



**AUSTRALIAN
GUILD OF MUSIC
& SPEECH**

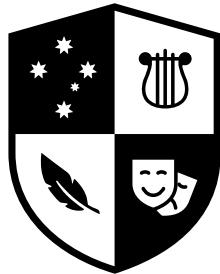
Speech and Drama

Syllabus no. 1

Examination Syllabus

**Step 1 to
Fellowship
Diploma**

2026
agms.edu.au



AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF MUSIC & SPEECH

No. 1 – Speech and Drama

2026

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FOREWORD

We welcome you to join the **Australian Guild of Music and Speech Ltd** (AGMS) family. Founded in 1969, the AGMS is a proud Australian, **education and examination body**.

**“ Empowering your success
is our passion ”**

The **AGMS** is driven to provide engaging, relevant, high-quality frameworks, to mould solid foundations for the next generations of musicians and speech & drama performers and educators.

The **AGMS** provides examinations for music and speech & drama students from introductory to advanced levels, including in speech & drama, certificate (C.S.D.AGMS), Associate (A.S.D.AGMS), Licentiate (L.S.D.AGMS) and Fellowship (F.S.D.AGMS) diplomas.

Below gives an insight into the values we share with our members:

Music/Speech.	We champion the inherent value of all types of music/speech and its enormous contribution to the emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and physical development and self-esteem of individuals and communities. We leverage our position to spread the love of music/speech and drama.
Kindness.	Our approach is student-centric and, at all times, we are positive, encouraging, friendly and supportive. We assist the learner to recognise and celebrate their achievements.
Service.	We understand the needs of teachers and respond efficiently and flexibly. Our systems and processes are simple and make exam organisation and reporting easy.
Integrity.	Our examination process is academically sound, impartial, transparent and delivers assessments which are consistent with international standards.
Excellence.	We strive for best practice in examinations and only partner with the best examiners and educators.

Via an **Academic Advisory Committee**, the **AGMS** has formulated this syllabus.

We look forward to growing with you on your pathway of excellence.

Yours in the arts,
The AGMS Board of Directors.

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SPEECH AND DRAMA



INTRODUCTION

Background to this syllabus

- The Speech and Drama syllabus is the most longstanding within the Speech syllabus package.
- It is designed for individual students who wish to undertake practical speech and drama training accompanied by equivalent theoretical studies.
- Of all the Speech syllabi, this one takes the most academic approach.
- It offers students the opportunity to achieve high level qualifications such as the Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas.
- This syllabus is recommended for those who wish to qualify as a Speech teacher.

Notes for Teachers

- This syllabus must be used in conjunction with the supporting document 'Speech Syllabi Background Information for Teachers' which contains essential information such as
 - Structure of the Speech Syllabi package
 - Grade set
 - Age of candidates
 - Guidelines for selecting appropriate selections at each examination level
 - Prepared versus Impromptu items
 - Memorisation requirements
 - Reading of books prior to practical examinations
 - Hard copy requirements
 - Guidelines for practical examinations
 - Guidelines for online examinations
 - Guidelines for theory examinations
 - Guidelines for Diploma examinations
 - Suggested reference books.

STRUCTURE OF THE SPEECH SYLLABUS PACKAGE

- Speech Syllabi Background Information for Teachers
- Syllabus no 1: Practical Speech and Drama
- Syllabus no 2: Speech and Drama Performance
- Syllabus no 3: Theory of Speech and Drama
- Syllabus no 4: Communication and Public Speaking

STEP ONE (PREPARATORY)

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short talk of approximately 50 words or 3–4 sentences. • Topic: 'I am special because ...' • Content is to relate to the candidate's special qualities. 	20
2	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 12 lines. 	25
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some gestures and movement may be used where appropriate. • Time limit: approximately 1 minute. <p>(Note: It is recommended that one of the poems selected for Items 2 and 3 is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme.)</p>	25
4	<p>Mimes (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly. • Time limit: $\frac{1}{2}$ – 1 minute for each mime. <p>a) Candidate's choice—one mime from the following list.</p> <p>b) Examiner's choice—from the remaining six mimes, prepare three. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing with your pet (for example, cat, dog, bird, goldfish, pony) • Playing with a favourite toy • Playing with a beach ball • Playing in the sand pit • Painting or sketching a picture • Modelling with play dough • Playing a board game (for example, Snakes and ladders, Checkers, Cleudo, Scrabble). 	20
5	<p>Oral theory: Vowel and consonant letters</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas</p> <p>a) How many letters there are in the alphabet.</p> <p>b) How the alphabet is divided.</p> <p>c) Say the 5 vowel letters clearly.</p> <p>d) Say any 10 consonant letters aloud.</p> <p>e) The candidate is to identify the letters in his/her first name as either vowels or consonants.</p>	10

