



Irish Board of
Speech & Drama

Inspiring confidence & imagination

SYLLABUS & PUBLICATIONS CATALOGUE

'09 - '10



Introduction

The Irish Board of Speech and Drama is an independent, progressive, flexible and friendly examining body which provides an objective assessment of achievement in communication skills and dramatic arts through its examination system, catering for all age groups. Through our syllabuses, we aim to facilitate teachers to develop important communication and drama skills in their pupils and students.

Irish Board examinations are easy to organise. You and your students can choose your poems, prose and drama pieces. You can choose an examination date, time and location which suit you.

Our examiners are professional, encouraging and friendly, and generate a relaxed atmosphere so that candidates can perform to their best ability. We affirm progress and encourage confidence through written reports and certificates.

If you have never held speech and drama exams before, or if you aren't sure about how to go about it, just ring us, and we'll help you through the process. If you want, we can visit you and discuss the process.

You can also refer to our helpful and user-friendly website www.irishboard.ie which contains more information about the Irish Board of Speech and Drama, how the examinations work, and also what resources are available to help you to teach.

We very much look forward to examining your candidates during the year.

David Meredith

Director



Irish Board of
Speech & Drama

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Irish Board of
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How Irish Board Examinations Work



How Irish Board Examinations Work

- 1 You prepare your students in accordance with the syllabus/ grades of your choice (we can give you guidance on age groups and suitable pieces, if you want).
- 2 Send your entry form and fees to the Irish Board **at least** a month before the date on which you would like the examination to take place (please give us a few options).
- 3 We will send you confirmation of the date of the examination together with the name of the Irish Board examiner.
- 4 On the day, our examiner will give you a blank report sheet for each candidate and talk/ improvisation topics, if necessary.
- 5 You give the examiner a list of the names of those to be examined, with the examination categories and levels/ grades clearly indicated.
- 6 Each candidate will bring his/her report sheet into the examination room and hand it to the examiner.
- 7 The examiner will hear the candidate's pieces, write up his/her report sheet and award a mark.
- 8 When all the candidates have been examined, the examiner will give you the written up report sheets, and a medal for the candidate receiving the highest mark.
- 9 Within a reasonable period of time (usually within a month), we will send you an Irish Board Certificate for each candidate who received 70% or more in their examination. We will also send you Acting Medals for each candidate in the Acting Performance and Musical Theatre solo and duologue examinations achieving 85% or more, and proficiency medals, where awarded.

What our Examiners Require on the Day of the Examination

- 1 A suitable room in which the examination can take place. The room should be bright, warm, in a quiet part of the building, and have sufficient space for candidates to perform their pieces.
- 2 A suitable table and chair for the examiner.
- 3 A list of candidates and their grades.
- 4 For junior candidates, where poems are short, a copy of each of the poems, so that the examiner may ask appropriate questions.
- 5 Water and a glass.
- 6 An occasional offer of tea/ coffee, and perhaps some biscuits.
- 7 A light lunch (a roll or sandwich/ tea or coffee) if the examination is to last into the afternoon.
- 8 Well-prepared candidates!
- 9 Report sheets to be handed to them by the candidates in good condition.

How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates

This is intended as a general guide for teachers on the Irish Board's examining criteria. Of course, our examiners will take into account a number of factors when examining in a particular centre, such as the age of the candidate, the level at which he/she is being examined, whether the centre is a primary/ post-primary school or a speech and drama school, and so on. Consistent with our values as an examining board, our emphasis is on a candidate's ability to speak in such a way as to be understood, and to convey to a listener that he/she understands the poem, prose selection and/ or drama piece.

Entrance and Introduction

Candidates should be reminded that the examination begins as soon as the candidate enters the examination room. We would like to see the candidate enter the room purposefully, close the door, greet the examiner appropriately ('Good Morning or Good Afternoon') and hand his/ her report sheet to the examiner.

Poetry in General

We would like the candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ displays an understanding of what the poet intended
- ☞ can make meaningful and expressive use of the language and structure of the poem
- ☞ can convey the meaning and mood of the poem with a variety of pace, tone and rhythm
- ☞ does not cause any distraction with the use of his/her body.

Narrative Poetry

We would like the candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ understands what the poet intended, and conveys the shape and progression of the story
- ☞ is able to make meaningful and expressive use of the language and structure of the poem
- ☞ can convey the mood of the poem with a variety of pace, tone and rhythm
- ☞ does not cause any distraction with the use of his/her body.

Lyric Poetry

We would like the candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ understands what the poet intended, and identifies with the poet's emotions
- ☞ can make meaningful and expressive use of the language and structure of the poem
- ☞ can convey the meaning and mood of the poem with a variety of pace, tone and rhythm
- ☞ does not cause any distraction with the use of his/her body.

Choral Verse Speaking

We would like the group to show that they:

- ☞ are able to share responsibility for their performance
- ☞ can communicate clearly as a group
- ☞ understand the meaning of the poem or prose selection chosen
- ☞ can convey that understanding to the examiner by engaging imaginatively with the text.

Action Poems

We would like the group to show that they:

- ☞ are able to share responsibility for their performance
- ☞ can communicate clearly as a group
- ☞ understand the meaning of the poem chosen
- ☞ can convey that understanding to the examiner through appropriate expression and movement.

Drama

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ understands the character being portrayed and the scenario described by the play
- ☞ conveys and sustains this character convincingly through voice, speech and movement
- ☞ can speak clearly
- ☞ uses his/ her voice, body and space in appropriate and varied ways
- ☞ projects and shapes his/her performance for the benefit of the audience.

Mime

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ understands the nature of mime
- ☞ can create a mime which reflects the given story, character or theme
- ☞ has good control over body movement, facial expression and gesture
- ☞ is able to convey texture, shape and weight
- ☞ projects and shapes his/her performance for the benefit of the audience.

Movement to Music

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ can interpret music with bodily movement and facial expression
- ☞ has the ability to use his/ her body and space in appropriate and varied ways
- ☞ can construct and shape a performance for the benefit of the audience.

Musical Theatre

We would like each candidate to show that he/she (alone, in a duo or in a group):

- ☞ understands the character being portrayed and the scenario described by the selection
- ☞ conveys and sustains this character convincingly through voice, speech and movement
- ☞ can speak/ sing clearly
- ☞ uses his/ her voice, body and space in appropriate and varied ways
- ☞ projects and shapes his/her performance for the benefit of the audience.

Improvisation

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ can develop a theme relevantly, creatively and dramatically from his/her own imagination
- ☞ is able to sustain the theme and character for a given period of time
- ☞ pays attention to the details of the created scenario.

Prose

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ understands and conveys what the writer of the piece intended
- ☞ is able to speak fluently, purposefully and expressively
- ☞ where appropriate, can give characters in the story clear vocal identities
- ☞ can convey the meaning and mood of the extract with a variety of pace, tone and rhythm.

Reading/ Sight Reading

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ displays an awareness of the listener/ audience, through standing appropriately, managing the book and using eye contact
- ☞ can read fluently, purposefully and expressively
- ☞ can use a variety of pace, tone and rhythm to convey the meaning and mood of the selection.

Prepared Talks

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ can speak with fluency and expression
- ☞ is able to construct a relevant, informative and appropriately structured talk
- ☞ shows an awareness of the audience
- ☞ has not memorised the talk
- ☞ if using notes, uses them in an unobtrusive manner.

