



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND ARTS  
LONDON



syllabus

# SPEECH AND DRAMA





# syllabus

## SPEECH AND DRAMA

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1 Examination Entries

Entry forms for examination should be completed by the teacher entering the candidates. Full names and age (if under 21) must be given. There are separate entry forms for diploma candidates.

#### 2 Dates of Entry

Completed examination entry forms, with fees, must be received by the General Secretary four weeks before the date of examination.

#### 3 Time Table

Where possible the teacher, in conjunction with the Examiner/Area Representative, should prepare a time table for the examination. A copy should accompany the entry form.

#### 4 Late Entries

In special circumstances, teachers may submit one or two late entries for inclusion on an entry form already submitted. Such late entries will be accepted only if the Examiner's arrangements permit, and are subject to a late fee of £3.00 per candidate.

#### 5 Entry Fees

A list of current entry fees is available from the General Secretary and is published on the website.

#### 6 Non-Attendance

Candidates not attending examinations may forfeit their fees and right to be heard except in the case

of illness. In this case, if transfer to a later date is desired, proof of illness must be provided.

#### 7 Age Limits

Candidates in Grades A and B must be under 12 years of age. The minimum age for Associate and Licentiate Performer candidates is 15 and for Teacher candidates 18.

#### 8 Marks

The maximum mark awardable in Grades A to 7 is 100. In these Grades the pass mark is 65; merits are awarded as follows: 75 Pass with Distinction, 85 Pass with Honours, 90 Pass with First Class Honours. For Grade 8 the maximum mark is 150. The pass mark is 100; 120 is Pass with Distinction, 130 Pass with Honours, 140 Pass with First Class Honours. In Medal examinations the maximum mark is 100, and the pass mark is 80.

In Associate (Teacher) and Licentiate practical examinations the maximum mark is 150, and the pass mark 100. The Associate (Performer) requires a pass mark of 115 out of a possible 150.

In Speech subjects for Grade 8 and Diploma Examinations the maximum mark is 200 and the pass mark is 150. Merits for Grade 8 are 170 Pass with Distinction, 180 Pass with Honours, 190 Pass with First Class Honours.

The written theory papers which are part of Grade 8, Associate (Teacher) and Licentiate require a pass mark of 75 out of a possible 100 marks.

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## SPEECH AND DRAMA

### **9 Teaching**

The award of certificates and diplomas does not imply ability to teach.

### **10 Failure**

Candidates failing to pass in any examination may re-enter within 12 months at half fee.

### **11 Examination Requirements**

Only standard editions of music in the official lists may be used. Abridged or simplified editions are not acceptable. However, in Singing and Music Theatre examinations songs in keys more suitable for the candidate are acceptable.

Candidates/teachers should be careful to select contrasting solos from the published lists.

### **12 Music/Speech Publications**

If candidates or teachers have difficulty in obtaining copies of the listed solos/recitals the General Secretary should be contacted.

Suggestions for alternative solos of similar standing will be considered.

### **13 Accompanists and Page-Turners**

Candidates should make their own arrangements for accompanists (and pageturners) who will be allowed in the Examination Room only whilst actually accompanying. The candidate's teacher is permitted as accompanist/pageturner,

### **14 Exemptions from Theory Examinations**

In Grades 1 to 7 inclusive Viva Voce questions are excused and an appropriate level of marks awarded to candidates who have passed the written Theory of Music examination of not more than two Grades lower than the practical examination. The Theory Examination Report Form must be produced.

Candidates who have passed the written theory requirement of the Associate (Teacher) Diploma will be exempt from the written theory section of the Licentiate Diploma examination.

## GRADE EXAMINATIONS IN SPEECH AND DRAMA

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### GRADE A

1. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **30 marks**  
Tumble Down Harry – by Nora Dennis  
The Red Hen – by Alison Uttley  
Whisky Frisky – Anon  
Skipping – by Thomas Wood
  2. To hold a simple conversation with the Examiner on such subjects as the candidate's age, address, school, and so on. **20 marks**
  3. Questions on the works performed. **20 marks**
  4. General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment. **30 marks**
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### GRADE B

1. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **30 marks**  
Cats – by Nora Dennis  
When I Grow Up – by Nora Dennis  
The Dream Ship – by W K Holmes  
Yellow Cat – by Gregory Harrison  
Baby Land – by George Cooper  
Fairy Story – by Stevie Smith
  2. To hold a simple conversation with the Examiner on similar subjects as Grade A. **20 marks**
  3. Questions on the works performed. **20 marks**
  4. General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment. **30 marks**
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## GRADE 1