STEP TWO (ELEMENTARY)

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Prose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 125 consecutive words. 	25
2	Poem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 14–20 lines. <p>(Note: It is recommended that the prose selection or the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme.)</p>	25
3	Mimes (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial expression and body movements must be varied. Time limit: 1 minute for each mime. <p>a) Candidate's choice—one mime from the following list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing on playground equipment Playing an outdoor ball game Using gymnasium equipment Cooking on the barbecue Climbing a tree Going camping. <p>b) Examiner's choice—from the following list, prepare three mimes. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, no, yes, yes, I don't know Please remove those dirty shoes Walk quietly and keep silent, please That music (or television) is far too loud Throw this smelly food in the bin, immediately Please help me carry this heavy basket Oh, that is just what I wanted What did you say? I don't understand. 	20
4	General expression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate is to give a short description of himself/herself, describing his/her physical appearance. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate is to describe one of the characters in the novel chosen for Item 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	20
5	Oral theory: Vowel and consonant sounds The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The difference between a vowel sound and a consonant sound. Whether the sounds are consonants or vowels in 2 one-syllable words. 	10

STEP THREE (PRELIMINARY)

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks		
1	Prose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 150 consecutive words. 	25		
2	Poem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 20–24 lines. 	25		
3	Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate is to give a brief description of an incident taken from the novel chosen for Item 1, and then explain the similarities between this incident and one from his/her life. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate is to talk about the poem chosen for Item 2, giving reasons why this poem appeals to him/her. Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	15		
4	Mimes (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial expression and body movements must be varied. Time limit: 1 minute for each mime. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Candidate's choice—one mime using one of the following themes.</td> <td>b) Examiner's choice—from the following list, prepare three mimes. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trip to the zoo My garden I am an artist Cooking Dressing up Going fishing Buying shoes Tidying and cleaning Keeping fit Preparing for bed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swallowing a difficult to swallow tablet Cleaning your teeth Drinking a hot cup-a-soup Eating hot fish and chips Doing your hair for a party Eating a take-away hamburger with the lot Manicuring your nails Playing cards. </td> </tr> </table>	a) Candidate's choice—one mime using one of the following themes.	b) Examiner's choice—from the following list, prepare three mimes. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trip to the zoo My garden I am an artist Cooking Dressing up Going fishing Buying shoes Tidying and cleaning Keeping fit Preparing for bed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swallowing a difficult to swallow tablet Cleaning your teeth Drinking a hot cup-a-soup Eating hot fish and chips Doing your hair for a party Eating a take-away hamburger with the lot Manicuring your nails Playing cards. 	20
a) Candidate's choice—one mime using one of the following themes.	b) Examiner's choice—from the following list, prepare three mimes. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trip to the zoo My garden I am an artist Cooking Dressing up Going fishing Buying shoes Tidying and cleaning Keeping fit Preparing for bed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swallowing a difficult to swallow tablet Cleaning your teeth Drinking a hot cup-a-soup Eating hot fish and chips Doing your hair for a party Eating a take-away hamburger with the lot Manicuring your nails Playing cards. 			
5	Oral theory: Long and short pure vowel sounds and consonant sounds The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The long pure vowel sounds, and giving examples of each sound in a short word. The short pure vowel sounds, and giving examples of each sound in a short word. The examiner will ask the candidate to name the consonant sounds in 3 short words. 	15		

GRADE ONE

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How I enjoy my weekends I like collecting ... My favourite television program Learning to swim. Time limit: 1 minute. 	10
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 175 consecutive words. 	25
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 24–30 lines. 	25
4	<p>Creative mime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, simple mime scene. To be based on one of the following themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship; neighbours; loneliness; the seasons; lost; laughter; travel; music; books. To include one of the following characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An elderly lady or an elderly man; a small toddler; a fantasy character such as a fairy, wizard, witch, or a person from outer space; a policeman; a teacher; a doctor; a dentist; a gymnasium instructor; a zoo attendant; a baby-sitter; a clown; a musician; a dancer. To include two of the following moods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anger; happiness; fear; surprise; exhaustion; kindness; shyness; anxiety; snobbishness; sorrow; nonsense; nervousness; pride; or any other mood appropriate to the story of the mime. To commence with a brief introduction to set the scene (one or two sentences). Time limit for the mime: 1½ minutes. 	15