Impromptu Talks

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ is able to speak with clearly defined sounds at a volume which is appropriate for the surroundings
- ☞ can speak with fluency and expression
- ☞ is able to develop a theme relevantly and creatively
- ☞ can shape a talk, with an introduction, development and conclusion
- ☞ shows an awareness of the audience.

Theory

We would like each candidate to show that he/she:

- ☞ knows the set theory and can explain it with reference to the pieces being performed during the examination, using examples where appropriate.

Irish Board of Speech and Drama Examination Regulations

- 1 Applications for examinations are accepted on the condition that candidates will be examined in accordance with the requirements of the current syllabus.
- 2 All entries must be made on the official entry form. Each entry form must be accompanied by the correct entry fee. Forms and fees must reach the Irish Board of Speech and Drama at least one month before the proposed date of the examination.
- 3 The person submitting the entry form must sign and date it. This will be understood to be an agreement to abide by the regulations of the Irish Board.
- 4 The minimum fee for the recognition of an examination centre is €350. By agreement and arrangement, an examination centre may comprise more than one physical location.
- 5 Examination fees will not be refunded.
- 6 A candidate who has been entered for an examination in one centre may not be examined in a different centre.
- 7 A list of candidates' names with the type and grade of their examinations must be given to the examiner prior to the start of the examination.
- 8 Each candidate is responsible for the supply of all equipment, props, costumes and so on required for his/ her examination.
- 9 70% will be required to pass any examination; 75% - 79% will be awarded a Merit; 80% - 84% will be awarded Honours; 85% - 89% will be awarded First Class Honours; 90% - 100% will be awarded a Distinction.
- 10 A certificate will be awarded to each candidate achieving a pass mark in an examination.
- 11 One medal will be awarded in each examination centre as defined in Regulation 4, above, save for the exceptions below.
- 12 In the Acting Performance and Musical Theatre examinations, a certificate will be awarded to each candidate achieving 70% or over. Each candidate achieving a mark of 85% or above will receive a certificate and an Irish Board Acting Medal.
- 13 In the Grade Proficiency, Public Speaking Proficiency and Acting Proficiency examinations, a medal will be awarded to each candidate achieving a mark of 85% or above.







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Examinations

Acting Performance Examinations

The purpose of the Acting Performance Examinations is to provide an opportunity for candidates, either on their own (solo) or with a colleague (duologue), to display what they have learned in drama class, in a secure, encouraging and non-competitive atmosphere.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations. In general, however, our examiners will be assessing each candidate's ability to create a character in a dramatic context, and to convey the character and story of the selection in a convincing manner to an audience, using voice, movement, gesture and space. Each candidate should choose a piece or pieces which are appropriate for his/her age. Simple costumes are permitted, as are simple props.

For unprepared improvisations, each candidate will be given a list of topics by the examiner in the examination room during the examination. The candidate(s) will be given approximately one minute to prepare the improvisation.

In the Acting Performance Examinations, 70% will be required for a pass. All candidates achieving 70% or over will receive a Certificate. Candidates who receive 85% or more will receive a certificate and an Irish Board of Speech and Drama Acting Medal.

Junior Acting Performance Examinations

Junior One Suggested ages: 6 - 8 years Fees: Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Present a one minute occupational mime

Junior Two Suggested ages: 8 - 9 years Fees: Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Present a one minute story mime

Junior Three Suggested ages: 9 - 10 years Fees: Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Present a one minute character mime

Junior Four Suggested ages: 10 - 12 years Fees: Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Present a one minute abstract mime

Intermediate Acting Performance Examinations

Intermediate One Suggested ages: 10 - 12 years Fees: Solo €23 /Duo €37

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection from any period
- 2 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [*a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room*]

Intermediate Two Suggested ages: 12 - 14 years Fees: Solo €23 /Duo €37

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection written after 1900
- 2 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [*a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room*]

Intermediate Three Suggested ages: 14 - 16 years Fees: Solo €23 /Duo €37

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection written by or adapted from the work of an Irish author/ playwright
- 2 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room]

Intermediate Four Suggested ages: 15 - 17 years Fees: Solo €23 /Duo €37

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection written before 1900
- 2 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room]

Senior Acting Performance Examinations

Senior One Ages 15 and over Fees: Solo €25 /Duo €39

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection taken/adapted from a play of literary merit
- 2 Perform a short prepared story mime OR
Present a piece of movement to music, choreographed by the Candidate(s)
- 3 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room]
- 4 Discuss with the examiner how you prepared for your performance of your selected pieces
- 5 Carry out simple stage directions

Senior Two Ages 16 and over Fees: Solo €25 /Duo €39

- 1 Act a three minute dramatic selection taken/adapted from a play of literary merit
- 2 Perform a short prepared abstract mime OR
Present a piece of movement to music, choreographed by the Candidate(s)
- 3 Present a one minute unprepared improvisation [a choice of subjects will be provided by the examiner in the examination room]
- 4 Discuss with the examiner how you prepared for your performance of your selected pieces
- 5 Explain the techniques of period movement in acting

Acting Proficiency Examination Fee: €60

The candidate must be at least 16 years of age and have been studying speech and drama for at least 3 years. A letter from a recognised teacher of Speech and Drama to this effect will be required.

- 1 Perform a three minute drama selection taken or adapted from a play of literary merit
- 2 Speak a Shakespearean sonnet, OR
Present approximately 16 lines from any play by Shakespeare, in dramatic form
- 3 Perform a short own choice mime OR
A short piece of movement to music, choreographed by the candidate
- 4 Perform a three minute dramatic selection, in a contrasting style from requirement 1 above. (This piece may take the form of a duologue to be presented with another candidate for the Acting Proficiency Certificate examination)
- 5 Submit a written portfolio containing the following:
 - a notes on the character chosen in requirement 1 of the examination
 - b an explanation of how the candidate studied his/her dramatic selections
 - c an explanation of how the use of pitch, pace, inflection and pause enhances a dramatic performance

The candidate will be expected to attain a high standard of performance in order to pass this examination. 70% will be required for a pass. A successful candidate will be awarded the Acting Proficiency Certificate from the Irish Board of Speech and Drama. Those obtaining 85% and over will also receive the special Irish Board Silver Acting Medal.

Choral Verse Speaking Examinations

Choral Verse Speaking provides the opportunity for a group of speakers to perform a selected piece co-operatively.

The purpose of Choral Verse Speaking is the effective communication of the selection using appropriate technical and interpretive skills. Choral Verse Speaking offers great scope for young people to learn and perform together, with a unity of purpose, and is ideal for class groups.

Choral Verse Speaking encourages the development of confidence in:

- ☞ *speaking clearly and fluently*
- ☞ *interpreting a text*
- ☞ *working with others*
- ☞ *following directions*

In Grades One and Two, we have provided for the group to perform an Action Poem. For the other Grades, the choir should perform without actions.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

Choral groups should contain between 10 and 40 candidates.