1. To speak from memory a piece of prose of approximately 80 words from any book brought into the Examination Room by the candidate. **25 marks**
  2. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:  
On Summer Evenings – by Keith Bosley  
The Penny Fiddle – by Robert Graves  
Miss T – by Walter de la Mare  
The Pasture – by Robert Frost  
Any piece of verse from the Puffin Quartet of Poets.
  3. To read a piece of prose selected by the Examiner from the book used for Section 1. **10 marks**
  4. Questions on the works performed. **10 marks**
  5. General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment **30 marks**
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## GRADE 2

1. To speak from memory a piece of prose of approximately 100 words from any book brought into the Examination Room by the candidate. **25 marks**
  2. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **25 marks**  
I am a Sailor from Somerset – by Nora Dennis  
Bath Time – by Nora Dennis  
There Isn't Time – by Eleanor Farjeon  
Midnight Wood – by Raymond Wilson  
A Night in June – by William Wordsworth  
Falling Leaves – by Stanley Cook
  3. To read a piece of verse or prose at sight. **10 marks**
  4. Questions on the works performed. **10 marks**
  5. Simple questions on such subjects as vowels and consonants. **10 marks**
  6. General impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment. **20 marks**
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## GRADE 3

1. To speak from memory a piece of prose of approximately 100 words from any book brought into the Examination Room by the candidate. **25 marks**
  2. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **25 marks**  
Faery Song – by John Keats  
The Fox – by R Williams Parry  
Summer Farm – by Norman McCaig  
First Day at School – by Roger McGough  
The Donkey – by G K Chesterton  
A Red, Red Rose – by Robert Burns
  3. To read a piece of verse or prose at sight. **10 marks**
  4. Questions on the works performed. **10 marks**
  5. Questions on the correct method of breathing. **10 marks**
  6. General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment. **20 marks**
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#### **GRADE 4**

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|----|---|-----------------|
| 1. | To speak from memory a piece of prose of approximately 100 words from any book brought into the Examination Room by the candidate.  | <b>25 marks</b> |
| 2. | To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:<br>The Blind Boy – by C Cibber<br>Weathers – by Thomas Hardy<br>Two Cats – by M Rosen<br>The Nurse’s Song – by William Blake<br>Milk for the Cat – by Harold Monro<br>The Unending Sky – by John Masefield | <b>25 marks</b> |
| 3. | To read a piece of verse or prose at sight.   | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 4. | Questions on the correct and incorrect methods of breathing.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 5. | Questions on the works performed.   | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 6. | General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment.  | <b>20 marks</b> |
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#### **GRADE 5**

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| 1. | To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 3 minutes, chosen by the candidate  | <b>25 marks</b> |
| 2. | To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:<br>Home Thoughts from Abroad – by Robert Browning<br>The 23rd Psalm – Revised Standard Version or Jerusalem Bible<br>A Song About Myself – by John Keats<br>Romance – by W J Turner<br>Old Furniture – by Thomas Hardy<br>Aunt Helen – by T S Eliot | <b>25 marks</b> |
| 3. | To read a piece of verse or prose at sight.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 4. | Questions on the works performed.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 5. | Questions as for previous Grades with the addition of vowel sounds.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 6. | General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment.   | <b>20 marks</b> |
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#### **GRADE 6**

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| 1. | To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 3 minutes, chosen by the candidate  | <b>25 marks</b> |
| 2. | To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:<br>The Brook – by Lord Tennyson<br>I Remember – by Thomas Hood<br>Journey of the Magi – by T S Eliot<br>I Can’t Stay Long – by Laurie Lee<br>The Boy at the Window – by R Wilbur<br>Beside the Seaside – by Sir John Betjeman | <b>25 marks</b> |

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| 3. | To read a piece of verse or prose at sight.   | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 4. | To discuss with the Examiner the works performed.                                     | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 5. | Questions as for previous Grades with the addition of double and compound inflection. | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 6. | General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment.                          | <b>20 marks</b> |
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### **GRADE 7**

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| 1. | To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 3 minutes, chosen by the candidate  | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 2. | To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:<br>McCavity the Mystery Cat – by T S Eliot<br>Far Over the Misty Mountains – by J R Tolkien<br>The Little Dog’s Day – by Rupert Brooke<br>The Death of St Narcissus – by T S Eliot<br>At Parting – by E Nesbit<br>Hollyhocks – by W J Turner  | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 3. | To speak from memory one piece of drama from the following list:<br>A Mid Summer Night’s Dream Act II, Scene 1 – by Shakespeare<br>Puck “Thou speak’st aright” to “Here comes Oberon”.<br>Twelfth Night Act III, Scene 2 – by Shakespeare<br>Maria “If you desire the spleen” to “And take’t for a great favour”.<br>As You Like It, Act I, Scene 1 – by Shakespeare<br>Oliver “ Charles I thank thee for thy love to me” to “And thou must look pale and wonder”.<br>The Confidential Clerk, Act I – T S Eliot<br>Sir Claude “That I should never have become a first rate potter” to “Into the real world, as I do sometimes”. |                 |
| 4. | To discuss with the Examiner the works performed, and to show a knowledge of the most important works of the authors.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 5. | To read a piece of verse or prose at sight.  | <b>10 marks</b> |
| 6. | General Impression of Voice Production, Clarity, Deportment.   | <b>20 marks</b> |
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### **GRADE 8**