5	<p>Mime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examiner's choice—from the following list, prepare three mimes. Present the list of three to the examiner, who will select one to be performed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Entering your home by opening the security door and the front door with separate keys ○ Throwing a stick or a ball for your dog to retrieve ○ Watching an absorbing television show ○ Cleaning your muddy sports shoes ○ Being a snowman melting in the sun ○ Walking over the creek on unevenly placed rocks in the rain ○ Finding your way to the refrigerator in the dark ○ Watching a butterfly flit from one flower to another. ● Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	10
6	<p>Oral theory</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Monophthongs/Pure vowels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition of a pure vowel. ● Identification of the pure vowels in 4 words given by the examiner, and whether these pure vowels are long or short. b) Voiced and voiceless consonants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The difference between voiced and voiceless consonants. ● Give examples of 3 pairs of consonants that have similar formation but differ in sound because of their use of voice and breath. 	15

GRADE TWO

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your home Your special friend Your favourite sport Your hobby. One or two pictures or small objects maximum may be used to illustrate the talk. Time limit: 1½ – 2 minutes, including time spent on displaying aids. 	10
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 200 consecutive words. 	25
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humorous or light verse of approximately 24–30 lines. 	25
4	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impromptu. The examiner will suggest a title for an improvisation to be presented by the candidate. The title will suggest a situation where various walking movements may occur. Examples of likely titles are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The runaway dog; the fall; the heavy back-pack; the slippery grass. Include at least 3 different ways of walking such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopping along, striding, tip-toeing, trudging, marching. Facial expression should be varied. Preparation time: ½ minute. Time limit: 1½ minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 1 minute. 	15
5	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 100 consecutive words from the book chosen for Item 2. 	10

6	<p>Oral theory</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas</p> <p>a) Diphthongs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Definition of a diphthong.● Describe fully the changing lip positions and tongue glide of one diphthong. <p>b) Explosives and continuants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The difference between explosive and continuant consonant sounds.● Give a detailed description of two explosive and two continuant consonant sounds.● The examiner will ask the candidate to identify the consonant sounds in 3 given words, and state whether each sound is explosive or continuant. <p>c) Nasal consonants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Definition of nasal consonants.● Naming of the nasal consonants.● Give examples of these nasal consonants in words.	15
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GRADE THREE

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like to read It's fun to share Modern technology What makes me laugh. Time limit: 2 minutes. 	10
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 250 consecutive words. 	20
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme. Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	15
4	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dramatised scene presenting one character only. From a published play or adapted from a novel. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Incorporate changes in movement and facial expression. Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	20
5	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mime taken from an incident occurring in either the novel chosen for Item 2 or the drama chosen for Item 4. One character only is to be presented. To commence with a brief introduction to set the scene (one or two sentences). Time limit: 1½ minutes. 	10
6	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 150 consecutive words from the book chosen for Item 2. 	10
7	<p>Oral theory</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas.</p> <p>a) Consonant sounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naming of the organs of articulation. The organic classification of the consonant sounds in 4 words given by the examiner. <p>b) Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition. The different levels of vocal pitch and their use in portraying emotional mood changes. <p>c) Inflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition. The simple rules for applying inflection when speaking and performing. 	15

GRADE FOUR

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The candidate's home city A topic of interest to the candidate. Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 300 consecutive words. From a contemporary novel. It is recommended that the novel is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme. 	20
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either a 20th century lyrical poem or a Bush Ballad from the 19th or early 20th century. Time limit: 2 minutes. 	15
4	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dramatisation from a published play or adapted from a novel. No more than two characters are to be presented. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 2½ minutes. 	20
5	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impromptu. The examiner will hand (show) the candidate two unrelated objects and the candidate is to improvise a scene using the two objects as important components in the improvised action. The objects may be held and used within the scene, or just referred to as part of the scene. Preparation time: ½ minute. Time limit: 1½ minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 1 minute. 	10