Grade One Suggested ages: 6 - 9 years Fee: €36

Perform an Action Poem of your choice

Grade Two Suggested ages: 7 - 10 years Fee: €38

Present two short poems, one of which may be an Action Poem

Grade Three Suggested ages: 9 - 11 years Fee: €40

Present two poems of a contrasting nature

Grade Four Suggested ages: 10 - 13 years Fee: €46

Present a five minute programme, suitable for a School Concert

Senior Choir Suggested ages: 14 - 16 years Fee: €50

Present two short contrasting pieces

Final Choir Suggested ages: over 16 years Fee: €50

Present two contrasting pieces, one of which may be a prose selection

Communication Skills Examinations

The purpose of these examinations is to encourage the development of confidence in:

- ☞ *speaking clearly and fluently*
- ☞ *interpreting a text (verse, prose or drama selection) with appropriate expression (and movement/ gesture, if the drama option is chosen)*
- ☞ *the use of practical conversation and speaking skills*
- ☞ *the use of imagination and confidence to explore a topic, either in speech or dramatic form*

The Communication Skills examinations have been designed to facilitate class teachers in primary schools, English/ Drama teachers in post-primary schools and, of course, speech and drama teachers teaching in primary schools, post-primary schools, or their own schools and academies.

Age ranges/ class groups have been suggested for each grade, for your guidance. However, these are suggestions only, and teachers are free to make their own judgement in relation to the most appropriate grade for their candidates.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

For children for whom English is a second language, please see English as a Second Language Examinations on p.20

Preliminary Examinations

Preliminary One Junior Infants Fee: €12

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Answer simple questions about the poem

Preliminary Two Senior Infants Fee: €12

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Answer questions about the poem and the meaning of the words

Junior Examinations

Junior One First Class Fee: €15

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 6 lines) from a book of your choice/ your school reader
- 3 Hold a short conversation with the examiner about the poem and yourself

Junior Two Second Class Fee: €15

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 8 lines) from a book of your choice/your school reader
- 3 Hold a short conversation with the examiner about the poem and your favourite sports/ hobbies/interests

Junior Three *Third Class* **Fee: €16**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 10 lines) from a book of your choice/your school reader
- 3 Bring to the examination a toy, book or collection and use it to make a one-minute presentation to the examiner

Junior Four *Fourth Class* **Fee: €16**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 12 lines) from a book of your choice/ your school reader
- 3 Give a one-minute summary of the story from which your extract was taken and discuss the story with the examiner

Intermediate Examinations

Intermediate One *Fifth Class* **Fee: €20**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Give a one and a half-minute talk about a memorable holiday experience OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Intermediate Two *Sixth Class* **Fee: €20**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 Give a one and a half-minute talk about a person from history you admire OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Intermediate Three *First Year* **Fee: €20**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 In your own words tell the story of a book or film of your choice (approximately one minute) OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Intermediate Four *Second Year* **Fee: €20**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 In your own words describe a notable historical event (approximately two minutes) OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Intermediate Five *Third Year* **Fee: €20**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic selection
- 2 In your own words describe a memorable place you have visited recently (approximately two minutes) OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Transition Year Examinations

Transition Option A Transition Year Fee: €20

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic or Musical Theatre selection (this may be performed as a duologue with another candidate) OR
Speak from memory a short prose extract (approximately 8 - 12 lines) from a book of your choice
- 2 Give a one minute informal talk on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Transition Option B Transition Year Fee: €20

For schools offering a public speaking/ debating module in their Transition Year the format and structure of an examination can be arranged to suit particular needs. Options might include either:

- a three minute prepared speech on one of a list of topics set by the Board OR
- a three minute prepared speech on a topic chosen by the student OR
- a two minute impromptu speech on one of a list of topics provided by the examiner on the day of the examination.

The examinations can be held on a one-to-one basis, or as a competition with all competitors (and others, if required) present in the examination room/ hall.

We do not encourage candidates to memorise or read their prepared talks. If notes or aides mémoires are used, they should be used in such a way as to not cause distraction from the speaker.

Senior Examinations

Senior One Fifth Year Fee: €23

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute dramatic or Musical Theatre selection (this may be performed as a duologue with another candidate) OR
Speak from memory a short prose extract (approximately 12 - 16 lines) from a book of your choice
- 2 Give a one minute informal talk on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination OR
Perform a one minute improvisation on a topic provided by the examiner on the day of the examination

Final Sixth Year Fee: €30

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem OR
Act a two minute solo dramatic selection taken from a play of literary merit OR
Speak from memory a short extract (approximately 12 - 16 lines) from a book of your choice
- 2 Give a two minute prepared talk on a moral/ ethical issue
- 3 Hold a discussion with the examiner about what you plan to do when you leave school, and why

English as a Second Language Examinations

The purpose of these examinations is to encourage confidence in the use of English by those for whom it is not their first language. As with other Irish Board examinations, the emphasis will be on clear, fluent and expressive speech. However, in these examinations, the syllabus concentrates on functional language skills, rather than interpretive skills.

Beginner Fee: €14

- 1 A one minute prepared talk about yourself
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 12 - 15 lines) from a book of your choice
- 3 Carry on a short conversation with the examiner about living in Ireland

Intermediate Fee: €16

- 1 A one minute prepared talk about yourself
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 12 - 15 lines) from a book of your choice
- 3 Read a passage from a newspaper on a topical news story selected by the examiner
- 4 Carry on a short conversation with the examiner about living in Ireland

Advanced Fee: €20

- 1 Give a prepared talk on any topic of your choice
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 12 - 15 lines) from a book of your choice
- 3 Read a passage from a newspaper on a topical news story selected by the examiner
- 4 Give an unprepared talk on one of a selection of topics provided by the examiner prior to the examination (one minute)
- 5 Carry on a short conversation with the examiner about living in Ireland

Grade Examinations

The Grade Examinations syllabus encourages a process of progressive learning from an early age, with each grade marking an increase in skill and achievement. All aspects of speech and drama performance and theory are covered in the syllabus and the Examinations represent a rigorous assessment of technique and interpretive skills. We expect candidates in the Grade examinations to display a higher level of achievement than those in the Communication Skills examinations, and that the pieces chosen for performance will represent some challenge to the candidates, while being appropriate for their age and examination level.

Informal interaction with the examiner is introduced from Preliminary Grade One, in order to encourage candidates to respond to questions and explain aspects of their selected piece. This is developed in Grade Two, the objective of the illustration being not only to illustrate the candidate's understanding of their poem, but also to encourage and assess interactive communication ability.

Theory is also introduced in Grade Two. The objective of the theory requirements in the Grade syllabus is to facilitate the candidate's understanding of certain techniques and skills, and how they affect performance. Candidates will therefore be asked to explain theory with reference to or by using examples from the pieces they perform.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

Preliminary Grade One Suggested ages: 4 - 6 years Fee: €15

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Answer simple questions about the poem and the meaning of the words

Preliminary Grade Two Suggested ages: 5 - 7 years Fee: €15

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Answer simple questions about the poem and the meaning of the words

Grade One Suggested ages: 6 - 8 years Fee: €18

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Answer simple questions about the poem and the meaning of the words
- 3 Give a one minute informal (not memorised) talk to the examiner about yourself OR
Bring to the examination a toy or a book and use it to make a one-minute presentation to the examiner

Grade Two Suggested ages: 6 - 9 years Fee: €21

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Bring to the examination a detailed illustration of your poem. This should be the work of the candidate. The illustration will be the focal point in a discussion with the examiner on the story of the poem.
- 3 Theory: Know what the Organs of Speech are, be able to point them out to the examiner, and understand their functions in forming sounds

