Oxford World Classics, translated by John Edmunds, other translations are acceptable)

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE by Oscar Wilde. Act 2. **MRS ALLONBY** from '*The Ideal Man*' to '*with variations.*' (Methuen)

ABSENT FRIENDS by Alan Ayckbourn. **DIANA** from '*When I was a little girl*' to '*I want to join the mounted police, please!*' (Penguin)

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL by William Shakespeare. Act 3 Scene 2. **HELENA**. From '*Till I have no wife*' to '*For with the poor dark thief I'll steal away.*'

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME by Frank McGuinness. Scene 8. **MICHAEL**. From '*My father was absent at Christmas*' to '*I was old enough to remember every word.*' (Faber)

THE CHERRY ORCHARD by Anton Chekhov. Act 2. **TROFIMOV** From '*Mankind is perpetually advancing*' to '*It would be better for us just to keep quiet.*' (Extract quoted is from Oxford World Classics, translated by Ronald Hingley but other translations are acceptable).

DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller. Act 2. **WILLIE**. From '*Business is definitely business*' to '*They don't know me any more.*' (Heinemann).

ARISTOCRATS by Brian Friel. Act 3. **CASIMIR**. From '*I discovered a great truth when I was nine*' to '*We must have a talk some time Eamon.*' (Faber)

THE SPANISH TRAGEDY by Thomas Kyd. Act 3, Scene 7. **HIERONIMO**. From '*And yet though somewhat nearer me concerns*' to '*Or tire them all with my revenging threats.*'

Section C: Mime

Theme: own choice — three minute's duration.

Section D: Reading

To read aloud a passage of prose, verse or drama at sight.

Section E: Conversation and Theory

To discuss the selections spoken, including the full text and the background of ONE of the authors. To answer questions on the main types of English verse, on the art of speaking verse and on the creation of character in drama, in addition to the subjects dealt with in previous grades.

SENIOR CERTIFICATE

Suggested age 17 years or over

Practical Examination

Candidates to perform a poem, a prose extract AND a drama extract from the set list of authors. Pieces presented may NOT be selected from previous grades.

Marks

Poetry

Fleur Adcock, Kahil Gibran, Louis McNeice, Medbh McGuckian
P B Shelley, Paul Muldoon, Patrick Williams, Simon Armitage
C Day Lewis, Paula Meehan 20

Prose

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens,
Maya Angelou, Roddy Doyle, Peter Carey, Isabel Allende,
George Orwell 20

Drama

Samuel Beckett, Tennessee Williams, Christopher Marlowe
J M Synge, David Hare, Sam Shepard, Marina Carr,
Tom Murphy 20

Total time limit for the three pieces — twenty minutes

Mime

Theme: own choice — time limit three minutes. 15

Sight-reading

To read aloud a passage of verse AND a passage of prose
or drama at sight. 15

Discussion

To discuss the selections, the full texts and the background of the authors. 10

SENIOR CERTIFICATE

Suggested age 17 years or over

Written Paper

The examination will require the following:

- 1 Detailed knowledge of the theory of all previous grades
- 2 Understanding of delivery and performance of verse, prose, drama and mime
- 3 Research on one of the set authors for this grade (candidate's choice).

The paper will include a question relevant to this.