6	<p>Reading</p> <p>The candidate is to select whether this reading will be impromptu or prepared. When marking this item, the examiner will take this choice into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • The examiner will select a passage from the novel chosen for Item 2, for the candidate to read aloud. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared. • Approximately 200 consecutive words from the novel chosen for Item 2. 	10
6	<p>Reading—Online Candidates</p> <p>The candidate must bring to the examination a hard copy of <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>, by C S Lewis.</p> <p>The candidate is to select whether this reading will be impromptu or prepared. When marking this item, the examiner will take this choice into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • The examiner will select a passage from <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> for the candidate to read aloud. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared. • Approximately 200 consecutive words from <i>The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>. 	
7	<p>Oral theory</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas.</p> <p>a) Syllables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition • The examiner will ask the candidate for examples of words containing varying numbers of syllables. • The examiner will ask the candidate to identify the number of syllables in 5 given words. <p>b) Accent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition • The role of accent in the pronunciation of English words. <p>c) Emphasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition. • Ways of varying emphasis and its importance in speech delivery. 	15

GRADE FIVE

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p>Instructive talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To take the form of an instruction. ● One or two aids maximum may be used. ● Suggested topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to make a particular item such as a hat or decorative container, how to play a sport, find a location, cook a certain food, use an appliance or any other action that may require coaching. ● Assessment will be based on both clarity of directions and delivery. ● Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes. 	15
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 350 consecutive words. ● From a novel or a work of non-fiction. 	15
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From the 20th or 21st century. ● It is recommended that the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme. ● Serious or light verse. ● Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes. 	15
4	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A dramatisation from a published play or adapted from a novel. ● No more than two characters are to be presented. ● The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. ● Time limit: 2½ – 3 minutes. 	15

5	<p>Reading</p> <p>The candidate is to select whether this reading will be impromptu or prepared. When marking this item, the examiner will take this choice into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impromptu. ● The examiner will select a passage from the book chosen for Item 2, for the candidate to read aloud. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepared. ● Approximately 250 consecutive words from the book chosen for Item 2. 	10
5	<p>Reading—Online Candidates</p> <p>The candidate must bring to the examination a hard copy of <i>The Wind in the Willows</i>, by Kenneth Grahame.</p> <p>The candidate is to select whether this reading will be impromptu or prepared. When marking this item, the examiner will take this choice into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impromptu. ● The examiner will select a passage from <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> for the candidate to read aloud. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepared. ● Approximately 200 consecutive words from <i>The Wind in the Willows</i>. 	
6	<p>Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prior to the examination, prepare comments on one aspect of the chosen book, the drama and the poem, comparing them to features in our present day living. b) The examiner will discuss one of these three areas with the candidate. Examiner's choice. 	15
7	<p>Oral theory</p> <p>The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The correct method of breathing for good speech delivery. b) The advantages of using this correct method when performing. c) The physical structure related to breathing. d) Incorrect methods of breathing for speech. 	15

GRADE SIX

	Time: 35 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 6 consists of theory and practical examinations, both of which must be passed to receive the Grade 6 certificate. 	
1	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 400 consecutive words. From a novel or a work of non-fiction. 	20
2	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book review on the book chosen for Item 1. Time limit: 2 – 2½ minutes. 	10
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either a 19th century poem or any poem that has a special appeal to the candidate. Time limit: 3½ minutes. Up to 30 seconds of the allocated 3½ minutes is to be used to give reasons for this special appeal. 	15
4	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatised portrayal of one or two characters only. From a play by Sophocles or a comedy by Shakespeare. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. The length should be limited to approximately 25 lines. 	20
5	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sketch, taking the form of a yarn or jovial story, with a suitable punch line. The dialogue is to be comical or droll. Time limit: 3 minutes. 	15

Grade 6 examination continues on the next page.

6	<p>Social speaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The candidate is to introduce a friend to all of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His/Her parents ○ The Leader of his/her country ○ The Headmaster or Headmistress ○ A small group of friends at a party ○ A younger person of the opposite sex. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The candidate is to give a presentation speech to be given at an 18th birthday party, a graduation party or an award for expertise. ● Time limit: 2 minutes. 	10
7	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impromptu. ● The examiner will select a passage from the book chosen for Item 1, for the candidate to read aloud. 	10
7	<p>Reading—Online Candidates</p> <p>The candidate must bring to the examination a hard copy of <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>, (USA: <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>), by J K Rowling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impromptu. ● The examiner will select a passage from <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> for the candidate to read aloud. 	