Grade Three Suggested ages: 7 - 10 years Fee: €24

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Read a short extract (approximately 10 lines) from a book of your choice
- 3 Discuss the chosen book with the examiner
- 4 Theory: Simple Pause - explain to the examiner where you took a sense pause and where you took a breath pause in your poem

Grade Four *Suggested ages: 9 - 11 years* **Fee: €26**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Present a one minute mime on a subject of your choice
- 3 Theory:
 - a Give a simple definition of mime and explain to the examiner how you prepared your mime for the examination
 - b Explain to the examiner the importance of posture/ stance

Grade Five *Suggested ages: 10 - 12 years* **Fee: €31**

- 1 Speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Act a solo dramatic selection (maximum time permitted: two minutes)
- 3 Theory:
 - a Tell the examiner about the character in your solo and explain how your understanding of the character influenced your solo performance
 - b Using a few lines from the poem you recited, explain what it means to speak clearly, naturally and with good diction

Grade Six *Suggested ages: 11 - 13 years* **Fee: €35**

- 1 Speak from memory a short lyric
- 2 Act a solo dramatic selection (maximum time permitted: two minutes)
- 3 Read at sight a poem chosen by the examiner
- 4 Theory:
 - a Explain how the term 'lyric' came about, and explain how lyric poetry differs from narrative poetry
 - b Referring to your performance of the pieces above, describe the importance of diction, projection, fluency, sincerity, pronunciation, and breath control
 - c Explain the technique used for sight reading

Grade Seven *Suggested ages: 12 - 14 years* **Fee: €36**

- 1 Speak from memory a poem of your choice.
- 2 Act a solo dramatic selection taken, adapted or compiled from a play or book, with suitable characterisation and movement (maximum time permitted: two minutes)
- 3 Perform an unprepared improvisation on a topic chosen from a list provided by the examiner in the examination room (maximum time permitted: one minute)
- 4 Theory:
 - a Discuss the play from which the above extract was chosen and its author with the examiner
 - b Discuss with the examiner the history and uses of improvisation
 - c Explain emphasis, giving examples of emphasis techniques used in the pieces performed

Grade Eight *Suggested ages: 13 - 15 years* **Fee: €37**

- 1 Speak from memory a poem of your choice
- 2 Act a solo dramatic selection taken or adapted from a play of literary merit (maximum time permitted: two minutes)
- 3 Perform a two minute improvisation prepared by the candidate OR a short piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate. (Candidates are responsible for bringing their own equipment)
- 4 Theory:
 - a Explain pitch, pace, pause and tone with reference to their use in the poem and drama selection performed
 - b Explain the mechanics and importance of projection

Grade Nine Suggested ages: 14 - 16 years Fee: €40

- 1 Speak from memory a short selection of prose taken from a novel or short story written by an Irish author
- 2 Act a two minute solo dramatic selection taken, adapted or compiled from a play or book by an Irish author, with suitable interpretation and stage movement
- 3 Perform a two minute character or story mime
- 4 Theory:
 - a Describe the method of breathing used for voice production and demonstrate it to the examiner
 - b Explain how to prepare a dramatic selection for performance, with reference to the scene performed during the examination

Grade Ten Suggested ages: 15 - 17 years Fee: €42

- 1 Perform a five minute recital incorporating verse, prose, drama and a linking script; to be chosen and compiled by the candidate. (The recital may be on a theme or represent the works of one author.)
- 2 Give an unprepared one minute talk on a subject to be given by the examiner in the examination room
- 3 Theory:
 - a Discuss your recital with the examiner, including the reasons why you chose your pieces, what the theme or author means to you, and how you prepared the pieces for performance
 - b Explain the mechanics and importance of resonance in speech
 - c Discuss with the examiner the techniques you might use to sustain an audience's interest in a talk

Grade Eleven (Senior Advanced) Suggested ages: 16 - 18 years Fee: €44

- 1 Speak from memory a poem in free verse OR a sonnet
- 2 Perform a two minute solo dramatic selection taken or adapted from any play written before 1800, with suitable movement
- 3 Perform a short piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate OR a two minute solo mime
- 4 Theory:
 - a Explain the techniques of period movement in acting
 - b Discuss your vocal development technique with the examiner, concentrating on vowel sounds, consonant sounds, and breath control
 - c Discuss the importance of gesture in mime or movement to music

Final Grade Suggested ages: 16 - 18 years Fee: €46

- 1 Speak from memory a short modern poem
- 2 Act a two minute solo dramatic selection taken or adapted from any play of literary merit
- 3 Speak from memory a short prose selection from any book written by an Irish author
- 4 Perform a two minute prepared mime OR prepared improvisation OR prepared movement to music
- 5 Theory:
 - a Explain to the examiner how to prepare a poem or prose selection for performance with particular reference to the poem or prose selection performed during the examination
 - b Explain how to choreograph a piece of movement to music
 - c The examiner will initiate a discussion on any aspect(s) of the theory requirements outlined in the Grade Syllabus

Proficiency Examination in Speech and Drama**Suggested ages: 17 - 20 years****Fee: €60****(The Candidate must be at least 17 years of age)**

- 1 Introduce and speak from memory a short poem
- 2 Introduce and speak from memory a short prose selection
- 3 Introduce and perform a solo dramatic selection taken or adapted from any play of literary merit (maximum time permitted: three minutes)
- 4 Introduce and perform a short piece of movement to music choreographed by the Candidate OR
Introduce and perform a two minute abstract mime
- 5 Theory:
 - a Discuss with the examiner why you chose, and how you prepared, your pieces for the examination, placing particular emphasis on your interpretation of the pieces performed
 - b The examiner will initiate a discussion on any aspect(s) of the theory requirements outlined in the Grade Syllabus

A high standard of performance is required for this examination. Candidates will be assessed on their communication skills, vocal technique, and interpretative skills, and will be expected to display a thorough knowledge of the theory of Speech and Drama.

Candidates who obtain 85% or more will receive the Irish Board Medal and a Certificate of Proficiency.

Musical Theatre Examinations

In response to a growing interest on the part of teachers and their students in Musical Theatre, the Irish Board of Speech and Drama is pleased to offer examinations in Musical Theatre.

We have retained our simple syllabus for solo performers, duos and groups (from three to six candidates). In brief, we will be looking for short presentations combining singing, acting (including speech where appropriate) and dancing, based on an extract or extracts from a traditional, stage or film version of a musical from any period. Additional requirements range from a short conversation with the examiner on the choice and preparation of the piece, to prepared improvisations and movement to music performances.

In the Musical Theatre Solo and Duologue Examinations, 70% will be required for a pass. All candidates achieving 70% or over will receive a certificate. Candidates who receive 85% or more will receive a certificate and an Irish Board of Speech and Drama Acting Medal.

In the Musical Theatre Group Examinations the group will be assessed and marked as a group. If the group achieves a pass mark or higher, a certificate will be awarded to each candidate in the group.

Please note that candidates will be responsible for supplying any equipment and/or accompaniment required for their performances. If recorded music is being used, it should comprise music without lyrics.

