



**AUSTRALIAN
GUILD OF MUSIC
& SPEECH**

Speech and Drama Performance

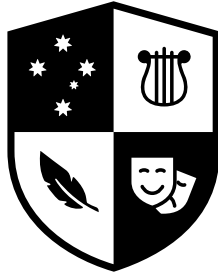
Speech Syllabus no 2

Examination Syllabus

**Preparatory
stage to
Professional
Performance
Diploma**



2026
agms.edu.au



AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF MUSIC & SPEECH

No. 2 – Speech and Drama Performance 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.

CONTENTS

SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMANCE	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
STRUCTURE OF THE SPEECH SYLLABUS PACKAGE	5
STEP ONE (PREPARATORY).....	6
STEP TWO (ELEMENTARY)	7
STEP THREE (PRELIMINARY).....	8
GRADE ONE.....	9
GRADE TWO.....	10
GRADE THREE.....	11
GRADE FOUR.....	12
GRADE FIVE.....	13
GRADE SIX.....	14
GRADE SEVEN	15
GRADE EIGHT (PROFICIENCY).....	16
CERTIFICATE C.S.D.AGMS.....	17

SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMANCE



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	Talk 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	Poem Approximately 12–16 lines.	30
3	Poem Some gestures and movement may be used where appropriate. Time limit: approximately 1 minute. (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.)	30
4	Mimes (2) Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly. Time limit: ½ – 1 minute for each mime. Candidate's choice—one mime from the following list. 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. 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

STEP TWO (ELEMENTARY)

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65		Marks
1	Talk The candidate is to give a short description of himself/herself, describing his/her physical appearance. OR The candidate is to describe one of the characters in the novel chosen for Item 2. Time limit: 1½ minutes.		20
2	Prose Approximately 125 consecutive words.		30
3	Poem Approximately 14–20 lines. (Note: It is recommended that the prose selection or the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme.)		30
4	Mimes (2) Facial expression and body movements must be varied. Time limit: 1 minute for each mime.		20
	Candidate’s choice—one mime from the following list. Playing on playground equipment Playing an outdoor ball game Using gymnasium equipment Cooking on the barbecue Climbing a tree Going camping.	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. 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.	

STEP THREE (PRELIMINARY)

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65		Marks
1	Talk Short talk on the candidate’s family, school or pet. Time limit: 1 minute.		20
2	Prose Approximately 150 consecutive words.		30
3	Poem Approximately 20–24 lines.		30
4	Mimes (2) Facial expression and body movements must be varied. Time limit: 1 minute for each mime.		20
	Candidate’s choice—one mime using one of the following themes. 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.	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. 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.	

GRADE ONE

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Storytelling Tell a story, which may be original, a story the candidate has read or a story about an event in the candidate's life. The story must incorporate some dialogue. Time limit: 2 minutes.	15
2	Prose Approximately 175 consecutive words.	30
3	Poem Approximately 24–30 lines.	30
4	Creative mime Short, simple mime scene. To be based on one of the following themes Friendship; neighbours; loneliness; the seasons; lost; laughter; travel; music; books. To include one of the following characters 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 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	Mime 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. 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

GRADE TWO

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Role play Bring to the examination a book, short story or poem. Present an original dramatised scene portraying one of the characters in the book, short story or poem. To commence with a brief introduction to set the scene (one or two sentences). Time limit: 1½ – 2 minutes.	15
2	Prose Approximately 200 consecutive words.	30
3	Poem Humorous or light verse of approximately 24–30 lines.	30
4	Reading A prose reading of consecutive words incorporating narrative and at least two characters. Time limit: 1½ minutes.	10
5	Improvisation 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 The runaway dog; the fall; the heavy back-pack; the slippery grass. Include at least 3 different ways of walking such as 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

GRADE THREE

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Prose Approximately 250 consecutive words.	25
2	Poem It is recommended that the poem is by an Australian author or contains content relating to an Australian theme. Time limit: 1½ minutes.	20
3	Drama 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.	25
4	Creative drama A mime taken from an incident occurring in either the novel chosen for Item 1 or the drama chosen for Item 3. 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
5	Reading A prose reading of consecutive words incorporating narrative and at least two characters. Time limit: 1½ minutes.	10
6	Imaginative speaking Impromptu. The examiner will show the candidate a picture. The candidate is to study the picture and then tell a story using the picture as an appropriate illustration for the story. Preparation time: ½ minute. Time limit: 1½ minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 1 minute.	10