GRADE SEVEN

	Time: 35 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 7 consists of theory and practical examinations, both of which must be passed to receive the Grade 7 certificate. 	
1	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 450 consecutive words. From a novel or a book of short stories. Either serious or humorous. 	15
2	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem of no more than 48 lines (or portion of a longer poem). It is recommended that the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme. Must possess a specific theme. 	15
3	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatised portrayal of one or two characters only. From a 20th or 21st century play. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes. 	15
4	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The themes of the poem presented in Item 2 The themes and issues contained in the drama presented in Item 3. Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10
5	<p>Creative mime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A scene involving at least 3 changes in mood. Include the introduction of another character to be visualised but not portrayed. This mime scene is not abstract and should include a climax and a suitable conclusion. No speech sounds or sound effects are to be used. Time limit: 2 minutes. 	15

6	Reading	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impromptu. Prose. 	

	<p>(For Online exams, the reading will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)</p>	
7	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On one of the following<ul style="list-style-type: none">The culture of my country: what it means to me. (2 – 3 mins)A welcome speech to a guest speaker. (1 – 1½ mins)A thank you speech to a guest speaker or demonstrator. (1 – 1½ mins)	10
8	<p>Storytelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Impromptu.Inspired by an object or picture shown by the examiner.Preparation time: ½ minute.Time limit: 2 minutes.The examiner will give a warning at 1½ minutes.	10

GRADE EIGHT (PROFICIENCY)

	Time: 45 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency Certificate consists of theory and practical examinations, both of which must be passed to receive the Proficiency Certificate. • The Performance Certificate (Stage 8) examination from the Speech and Drama Performance syllabus is considered equivalent to this Proficiency Practical examination. • The successful completion of either the Performance Certificate (Speech and Drama Performance) or Proficiency Certificate Practical (Speech and Drama) together with the successful completion of the Proficiency Theory examination satisfies the requirements for the Proficiency Certificate. 	
1	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 475 consecutive words. • From a novel, biography or autobiography. • It is recommended that the book is by an Australian author. 	15
2	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By a poet of the Romantic period or the Victorian and Edwardian period. • Time limit: 3 minutes. 	15
3	<p>Poetry appreciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The form, content and author of the poem presented in Item 2 ◦ The poetic style of the poem presented in Item 2, and the way the poem relates to the period from which it is taken. • Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10
4	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accent must be used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ For example, American, European, Asian, British or Broad Australian. • To be selected from any play and involve at least two characters. • The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. • Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10

5	<p>Drama one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatisation from any Shakespearian play. • The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. • Time limit: 3 minutes. 	15
6	<p>Drama two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatisation from any reputable play. • It is recommended that the play is by an Australian author. • The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. • Time limit: 3 minutes. <p>(Note: it is advisable to vary the two dramatic presentations, for example, one serious and one humorous.)</p>	15
7	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Live theatre ◦ Dance ◦ Conversation. • Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10
8	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • A poem. <p>(For Online exams, the reading will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)</p>	10

ASSOCIATE PERFORMER DIPLOMA A.S.D.AGMS

	<p>Time: 1 hour. Pass mark: 70</p> <p>Prerequisite: Proficiency Certificate (Speech and Drama) or Professional Performance Diploma (Speech and Drama Performance)</p> <p>Minimum age: 16 years</p>	Marks
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Performer Diploma consists of theory and practical examinations, both of which must be passed to receive the Associate Performer Diploma. The candidate must illustrate a high degree of competence in all areas. The programme must be chosen to give the candidate the opportunity to show versatility in presentations of prose, poetry, drama, public speaking, reading, impromptu work and creativity in interpretation. The examiners will discuss the programme with the candidate throughout the examination. 	
1	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informative talk on the program to be presented. Include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on the authors chosen A short appreciation of the poem Reasons the candidate has chosen specific selections. Time limit: 4 – 5 minutes. 	15
2	<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 500 consecutive words. From any novel by Jane Austen, Charles Dickens or Thomas Hardy. 	15
3	<p>Poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A poem (or part of a poem) by T S Eliot or by a poet of similar high standing. Time limit: 4 minutes. 	20
4	<p>Drama one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatisation from any Greek drama. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes. 	15

5	<p>Drama two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatisation from any contemporary drama or any play by Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde or R B Sheridan. • The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. • Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes. 	15
6	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • Scene in mime, or mime with dialogue, integrating an item placed before (shown to) the candidate by the examiner. • Preparation time: 1 minute. • Time limit: 3 minutes. • The examiner will give a warning at 2½ minutes. 	10
7	<p>Readings (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. a) From a non-fiction source, such as biography, history or a published speech. b) A sonnet. <p>(For Online exams, the readings will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)</p>	10