SOLOS AND DUOS

Junior Musical Theatre Examinations

Junior One Suggested ages: 6 - 8 years Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Perform a three minute Musical Theatre selection that includes singing, acting and dance
- 2 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the chosen piece

Junior Two Suggested ages: 8 - 11 years Solo €18 /Duo €30

- 1 Perform a three minute Musical Theatre selection that includes singing, acting and dance
- 2 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the chosen piece and the musical from which it was taken

Intermediate Musical Theatre Examinations

Intermediate One Suggested ages: 11 - 13 years Solo €23 /Duo €37

- 1 Introduce and perform a three minute Musical Theatre selection that includes singing, acting and dance
- 2 Introduce and perform a two minute piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate(s)
- 3 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the Musical Theatre piece and the musical from which it was taken
- 4 Carry out simple stage directions

Intermediate Two | *Suggested ages: 13 – 15 years* | Solo €23 / Duo €37

- 1 Introduce and perform a three minute Musical Theatre selection that includes singing, acting and dance
- 2 Introduce and perform a two minute piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate(s)
- 3 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the Musical Theatre piece and the musical from which it was taken
- 4 Explain the importance of good diction in dramatic performance and how it may be achieved

Senior Musical Theatre Examinations

Senior One | *Suggested ages: 15 – 16 years* | Solo €30 / Duo €48

- 1 Introduce and perform two contrasting Musical Theatre selections that include singing, acting and dance (overall maximum time 6 minutes)
- 2 Introduce and perform a two minute piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate(s) OR
Introduce and perform a two minute prepared improvisation based on the theme of one of the Musical Theatre selections
- 3 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the pieces performed
- 4 Discuss the importance of gesture in dramatic performance

Senior Two | *Suggested ages: 16+ years* | Solo €30 / Duo €48

- 1 Introduce and perform two contrasting Musical Theatre selections that include singing, acting and dance (overall maximum time 6 minutes)
- 2 Introduce and perform a two minute piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate(s) OR
Introduce and perform a two minute prepared improvisation based on the theme of one of the Musical Theatre selections
- 3 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about the pieces performed
- 4 Explain the process of choreographing a piece of movement to music

Advanced Musical Theatre Examination

Advanced | *Suggested age: 16+ years* | Solo €42 / Duo €60

- 1 Introduce and perform a thematically linked Musical Theatre programme comprising three pieces, the programme to include singing, acting and dance (overall maximum time 10 minutes)
- 2 Introduce and perform a two minute spoken extract from a musical
- 3 Introduce and perform a two minute piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate(s)
- 4 Introduce and perform a two minute prepared improvisation based on the theme of one of the Musical Theatre selections
- 5 Engage in a conversation with the examiner about Musical Theatre in general, the pieces performed and the processes involved in your performance

GROUPS (BETWEEN 3 AND 6 CANDIDATES)

Junior Musical Theatre Examinations

Junior Suggested ages: 6 - 11 years Fee: €36

Introduce and perform a five minute Musical Theatre selection that includes singing, acting and dance

Intermediate Musical Theatre Examinations

Intermediate Suggested ages: 11 - 15 years Fee: €42

Introduce and perform two contrasting Musical Theatre selections that include singing, acting and dance (overall maximum time 10 minutes)

Senior Musical Theatre Examinations

Senior Suggested ages: 15+ years Fee: €52

- 1 Introduce and perform a thematically linked Musical Theatre programme comprising three pieces, the programme to include singing, acting and dance and a linking script (overall maximum time 12 minutes)
- 2 Engage in a discussion with the examiner about Musical Theatre in general and the pieces chosen for performance

Public Speaking and Presentation Examinations

Public speaking and presentation concerns the communication of information or ideas to a group or audience in such a way as to maintain their interest. Speaking to a group, in the context of a job interview, a presentation on a topic or issue, a sales pitch, or a formal speech or debate is increasingly common. Through our syllabus, we wish to encourage candidates to feel comfortable and confident in these situations. The purpose of these examinations is to encourage clear, fluent and expressive speaking on a variety of topics and in a variety of imagined settings.

We encourage candidates NOT to memorise or read their prepared talks. If notes or aides mémoire are used, they should be used in such a way as to not cause distraction from the speaker.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

Grade One Suggested ages: 10 - 12 Fee: €14

- 1 Give a prepared talk about yourself (one minute)
- 2 Tell a popular fairy tale in your own words (two minutes)

Grade Two Suggested ages: 11 - 13 Fee: €16

- 1 Give a prepared talk about a hobby or sport (one minute)
- 2 Bring a book into the examination and describe the story to the examiner OR describe the story of a film you have seen to the examiner (two minutes)

Grade Three Suggested ages: 12 - 14 Fee: €18

- 1 Give a prepared talk about an event, visit or holiday (one minute)
- 2 Bring a small object or collection into the examination and talk about it to the examiner (two minutes)

Grade Four Suggested ages: 13 - 15 Fee: €21

- 1 Give a prepared talk on any aspect of Ireland (two minutes)
- 2 Tell an Irish legend in your own words (three minutes)

Grade Five Suggested ages: 14 - 16 Fee: €24

- 1 Give a prepared talk on any topic of your choice (two minutes)
- 2 Give a prepared eye-witness account of a famous historical event, as if you witnessed it (three minutes)
- 3 Give a one minute unprepared talk on one of a selection of topics provided by the examiner in the examination room (one minute will be provided for preparation) followed by a short discussion with the examiner on the topic and/or on speaking in public

Grade Six Suggested ages: 15 - 17 Fee: €28

- 1 Give a presentation on yourself and your key achievements to date (two minutes)
- 2 Present your view on a topic of current public interest (three minutes)
- 3 Give a one minute unprepared talk on one of a selection of topics provided by the examiner in the examination room (one minute will be provided for preparation) followed by a short discussion with the examiner on the topic and/or on speaking in public

For further Transition Year Examination Options, see Communications Skills syllabus, p.19

Grade Seven Suggested ages: 16 - 18 Fee: €35

- 1 Give a presentation, as if to a prospective employer, outlining your most positive achievements, characteristics and attributes (two minutes)
- 2 Present your view on a moral/ ethical issue (three minutes)
- 3 Give a one minute unprepared talk on one of a selection of topics provided by the examiner in the examination room (one minute will be provided for preparation) followed by a short discussion with the examiner on the topic and/or on speaking in public
- 4 Theory: Discuss with the examiner how you can maintain an audience's interest in a talk

Public Speaking Proficiency Examination Suggested ages: 17 - 20 Fee: €50

- 1 Give a presentation, as if to a prospective employer, outlining your most positive achievements, characteristics and attributes (two minutes)
- 2 Give a prepared talk on any aspect of Ireland, as if to a group of 20 (three minutes)
- 3 Introduce an eminent keynote speaker to a large audience at an international conference (one minute)
- 4 Make a presentation on a topic of your choice, using appropriate visual aids (seven minutes, including setting up and striking the visual aids)
- 5 Give a one minute unprepared talk on one of a selection of topics provided by the examiner in the examination room (one minute will be provided for preparation)
- 6 Theory: Identify and discuss with the examiner the different techniques used during the presentations

A high standard of presentation is required for this examination. Candidates will be assessed on their communication skills, vocal technique and use of visual aids.

Candidates who obtain 85% or more will receive the Irish Board Medal and a Certificate of Proficiency.

Reading Examinations

Being able to read aloud in such a way as to convey effectively the content of a selection and to sustain an audience's interest is a valuable skill.