This Examination is in two parts, written theory and practical. Both parts must be completed before the award is made.

#### **Part I**

**Written Theory** The theory paper will consist of four questions each worth 25 marks. **100 marks**

The questions will be based on the following:

- a. Methods of breathing
- b. Speech faults that can occur in a given passage
- c. Inflection
- d. Pace
- e. Pause
- f. The use of the microphone

## Part II

### Practical

1. To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 4 minutes, chosen by the candidate. **30 marks**
2. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **30 marks**  
Fern Hill – by Dylan Thomas  
The Green Eye of the Yellow God – by J Milton Hayes  
Ducks – by FW Harvey  
Diary of a Church Mouse – by Sir John Betjeman  
Santa Claus (in a Department Store) – by C Hassall  
Chloe – by A Pope  
The Assassination of the Morning – by B Patten  
Play On – by P Jennings
3. To speak from memory one piece of drama from the following list: **30 marks**  
Any extract from a play by Frank Vicar  
Roots, Act 1 – Arnold Wesker  
    Beatie “No, I don’t know” to “learning was at school and that is finished with”.  
Cymbeline, Act III – Shakespeare  
    Imogen “Thou told’st me” to “would be even mortal to me”.  
Death of a Salesman, Act 1 – Arthur Miller  
    Linda “Are they any worse than his sons” to “How lonely he was until he came home to you”.  
As You Like It, Act II, Scene 4 – Shakespeare  
    “Fair sir, I pity her” to “And buy it with your goldright suddenly”.
4. To present the Examiner with a written anthology of works studied from Grade 1. Credit will be given if the anthology is illustrated. **20 marks**
5. To show evidence, in conversation with the Examiner, of a sound general knowledge of English literature. **20 marks**
6. To discuss with the Examiner the anthology and the works performed. **20 marks**
7. To read prose or verse at sight. **20 marks**
8. General overall impression. **30 marks**

The maximum marks available are 200. The pass mark is 150.



## **DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN SPEECH AND DRAMA**

### **Associate Diploma (ANCM)**

This examination is in two parts, written theory and practical. Both parts must be completed before the award is made.

#### **Part I**

**Written Theory** The theory paper will consist of four questions each **100 marks**  
worth 25 marks. The questions will be based on the following:

- a All methods of breathing
- b Pace, pause, simple and compound inflection
- c The technique of voice production
- d Speech faults in a given phrase
- e The technique of radio and television speakers
- f The use of the microphone
- g The analysis of a given piece of verse

#### **Part II**

##### **Practical**

1. To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 4 minutes, **30 marks**  
chosen by the candidate.
2. To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list: **30 marks**  
Hiawatha's Childhood – by HW Longfellow  
The Farmer's Bride – by Charlotte Mew  
The Album – by C D Lewis  
Toads – by Philip Larkin  
The Question – by PB Shelley  
Piano – by D H Lawrence
3. To speak from memory one piece of drama from the following Shakespeare characters. **30 marks**  
The actual lines of the character should be spoken and the speech should not exceed 5 minutes.

##### **Female Voice**

- Anthony and Cleopatra – Cleopatra
- A Midsummer Nights Dream – Titania
- Henry IV, part II – Hostess Quickly
- As You Like It – Rosalind
- Richard III – Queen Margaret or Anne
- MacBeth – Lady Macbeth

##### **Male Voice**

- Twelfth Night – Malvolio
- The Winter's Tale – Antigonus
- Hamlet – Hamlet or the King
- Henry V – King Henry
- King John – King John
- The Taming of The Shrew – Petruchio

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| 4. | To discuss with the Examiner any part of the theory syllabus.  | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 5. | To present an anthology as for Grade 8.  | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 6. | To read prose or verse at sight.   | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 7. | To show evidence, in conversation with the Examiner, of a sound general knowledge of English literature. | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 8. | General overall impression.  | <b>30 marks</b> |

The maximum marks available are 200. The pass mark is 150.