LICENTIATE PERFORMER DIPLOMA L.S.D.AGMS

	Time: 1 hour. Pass mark: 70 Prerequisite: Associate Performer Diploma (Speech and Drama) Minimum age: 18 years	Marks
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licentiate Performer Diploma consists of theory and practical examinations, both of which must be passed to receive the Licentiate Performer Diploma. • The candidate must illustrate a high degree of competence in all areas. • The programme must be chosen to give the candidate the opportunity to show versatility in presentations of prose, poetry, drama, public speaking, reading, impromptu work and creativity in interpretation. • The examiners will discuss the programme with the candidate throughout the examination. 	
1	<p>Prose (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two passages, each of approximately 400 consecutive words. • It is recommended that one of the passages is from an Australian novel. • The two selections must present a contrast in styles such as one serious and one humorous, or one descriptive and one emotional. 	20
2	<p>Poems (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two poems, with either similar or contrasting themes. • Include an introduction to the poems. • Comment on the themes, language and structure of the poems. • Time limit for each poem: 3 minutes. • Time limit for the introduction: 3 minutes. 	20
3	<p>Drama (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three dramatic scenes, each one from a different play. It is recommended that at least one is to be written by an Australian playwright. • The portrayals must show the candidate's versatility in acting skills. • The plays should be chosen from different literary periods. • The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. • Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes for each scene. 	30

4	<p>Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On one of the following, incorporating own opinions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shakespearian drama: traditional or modern staging and the value of each, including productions on film. ○ Greek and Roman theatre: similarities and differences. ○ Spoken communication in everyday life. ● Time limit: 5 minutes. 	10
5	<p>Creative drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Original monologue based on one of the following situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A host or hostess waiting for the guests to arrive at a party ○ A telephone conversation to a friend relating the ins and outs of a recent traumatic or exciting experience ○ Anticipating a first trip to the gym ○ Purchasing a new item of clothing ○ A visit to a theme park ○ Painting the house. ● May be humorous or serious and should aim to be entertaining. ● Time limit: 3 minutes. 	10
6	<p>Readings (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impromptu. <p>a) A passage of scripture from the King James Authorised Version of the Bible, or the Koran.</p> <p>b) A passage from a Greek drama by Sophocles or Euripides.</p> <p>(For Online exams, the readings will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)</p>	10

FELLOWSHIP DIPLOMA F.S.D.AGMS

Prerequisite

- AGMS Licentiate Diploma of 4 years' standing.

Eligibility

This advanced qualification will be awarded

- Upon successful completion of the requirements listed below

OR

- As an honour for outstanding services to the AGMS in Speech & Drama.

Requirements

- A research thesis of 50,000 words

OR

- A full dramatic performance.

- The applicant must be able to demonstrate a long association with the AGMS and an empathy with its philosophy.

Application details

- The application must be in writing.
- AGMS Council approval is necessary.

TEACHING EXAMINATION OUTLINES



ASSOCIATE TEACHER DIPLOMA A.T.S.D.AGMS

	<p>Time: 1 hour 15 minutes. Pass mark: 80 Prerequisite: Associate Performer Diploma (Speech and Drama) Minimum age: 20 years</p>	Marks										
	<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Diploma is directed towards those who wish to teach private students either singly or in small groups. • There are 3 parts to this Diploma, all of which must be passed to receive the Associate Teacher Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One Practical examination and ○ Two Theory examinations. • The examiners will discuss the programme with the candidate throughout the practical examination. • In the drama items, the dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. 											
1	<p>Performance presentations</p> <p>a) Present a programme of 4 recitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be linked to one theme and • To demonstrate the candidate's versatility. <p>b) Use explanatory talks and/or readings to join the individual items together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time limits and marks are as follows <table> <tr> <td>Verse</td> <td>(4 minutes / 10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prose</td> <td>(5 minutes / 10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drama</td> <td>(5 minutes / 10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shakespearian Drama</td> <td>(5 minutes / 10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Talks/Readings</td> <td>(5 minutes / 5 marks)</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall time limit: 30 minutes (includes discussion of the programme with the examiners). 	Verse	(4 minutes / 10 marks)	Prose	(5 minutes / 10 marks)	Drama	(5 minutes / 10 marks)	Shakespearian Drama	(5 minutes / 10 marks)	Talks/Readings	(5 minutes / 5 marks)	45
Verse	(4 minutes / 10 marks)											
Prose	(5 minutes / 10 marks)											
Drama	(5 minutes / 10 marks)											
Shakespearian Drama	(5 minutes / 10 marks)											
Talks/Readings	(5 minutes / 5 marks)											
2	<p>Lesson selections</p> <p>a) Prior to the examination, prepare 4 teaching selections suitable for different grades, and bring these to the examination.</p> <p>b) Read these expressively, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss their aptness for the anticipated age, sex and grade standard. • Indicate various changes in vocal, facial and movement expression which could be used to develop convincing and entertaining interpretations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time limit: 10 minutes. 	25										

