

## 2014-17 SYLLABUS

*We're delighted to launch our new Speech and Drama and Musical Theatre Syllabuses. We've made some big changes in response to suggestions from our teachers and examiners, especially to our Grade and Musical Theatre exams. We know you'll like what you see.*

### Grade Examination Changes

In terms of practical requirements: in Grade 2, the illustration will now be the focus of a more formal one-minute presentation on the poem; we've moved the lyric from Grade 6 to Grade 8 (the Grade 6 poem is now to be a short poem by an Irish poet); we've swapped the prepared and unprepared improvisations, the former coming in Grade 7, with the latter in Grade 8; the mime in Grade 9 is now either character or abstract; the poem in Grade 11 is to be a sonnet only; and in Grade 12, the poem is to be written after 1960 and the prose is to be by a non-Irish author (Grade 9 prose is by an Irish author). In terms of the drama selections, in Grade 8 it's by an Irish author and in Grade 11 it's to be written before 1800.

Theory requirements have been made more specific while retaining their relevance to the pieces being performed. By the end of Grade 10, candidates will have covered all aspects of vocal modulation. We've brought back stage directions in Grade 5; we think it's important that Grade 3 candidates should understand the difference between a vowel and a consonant; and that pitch, rate and pace are addressed explicitly in other grades. We still don't require young people to learn about things that they don't need to know.

### New Musical Theatre Syllabus

Our new Musical Theatre syllabus encourages teachers and students to explore the rich diversity of musical theatre, and to experience the thrill of performing pieces from different eras and genres. In the Group exams, the emphasis is purely on performance and engagement. In our solo and duet exams, we expect candidates to have a significant understanding of the narrative and dramatic contexts of the pieces they are performing and to display an increasing level of skill as they progress through the grades. The Syllabus Guidelines explain the context to the exam requirements. **PLEASE READ THEM.**



### Useful Information

The Irish Board is nothing if not helpful. On our website ([irishboard.ie](http://irishboard.ie)) you'll find a phenomenal amount of information on how our exams work, what our examiners require on exam day, how we assess your candidates, as well as entry forms, fees, poetry suggestions, theory guides ... you name it, it'll be there. If you can't find something that you need, ring and ask us.



### Diploma Examinations

In our Syllabus we provide a lot of information and guidance to candidates and their teachers in relation to what they are required to study and know for their exams, especially the written ones.

Entry Forms and sample exam papers from previous years' Associate and Licentiate exams are available from our website: [irishboard.ie](http://irishboard.ie).

The November 2014 Diploma session will take place on Sunday 30 November 2014 in the Stillorgan Park Hotel and the June 2015 session on Sunday 7 June 2015.

## Booking Examination Dates

The more notice you can give us of your proposed examination date(s) the better. As soon as you've set a date (and have checked it against school calendars/ Communion and Confirmation dates), please contact us, even if it's three or four months in advance. We will then treat this as a [provisional booking](#).

Remember that either side of the Easter Holidays, and April, May and June are our busiest times and that, if you leave it until the last minute to try and book a date at these times, we may not be able to accommodate you.

## Entry Forms

**Entry Forms are a must.** We have designed them carefully to provide all the information we need to administer your exams.

Entry Forms are enclosed with your syllabus and you may photocopy them if you wish. All Entry Forms are also available on [irishboard.ie](#). Otherwise, phone or email us and we'll be more than happy to post you a supply.

Bookings will only be CONFIRMED once we have received completed and signed entry forms. Entry Forms MUST be received in the Irish Board office NO LATER than one calendar month prior to the proposed date of the examination. They may be posted or scanned and emailed to us. Unfortunately, we can no longer confirm bookings on the basis of a phone call, text or email.

## Examination Regulations

In the Irish Board we try to keep the rules and bureaucracy to a minimum. Some rules are necessary to enable us to be as flexible as we are in relation to dates and other matters.

**Our Examination Regulations are at the back of each Syllabus booklet and on the website. Please read them carefully.**



## dramabooks.ie

On [dramabooks.ie](#), our one-stop shop for drama resources you will find all our publications and CDs – short plays, monologues, duologues, teachers' handbooks, theory books, Movement to Music and Theory CDs.

There are some exciting new publications coming soon which we'll announce on Facebook so make sure to like our page ([facebook.com/IrishBoardofSpeechandDrama](#)) so that it appears in your newsfeed.

## Reading Exams

Our Reading exams are designed to encourage young people to read aloud fluently, confidently and expressively and are an effective introduction to exams for children who haven't yet developed the confidence to try Grade, Communication Skills or other exams in the syllabus. They also encourage young people to read real books! They have become very popular with many teachers, and parents seem to like them too.

## Irish Board Resource Centre

Please do visit the office. We'd love to see you, make you coffee and offer you our biscuits. We have over 500 books on poetry, mime, stage direction, the voice, drama, public speaking and so on. Our library catalogue is on [irishboard.ie](#). Just contact us before you come to make sure we'll be here. While we can't lend out books, you are free to browse. There's a map showing where we are, on our web site and you can download written directions from there too.

## Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland

Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland is the association of speech, drama and communication teachers in Ireland and is well worth joining if you work in the field of Speech, Drama and Communication. You can find them at: [speechanddramateachersofireland.ie](#). They also have a Facebook page, a link to which you'll find on their main website.

## Keep in Touch

If you have any questions at all or are looking for advice on any of our exams, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email the details for which you'll find below.

You'll find essentials and lots of information on our website



[irishboard.ie](#)

And we're also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube



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