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### **Licentiate Diploma (LNCM)**

***Candidates must have previously passed the Associate or examination of similar standard.***

This Examination is of a practical nature only. The maximum marks are 200. The pass mark is 150.

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| 1. | To speak from memory a passage of prose, not exceeding 5 minutes, chosen by the candidate.   | <b>30 marks</b> |
| 2. | To perform any extract from a modern play, not exceeding 6 minutes, chosen by the candidate.   | <b>30 marks</b> |
| 3. | To speak from memory one piece of verse from the following list:<br>Peter Grime, the Outcast – by George Crabbe<br>The Triumph of Dullness – by A Pope<br>The Cottage Hospital – by Sir John Betjeman<br>Kubla Khan – by S T Coleridge<br>The Haunter – by Thomas Hardy<br>The Miner’s Helmet – by George Macbeth  | <b>30 marks</b> |
| 4. | To speak from memory one piece of drama from the following list:<br>Fanny’s First Play, Act I – George Bernard Shaw<br>“Oh, ain’t we impatient” to “Over his eyes and did a bunk”.<br>The second part of King Henry VI, Act III, Scene 2 – Shakespeare<br>“Be woe for me” to “for Henry weeps that thou dost live so long”.<br>Knight in Four Acts, Act I – John Harrison<br>“My name is Humphrey” to “As I say, he has all the luck”.<br>The Merchant of Venice, Act V, Scene 1 – Shakespeare<br>“The moon shines bright” to “And he forgave her”.<br>Knight in Four Acts – John Harrison<br>“Just a short postscript” to “And that’s about it”.<br>Epilogue to Tyrannick – John Dryden<br>“I am to rise” to “I’ll trust no poet, but will write my own”. | <b>30 marks</b> |
| 5. | To present an anthology as for the Associate Diploma.  | <b>30 marks</b> |
| 6. | To read at sight as requested.   | <b>20 marks</b> |
| 7. | General overall impression.  | <b>30 marks</b> |
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## **Fellowship Diploma (FNCM)**

***Candidates must have previously passed the Licentiate or examination of similar standard.***

Candidates are required to perform a programme of 35 - 40 minutes duration.

The Examiner's Report will take the form of a critique. No marks as such will be awarded, and the result will be notified as successful or unsuccessful.

The programme requirements are as follows:

- 1 A social speech
  - 2 A controversial speech
  - 3 A humorous speech
  - 4 A vocational speech
  - 5 Two pieces of drama of candidate's own choice
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## **MEDAL EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations for Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals are held in all subjects. Details of requirements are as follows:

### **Junior Bronze**

- Two pieces of verse from the Grade 3 List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Bronze**

- Two pieces of verse from the Grade 5 List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Silver**

- Two pieces of verse from the Grade 6 List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Gold**

- One piece of verse from the Grade 7 List
- One piece of drama from the Grade 7 List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Bronze**

- One piece of verse from the Grade 8 List
- One piece of drama from the Grade 8 List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Silver**

- One piece of verse from the Associate List
- One piece of drama from the Associate List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

### **Senior Gold**

- One piece of verse from the Licentiate List
- One piece of drama from the Licentiate List
- One piece of prose of own choice of similar standard

***Please note that all Medal Examination Speech and Drama recitals must be performed from memory.***

## **Marks**

Marks are awarded as follows:

Listed Recitals            60

Own Choice Recital      20

General Impression      20

The pass mark is 80. No award of Honours or Distinction is made in the Medal Division but a high standard of performance is expected.

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## **COLLEGE ROBES**

### **ASSOCIATE (ANCM AND AMUSNCM)**

**Gown:** Plain black gown as London Graduates but with four pleats in the sleeve, and each sleeve having two bars of lavender finished to a point laid on each side of the pleats.

**Hood:** Oxford simple shape, black outer faced inside cowl edge only with lavender. The plain neckband is black, lined with lavender.

### **LICENTIATE (LNCM AND LMUSNCM)**

**Gown:** Exactly as for Associate.

**Hood:** Oxford simple shape, black outer fully lined with lavender.  
The plain neckband is black, lined with lavender.

### **FELLOWSHIP (FNCM AND FMusNCM)**

**Gown:** Plain black gown as London Graduates with facings of lavender and with four pleats in the sleeve, and each sleeve having three bars of lavender finished to a point laid on the centre and each side of the pleats. The centre bar is placed vertically with the others leaning outwards.

**Hood:** Oxford simple shape, black outer fully lined with lavender.  
The cowl edge only is bound inside and out with white fur. The plain neckband is black, lined with lavender.

### **ALL DIPLOMA LEVELS**

**Hat:** A mortar-board type cap, black with lavender button and tassel, is available for all levels of diploma, and is usually acquired when attaining Associate level.





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