3	<p>Technical discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • The examiner will ask the candidate for ways to overcome common speech faults, such as poor lip movement, stiff jaw, unclear articulation, rapid speech, monotonous tone, thin tone, lazy tongue movement, poor projection. • Time limit: 5 minutes. 	10
4	<p>Speech exercises</p> <p>a) Prior to the examination prepare speech exercises in the following 10 areas suitable for a beginner level student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaxation • Breathing • Projection • Resonance • Forward placement of tone • Pitch variation • Flexible jaw • Diphthongal • Tongue twister • Mime. <p>b) The examiner will select 5 from the above list for the candidate to demonstrate.</p>	10
5	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impromptu. • Excerpt from a children's story, incorporating mime. • Preparation time: 2 minutes. <p>(For Online exams, the reading will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)</p>	10

ASSOCIATE TEACHER DIPLOMA THEORY A.T.S.D.AGMS

Notes for Teachers

- Associate Teacher Diploma consists of one practical examination and two theory examinations, all of which must be passed to receive the Associate Teacher Diploma.

Paper One

Examination duration: 3 hours. Pass mark: 80

Prerequisite: Associate Performer Diploma (Speech and Drama)

Minimum age: 20 years

In Paper One there will be questions chosen from the following technical areas, but they will relate to teaching technique

- Breathing**
 - Good breath control.
 - The technique of good breathing for performance.
 - Diagrams and precise explanations of all matter relevant to good breathing.
 - Breathing exercises for the beginner and the older student.
- Phonetics**
 - Phonetic transcription of a passage—Broad or Narrow form to be stated by the candidate.
 - The value of the study of phonetics to students and teachers.
 - Ways of teaching phonetics.
- Articulation**
 - Detailed knowledge of the formation of speech sounds.
 - Exercises for developing the clear verbalisation of speech sounds.
 - Exercises for correction of general faults in articulation.
- Voice**
 - Physiology of resonance.
 - Projection.
 - Forward placement of tone.
 - Exercises to improve the student's vocal tone and range.
- Creative drama.
- Mime.
- Reading techniques.
- Preparing a speech.
- Poetry speaking.
- Prose delivery.
- Scripted drama.

Paper Two

Examination duration: 3 hours. Pass mark: 80

Prerequisite: Associate Performer Diploma (Speech and Drama)

Minimum age: 20 years

In Paper Two there will be questions chosen from the following areas

- Teaching principles.
- Learning theory.
- Lesson organisation.
- The outline of a course of lessons for a variety of students with differing requirements.
- Teaching psychology.
- Educational technology.
- Assessment of student progress.
- Student behaviour.
- Motivation.
- Memorisation.

LICENTIATE TEACHER DIPLOMA L.T.S.D.AGMS

Prerequisite: Licentiate Performer Diploma or Licentiate Creative Drama Diploma (Speech and Drama)

Minimum age: 20 years

Notes for Teachers

There are four components to this Diploma, all of which must be passed to receive the Licentiate Teacher Diploma

- Part A: Teaching Practice (assessment of candidate's students)
- Part B: One Practical examination and
- Part C: Two Theory examinations.

PART A: Teaching Practice

Requirements

At the time of entry, or within the stipulated period for the completion of this Diploma, the candidate must present students for AGMS speech examinations in one of the following categories

- Three individual students for Speech and Drama examinations, or Speech and Drama Performance examinations at Grade/Stage 2 or above.
- Three individual students for Integrated Drama Programmes examinations, at Year 9 or above.
- Three individual students for Communication and Public Speaking examinations, or Communication and Public Speaking for Business examinations, or Communication and Public Speaking (ESL) examinations at Level/Stage 3 or above.
- A group of at least three students for Communication and Public Speaking for Small Groups examinations, at Elementary Level or above.
- A group of at least three students for Spoken Language Development for Class or Group examinations at Year 5 or above.
- Two groups for Choral Speaking examinations at Year 5 or above.

● The students'/group's examinations will be conducted as part of the normal routine of an AGMS examination series and the students'/group's examiner will not be made aware of their eligibility for Teacher Diploma Assessment.