GRADE FOUR

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Occupational role play Present an original dramatised scene portraying a tour guide or television presenter. Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
2	Prose 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.	25
3	Poem A 20 th century lyrical poem. Time limit: 2 minutes.	20
4	Drama 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.	25
5	Reading A prose reading of consecutive words incorporating narrative and at least two characters. Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
6	Creative drama 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

GRADE FIVE

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Original dramatised scene Bring to the examination a picture of a shape, abstract image or emoji. Present an original dramatised scene based on this picture. Incorporate mime, movement and dialogue. Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
2	Prose Approximately 350 consecutive words. From a novel or a work of non-fiction.	25
3	Poem From the 20 th or 21 st 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.	20
4	Drama 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.	25
5	Reading A prose reading of consecutive words incorporating narrative and at least two characters. OR A reading selected from any play and involving at least two characters. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
6	Creative speaking Impromptu. The candidate will be shown a picture of a person, animal or object. The candidate will have 30 seconds to study the picture. Invent an imaginary background life for the person, animal or object. Time limit: 2 minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 1½ minutes.	10

GRADE SIX

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Inspirational speech Topic: 'If I could change the world ...' Headline notes may be used, but must be inconspicuous. Time limit: 2½ – 3 minutes.	10
2	Prose Approximately 400 consecutive words. From a novel or a work of non-fiction.	20
3	Poem Either a 19 th 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.	20
4	Drama 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	Sketch 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.	10
6	Character improvisation Impromptu. An improvised scene presenting one character. The examiner will provide the opening phrase/sentence or the closing phrase/sentence, and will indicate the character to be portrayed. Preparation time: 1 minute. Time limit: 2 minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 1½ minutes.	10
7	Reading A prose reading of consecutive words incorporating narrative and at least two characters. OR A reading selected from any play and involving at least two characters. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 3 minutes.	10

GRADE SEVEN

	Time: 35 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	Prose Approximately 450 consecutive words. From a novel or a book of short stories. Either serious or humorous.	20
2	Poem 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.	20
3	Drama Dramatised portrayal of one or two characters only. From a 20 th or 21 st century play. The dramatic dialogue may be composed of lines not necessarily consecutive. Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes.	20
4	Artistic interpretation An original, artistic interpretation based on the prose, poem or drama. May include dialogue (one or more characters). To commence with a brief introduction to set the scene (one or two sentences). Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
5	Creative mime 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.	10
6	Reading 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
7	Bring a picture/object to life Impromptu. Inspired by a picture or object shown by the examiner. Present a scene which brings the picture or object to life. Preparation time: 1 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
1	Introduction to presentation Present a creative introduction on the theme of the presentation, with the aim of capturing the interest of the examiner. Time limit: 2 minutes.	10
2	Integrated presentation Deliver a presentation on a theme and include the following, with each recitation exploring the theme from a different angle Poem (20 marks) Prose (20 marks) Drama: from a published play or a movie script; one or two characters; the lines need not be consecutive (20 marks) The candidate may present the three items in any order. Prior to each item and after the final item, discuss how each one relates to the theme (each discussion/link is to be approximately 30 seconds). Time limit: 20 minutes.	60
3	Reading Accent must be used 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.	20
4	Sales pitch Impromptu. The examiner will present the candidate with (show the candidate) an object. Deliver a sales pitch. Preparation time: 1 minute. Time limit: 2½ minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 2 minutes.	10

CERTIFICATE C.S.D.AGMS

	Time: 1 hour. Pass mark: 70 Prerequisite: Performance Certificate (Speech and Drama Performance) or Proficiency Practical (Speech and Drama) Minimum age: 16 years	Marks
1	Introduction to presentation Present an introduction to the integrated presentation, in a style suited to the presentation's theme/emotion/subject. Time limit: 3 minutes.	10
2	Integrated presentation Deliver a presentation based on one of the following A theme An emotion A subject of the candidate's choice. Include the following Poem (15 marks) Prose (15 marks) Drama: from a published play or a movie script; two or more characters; the lines need not be consecutive (20 marks) Mime (10 marks) The candidate may present the four items in any order. Prior to each item and after the final item, discuss how each one relates to the theme/emotion/subject (each discussion/link is to be approximately 1 minute). Time limit: 30 mins.	60
3	Improvisation Impromptu. The examiner will present the candidate with a topic for an improvisation. The topic will relate in some way to the candidate's integrated presentation. Preparation time: 1 minute. Time limit: 3 minutes. The examiner will give a warning at 2½ minutes.	10
4	Reading Impromptu. From a play, and involving two or more characters. Preparation time: 1 minute. (For Online exams, the reading will be emailed to the candidate once the exam has commenced.)	10
5	Conversation This will be about any aspect/s of the programme presented. The examiner will begin the conversation.	10