The purpose of these examinations is to provide candidates with the opportunity to become clear, fluent and confident readers who can convey story, character and mood to an audience. Using appropriate posture, holding the book in such a way as to allow the audience to see the candidate's face, and using eye contact will be important during the examination.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' (pages 7-9) for some detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

Preliminary Grade One Suggested ages: 6 - 7 years Fee: €13

- 1 Read aloud a prepared selection of approximately 100 words taken from a book of your choice
- 2 Answer questions on the meaning of some of the words in the prepared selection

Preliminary Grade Two Suggested ages: 7 - 8 years Fee: €13

- 1 Read aloud a prepared selection of approximately 200 words taken from a book of your choice
- 2 Answer questions on the meaning of some of the words in the prepared selection

Grade One Suggested ages: 9 - 10 years Fee: €15

- 1 Read aloud a prepared selection of approximately 300 words taken from a book of your choice
- 2 Discuss with the examiner the book from which the selection is taken
- 3 Answer questions on the meaning of some of the words in the prepared selection

Grade Two Suggested ages: 11 - 12 years Fee: €16

- 1 Read aloud a prepared selection of approximately 350 words from a book of your choice
- 2 Discuss with the examiner the book from which the selection is taken
- 3 Answer questions on the technique of reading

Grade Three Suggested ages: 12 - 13 years Fee: €16

- 1 Read aloud a prepared selection of approximately 2 pages from a chapter of a book by an Irish author
- 2 Discuss the book with the examiner
- 3 Read at sight a selection provided by the examiner

Grade Four Suggested ages: 13 - 14 years Fee: €18

- 1 Prepare in advance a chapter from a book written before 1920 and bring the book to the examination
- 2 The examiner will select a passage from the chapter to be read aloud by you
- 3 Discuss the content of the chapter with the examiner

Grade Five Suggested ages: 14 - 15 years Fee: €20

- 1 Read aloud three pages from a book of your choice
- 2 Read aloud a poem of your choice
- 3 Discuss, with the examiner, the technique of speaking verse and prose


Grade Six *Suggested ages: 15 - 16 years* **Fee: €23**

- 1 Read aloud a prepared extract (of your choice) from any version of the Bible
- 2 Read at sight an extract from a book selected by the examiner
- 3 Read a prepared extract of your choice from a national newspaper
- 4 Discuss your programme with the examiner

Grade Seven *Suggested ages: 16 - 17 years* **Fee: €25**

- 1 Prepare in advance, and bring to the examination a book of your choice
- 2 The examiner will select a passage from the book to be read by you
- 3 Prepare and present to the examiner a short oral review of the book
- 4 Discuss both book and author with the examiner
- 5 Read a prepared extract of your choice from any Shakespearean play





Diploma Examinations

Diploma in Acting Performance Fee: €135

The Irish Board of Speech and Drama Diploma in Acting Performance provides an opportunity for candidates who have significant and varied drama experience to be assessed in a wide variety of drama forms. The syllabus facilitates a candidate to display his/ her skills, technique and talent in period and modern drama, verse speaking, prose speaking, mime/ movement to music, and sight reading. Candidates will be expected to display a very high standard of technical and interpretive skills.

Eligibility:

The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination.

Requirements:

- 1 Perform from memory a five minute recital, compiled by the candidate, comprising prose, verse, drama and a linking script (25%)
- 2 Perform an own choice dramatic selection not to exceed 3 minutes duration from a recognised play written before 1900 (15%)
- 3 Perform either a character sketch or a dramatic selection from a recognised play written since 1900 (3 minutes) (15%)
- 4 Perform a mime OR short piece of movement to music choreographed by the candidate (15%)
- 5 Perform an impromptu improvisation. The subject will be given by the examiner at the examination (2 minutes) (10%)
- 6 Read at sight a short passage of Shakespeare (10%)
- 7 Discuss with the examiner(s) your drama experience and future plans (10%)

75% is the mark required to pass the Acting Diploma Examination.

Diploma of Associate Fee: €260

Many speech and drama students feel that they would like to teach the subject. With drama now included in the primary school curriculum, being provided for in an increasing number of post-primary schools, and with demands from parents for private tuition, opportunities for employment in the field are increasing.

Entry for the Diploma of Associate examination is likely to signify the aspiration of a candidate to become a speech and drama teacher. While the Diploma of Associate is not a teaching qualification, it is expected that each candidate will intend to gain a teaching qualification in the future, and will have gained some experience in the teaching of speech and drama under the supervision of a qualified teacher.

The Associate Diploma syllabus not only encourages candidates to display their skills in performance, but also encourages them to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of key historical and theoretical aspects of speech and drama.

A high standard of technical ability will be required to pass the practical section of the examination.

Eligibility:

The candidate must be at least 19 years of age and must have been studying Speech and Drama for at least three years. Some experience in teaching speech and drama would be an advantage.

Requirements:**SECTION ONE: Practical**

- 1 Perform from memory a short own choice poem (25%)
- 2 Act a solo dramatic selection from any play of literary merit, not to exceed three minutes (25%)
- 3 Speak from memory a prose selection not to exceed two minutes (25%)
- 4 Read at sight a selection chosen by the examiner (10%)
- 5 Hold a discussion with the examiner(s) about your speech and drama experience to date, and your future plans (15%)

SECTION TWO: PAPER (2.5 HOURS)

A written examination based in the following topics:

- Theory of Speech and Drama
- Improvisation
- Mime and Movement to Music
- Story telling
- Choral and Public Speaking
- Outline history of poetry from Chaucer to the present [*candidates are advised to study at least one main period of poetry in detail*]
(Past examination papers are available on request)

Candidates will be expected to include examples from their own experience in their answers where relevant.

75% in each section of the Diploma examination will be required to pass.

The fee for re-examination in any one section is €75.

Diploma of Licentiate (Teaching Diploma) Fee: €345

The Irish Board of Speech and Drama Diploma of Licentiate is a speech and drama teaching qualification. The Licentiate syllabus encourages candidates to develop dramatic skills which will form the basis for their teaching of practical speech and drama skills to their future students. The syllabus also encourages candidates to acquire a comprehensive practical knowledge and understanding of the field of speech and drama, which will provide a firm foundation for their teaching career. The Lesson Demonstration, in which a candidate will teach a group of children, provides an opportunity to assess a candidate's ability to create a rapport with a group of children and enthuse them in the subject. The dissertation provides an opportunity to research and explore a particular aspect of speech and drama of interest to the candidate.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for entry, a candidate must:

- be at least 20 years of age
- have obtained at least a 'C' in Honours English in the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent
- hold the Associate Diploma of the Irish Board of Speech and Drama (AIBSD)
- submit with the entry form a letter from a recognised Speech and Drama teacher confirming that the candidate has been studying Speech and Drama for at least three years.

(Candidates are required to submit evidence of eligibility)

Requirements:**SECTION ONE: PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE**

- 1 Perform a seven minute recital incorporating prose, verse, drama and a linking script. The recital may be on a theme, or it may contain the works of one author (50%)
- 2 Perform a short piece of movement to music, choreographed by the candidate, OR Perform a two minute abstract mime (35%)
- 3 A discussion with the examiner(s) on your experience in speech and drama and how you would aim to use your licentiate qualification (15%)

SECTION TWO: LESSON DEMONSTRATION

Teach a group of children for 20 minutes on any practical aspect of Speech and Drama

SECTION THREE: WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

Paper One (2.5 Hours)

A written examination based in the following topics:

Teaching methods; discipline in the classroom; the management and administration of a Speech and Drama school; festivals and examinations; the grading of material; programme for a term's work; the organisation of the School Concert

Paper Two (2.5 Hours)

A written examination based in the following topics:

The history of acting and the different styles of acting; the history of drama from its beginnings to the present day; costumes for the school play; play production with adults and children; puppets; stage management, and stage lighting

Please note that candidates will be permitted to sit only one examination paper per session

SECTION FOUR: DISSERTATION

Write and submit a dissertation of not less than 4000 words on any aspect of Speech and Drama, bringing in your own experiences as a teacher. The thesis must be the candidate's own work. Guidelines on writing a dissertation are contained on www.irishboard.ie

75% in each section of the Diploma examination is the mark required to pass.