Assessment and Results

- The average mark of the students or groups presented will become the candidate's Teaching Practice mark for this Diploma. An average of 70 marks is required for a pass.
- Proof of pass is the responsibility of the Licentiate Teacher Diploma candidate, who must include certified photocopies of the students'/group's report sheets, together with the required copies of personal results gained in Parts B and C when making official application for the granting of the Licentiate Teacher Diploma.

Entry Fees

- The candidate for the Licentiate Teacher Diploma is not required to pay an entry fee for Part A. Students or groups are to pay the normal examination entry fees required by the AGMS.

PART B: Practical Examination		Marks
<p>Time: 1 hour 15 minutes. Pass mark: 70</p> <p>Prerequisite: Licentiate Performer Diploma or Licentiate Creative Drama Diploma (Speech and Drama)</p> <p>Minimum age: 20 years</p>		
<p>Notes for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licentiate Teacher Diploma consists of four components, all of which must be passed to receive the Licentiate Teacher Diploma. • The candidate must illustrate a high degree of competence in all areas. • The examiners will discuss the programme with the candidate throughout the examination. 		
1	Speech	15
2	<p>Lesson plan</p> <p>a) Prior to the examination prepare a plan for a 40 minute secondary school lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The year level is to be chosen by the candidate. • The lesson must be directed towards one of the remaining subject groups not chosen by the candidate in Item 1. • The lesson is to be either a general introduction to a course or confined to one aspect only. <p>b) Present the examiners with a hard copy of the lesson plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the lesson's aims and discuss the lesson with the examiners, demonstrating salient exercises, set verses, readings and selected characterisation/s. • If desired, selected aids may be included. • The plan is to be left for further study by the examiners. • Time limit: 12 minutes. 	20

3	<p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An instructive lecture to Year 11/12 students, with the aim of stimulating an interest in Shakespeare—the man and his methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Illustrate the lecture with memorised presentations of at least 3 Shakespearian characters. ○ The recitals must have a bearing on argument and take approximately half of the allotted time. ○ The recitals may be chosen from works set elsewhere in this syllabus. ● Time limit: 8 minutes. 	15
4	<p>Teaching technique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment on the following areas, to show the candidate's attitude towards, and aptitude for, teaching <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discipline in the modern classroom b. The art of questioning c. Class involvement d. The disruptive student e. The uncooperative student. ● Comments must be both personal and searching and based upon sound teaching principles. Clichés are not acceptable. ● Time limit: 12 minutes. 	20
5	<p>Choral speaking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prior to the examination select a piece of verse suitable for choral speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Length: approximately 40–50 lines ● Mark the verse for choral speaking. b) Present the examiners with a hard copy of the marked verse, for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The copy is to be left for further study by the examiners ● Time limit: 8 minutes. 	20
6	<p>Appraisal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A short appraisal of the contribution made to literature by Australian poets, illustrated with selected references to poets and poems. ● A suggested reference is The Penguin Book of Australian Verse, edited by Harry Heseltine (or any anthology of Australian poems of a similar standard). ● Time limit: 5 minutes. 	10

LICENTIATE TEACHER DIPLOMA THEORY L.T.S.D.AGMS

PART C: Written Theory Examinations (2 papers)

Prerequisite: Licentiate Performer Diploma or Licentiate Creative Drama Diploma (Speech and Drama)

Minimum age: 20 years

Notes for Teachers

- Licentiate Teacher Diploma consists of four components, all of which must be passed to receive the Licentiate Teacher Diploma.
- In Theory Paper One, several questions will be on technical matters, but they will relate to teaching technique.

Paper One

Examination duration: 3 hours. Pass mark: 70

In Paper One there will be questions chosen from the following areas

- History of the British theatre, major periods and dramatists.
- Literary style: spoken and written.
- The development of Australian poetry.
- Phonetics as an aid to pronunciation, and transcription of a passage—Broad or Narrow form to be stated by the candidate.
- Speech faults and their remedies.
- A short original composition from a given metrical form.
- Principles of public speaking.
- Appreciation and background study of the work set for the practical examination.

Paper Two

Examination duration: 3 hours. Pass mark: 70

In Paper Two there will be questions chosen from the following areas

- All areas listed for Associate Teacher Theory Paper Two.
- Educational statistics, relative weights and distribution of scores and assessments.
- Classroom play production.
- From a given scenario/s, the candidate will be asked to describe possible delivery strategies, including recommended age and number of students, and possible teaching aids and assessment methods.
 - For example, the candidate could be presented with a poem, creative drama scene, myth or legend and be asked to outline a delivery and assessment programme.