The fee for re-examination in any one section is €75.

Irish Board of Speech and Drama Fellowship Fee: €450**Eligibility:**

To be eligible for consideration for a Fellowship award, a candidate must:

- hold the Irish Board of Speech and Drama Licentiate Diploma
- have a minimum of ten years Speech and Drama teaching experience
- have a current examination centre with the Irish Board of Speech and Drama
- submit a resume of their work in speech and drama during the past five years.

Entry Procedure:

Candidates wishing to enter for the Fellowship examination should submit evidence of their eligibility, together with the examination fee by 1 May or 1 November.

Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements will receive written confirmation that they have been accepted for examination within twenty-one days.

Requirements:**SECTION ONE: PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE**

Prepare and deliver from memory:

- 1 A six minute recital on a single theme or author, to incorporate verse, prose and drama, with a linking script written by the candidate (50%)
- 2 a three minute abstract mime (15%)
- 3 a short piece of movement to music choreographed and performed by the candidate (15%)
- 4 a performance, not to exceed three minutes, of one of the following:
 - a scene from a contemporary comedy
 - b a scene from a period play written before 1800
 - c a scene from any play by William Shakespeare (20%)

SECTION TWO: VIVA VOCE

To discuss with representatives of the Irish Board of Speech and Drama your contribution to Speech and Drama over the past five years, and to discuss any aspects of Speech and Drama chosen at the discretion of the representatives. Marks will be awarded for the demeanour, fluency, enthusiasm, originality and personality of the candidate. The duration of the discussion will not exceed 20 minutes.

SECTION THREE: THESIS

To write and submit a thesis (minimum 10,000 words) on any original aspect of Speech, Drama or the Allied Arts. The thesis must be the candidate's own work, and will be retained by the Irish Board of Speech and Drama.

A minimum of 75% in each section is the mark required in order to qualify for the award of a Fellowship of the Irish Board of Speech and Drama. The award will be made at the sole discretion of the Central Council of the Board.

The fee for re-examination in any one section is €75.





Publications Catalogue

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Teachers' Handbooks

Helping Hands

Teachers' handbooks for the Primary School Oral English and Drama Curriculum written by Audrey Meredith, LGSM.

This set of six lavishly illustrated handbooks brings drama into the classroom using many of the exemplars contained in the new curriculum. Each contains tried and tested exercises, tips, techniques, ideas, poems, stories, plays and projects, complete with cross-curricular themes.

Each handbook costs just €22 (including post and packing). For a limited time only, a full set will cost you just €110. That's one book free.

Features:

Improvisation: lots of ideas and worked examples

Mime: how to introduce it - do's and don't's

Poems: to read and recite - action poems - choral verse

Stories: to read and to act out

Plays: short plays to perform

Concert Items: pageants - plays - compilations

Movement: stage movement explained - dance drama

Oral English: speech work, grammar

Projects: to research and produce

Contents:

Helping Hands Book 1 (Junior and Senior Infants)

Introduces improvisation and how it can work with 4 - 6 year old children. The book is packed with rhymes, simple poems, finger puppet exercises and so on, all on a fantasy theme.

Helping Hands Book 2 (First and Second Classes)

Contains action poems, games, plays, stories and introduces movement and mime. Complete working of examples from Drama and Oral English Curriculum.

Helping Hands Book 3 (Third Class)

Has stories, concert items, projects, more worked improvisations from the curriculum and introduces simple creative play and lyric writing.

Helping Hands Book 4 (Fourth Class)

Dramatic movement, worked improvisations from the curriculum, writing prose and dialogue, plays, projects, choral speaking, history, effective speaking, end of term show.

Helping Hands Book 5 (Fifth Class)

Unusual words, plots and how they work, a famine project, TV studios, worked improvisations, mime, plays, making speeches, formal introductions, projects for the class, speech work in detail.

Helping Hands Book 6 (Sixth Class)

More worked improvisations, research, word games, a pageant, Irish history through drama, introduction to Shakespeare, interviews, public speaking, dance drama plays and mime.

Plays and Play Scenes

Short Plays 2000 Series

Written by Audrey Meredith, these play books are incredibly popular with Schools throughout the country.

Each book contains 6 plays and costs €13. That's 6 plays for €13 (including post and packing), with no performance fee. That's unbelievable value. The plays are tried and tested, practical and short, but you can copy them, adapt them, and add characters to them to suit your circumstances.

Short Plays 2000 Book 1 (Ages 5 - 8)

The Fairies and the Witch: conflict in fairyland
 The Story of the Baby Jesus: a simple nativity, composed by children
 Red Riding Hood: the story in verse
 The Magic Lantern: the power of magic light
 Connla: the traditional story in verse form
 The Wizard of Oz: a firm favourite

Short Plays 2000 Book 2 (Ages 6 - 9)

The Selfish Giant: the Oscar Wilde tale in play form
 Wind in the Willows: Toad in a hole!
 The Rainbow Folk: saving the rainbow from the clouds
 Sleeping Beauty: lots of parts for young players
 Maritza: a miracle play
 Snow White: and as many dwarfs as you like!

Short Plays 2000 Book 3 (Ages 7 - 10)

Who Stole the Tarts: the mystery is solved
 The Legend of Setanta: how Cuchulain got his name
 The Princess who Wouldn't Learn her Tables: a play of charm
 The Fairytale Glade: we meet lots of fairy-tale characters
 An Alice Montage: a stunning concert item
 How Princess Pocahontas was Instructed by her Tribe: ideal for concerts

Short Plays 2000 Book 4 (Ages 8 - 10)

Cinderella: a simple pantomime
 The Little Mermaid: the classic story dramatised
 The Dancing Princesses: why were their shoes worn out?
 The Worst Witch: a witch school story
 The Emperor's Nightingale: in mime and movement
 Follow the Yellow Brick Road: a 'sequel' to the Wizard of Oz!

Short Plays 2000 Book 5 (Ages 9 - 11)

My Brother the Pop Star: a school story for girls
 Mary Poppins: the story of the stars
 The Prodigal Son: a modern version of the Biblical tale
 A Bad Spell for the Worst Witch: a frog or not a frog at the witch school?
 Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula: and his wives!
 The Snow Queen: a chilling story!

Short Plays 2000 Book 6 (Ages 10 - 12)

- Lady Precious Stream: an amusing concert item
- Cowboys and Indians: a concert item, with lots of parts
- The Beauty Pageant: a longer play to get to grips with
- The Secret Garden: an acting opportunity
- Witches: a scary mixture for the whole class
- The Tale of Labhri Lynch: retold in dramatic form

Short Plays 2000 Book 7 (Ages 10 - 14)

- The Island of Dreams: a wish for stardom
- Ghosts: a scary mixture - great for a concert - can be added to
- Sir Archibald and the Fair Lady Lucy: a great melodrama
- The French Revolution: a stunning play, looks great on the stage
- Everyman: the ultimate morality play
- Princess Zuleka: mayhem at a Swiss finishing school

Short Plays 2000 Book 8 (Boys Ages 8 - 12)

- Oliver Twist: a lively scene for boys
- Sonos One: a space play with lots of action
- Tom Sawyer and the Gang: how he formed the gang
- Bilbo and Co.: a short Hobbit piece
- Lord of the Flies: dramatised
- St Patrick and the Paschal Fire: the story of the Holy Trinity

Short Plays 2000 Book 9 (Girls Ages 10 - 17)

- Now and Then: a girl's buddy play
- Out Goes She: an inner city play
- Town and Country: a longer play with a twist
- The Ghosts Gather: a documentary drama about Henry VIII's wives
- Steel Magnolias: angst in a small American town
- Women of the Future: an experimental play

Junior Play Books

Junior Plays for the Primary School Concert (Up To 4th Class)

by Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan.

€17 (including post and packing)

Contents:

- The Tale of a Turnip
- Puss in Boots
- The Witch who wanted to be an Opera Singer
- The Forgetful King
- Hansel & Gretel

5th and 6th Class Plays For the School Concert

by Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan

€17 (including post and packing)

Contents:

- The Sapphire Bracelet
- The Princess and the Pea
- The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- The Arrogant Princess
- The Magic Fishbone

(REVISED 2008) Finola Ryan's Short Plays for Junior Classes by *Finola Ryan*

A variety of short plays, written especially for children aged 8 – 10 years.

This imaginative compilation of plays has been specifically written to enhance vocabulary, fluency, tone colouring, the imagination and general articulation skills. Also includes advice on setting and a character chart template.

€17 (including post and packing)

Contents:

Fairy Footsteps	The Magical Toys
Woodland Rescue	The Adventures of the Soup Plate
Lost and Found	The King is Unwell
The Frog Prince	The Impossible Mission

Showcase: 9 Plays for Children and Young People by *Patricia Reynolds*

Patricia Reynolds is a highly experienced and successful drama teacher in Dundalk. As with all the other material published by the Irish Board, these plays have been tried and tested successfully with young people.

€21 (including post and packing)

Contents:

- The Mulberry Bush (Junior/ Senior Infants)
- Chicken Licken with a Twist! (Senior Infants/ 1st Class/ 2nd Class)
- A Christmas Story (Senior Infants/ 1st Class/ 2nd Class)
- Battle of the Colours (1st Class/ 2nd Class/ 3rd Class)
- Snow White, the Dwarfs plus a Few! (includes comprehensive notes on production) (4th Class and 5th Class)
- A Hilarious Nativity Story (4th Class/ 5th Class/ 6th Class)
- Question: Is there a Balance? (5th Class/ 6th Class)
- Showstoppers (5th Class/ 6th Class and Seniors)
- When's My Line? (Seniors)

(NEW) Showcase 2: plays for Children and Young People by *Patricia Reynolds*

Another superb set of plays from Patricia, including costume suggestions and stage directions

€23 (including post and packing)

Contents:

- The Three Billy Goats Gruff (Junior/ Senior Infants)
- An Ghaoth agus an Ghrian (1st/ 2nd Class)
- Séan agus an Fathach (3rd Class)
- Pandora's Box (4th Class)
- Robin Meets his Match (4th/ 5th Class)
- The Children of Lir (6th Class/ 1st/ 2nd Year)
- Cut and Blow-dry Anyone? (2nd/ 3rd Year and above)
- Cell Block Audition (2nd Year and above)

Solos, Duologues and Prose Selections

Ideal for feiseanna, exams and concerts, the selections in these books have been specially chosen and adapted by experienced speech and drama teachers. These pieces are ideal for exams and feiseanna and, as with all our material, they have been tried and tested with young people.

Each book costs €17 (including post and packing).

To assist you in your choice, you will find a list of the contents of the following books on the Irish Board website. Just go to www.irishboard.ie, click on the 'Publications' tab at the top and follow the link from there.

Solos Book 1

25 solo pieces for ages 10 - 18, chosen and adapted by Audrey Meredith

Solos Book 2

17 more solos for ages 9 - 15, chosen and adapted by Audrey Meredith

Solos Book 3

17 solos for women aged 16 and over, chosen and adapted by Audrey Meredith

Solos Book 4

44 new solos for feiseanna and examinations, for ages 6 - 16, chosen and adapted by Audrey Meredith

Short Junior Dramatic Solos Book 1

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne, for ages 7 - 11, suitable for examinations

Short Junior Dramatic Solos Book 2

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne, for ages 7 - 12 years, suitable for examinations and festivals

Senior Dramatic Solos

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne, for the young actress aged 13 and over, suitable for examinations and festivals

Ideas and Selections for Boys

Compiled by Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan, for use in all-boys schools and for boys in exams and feiseanna.

Recitals and Prose Selections for Exams

Compiled by Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan, suitable for Irish Board examinations and feiseanna

Solos, Duologues, Prose

Compiled by Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan, and suitable for speech examinations and festivals

Duologues For Exams And Feiseanna

Chosen and adapted by Audrey Meredith for ages 11 - adult

Junior Dramatic Duologues

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne, for ages 12 and under, suitable for the Acting Performance examinations and festivals

Junior Scenes for Two

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan, for ages 12 and under, suitable for the Acting Performance examinations and festivals

Senior Scenes for Two

Chosen and adapted by Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan, for ages 13 and over, suitable for the Acting Performance examinations and festivals

Drama Books for Teachers

Ideas for Drama in the Primary School by *Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan*

A concise teacher's handbook, containing themes, exercises, poems and examples, designed to help teachers introduce and develop drama in Primary Schools. The book concentrates on the development of the voice (with poetry, choral verse speaking, action poems and public speaking), and the development of the imagination (movement to music, mime, improvisation, puppetry, and story-telling).

€24 (including post and packing)

Speech and Drama: materials and ideas by *Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan*

A compendium of poetry, vocal exercises, choral poems; with advice and guidance on storytelling, movement to music, public speaking, putting on a play, mime, reading and lots more.

€24 (including post and packing)

Drama for the Montessori Classroom by *Deirdre Nolan LIBSD, Mont. Dip.*

Dramatic Ideas which complement the Montessori Curriculum.

€17 (including post and packing)

Dramatic Ideas for Transition Year Students by *Deirdre Nolan*

A collection of ideas for developing drama activities for Transition Year students, compiled by Deirdre Nolan, teacher, performer, trainer, examiner and broadcaster.

€17 (including post and packing)

The Junior School Concert: creative ideas and story plays by *Deirdre Galassi, Imelda Byrne and Finola Ryan*

An unmissable collection of plays, action poems, recitals, and other items and ideas for the primary school concert.

€24 (including post and packing)

Improvisation and Mime by *Audrey Meredith*

A teacher's handbook concentrating exclusively on improvisation and mime, written by Audrey Meredith, packed full of ideas, worked examples and activities together with some of the theory behind these most expressive dramatic activities.

€17 (including post and packing)

The Voice and the Imagination (Volume One) by *Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan*

The first volume in a series of books sharing the experience of Deirdre Galassi, a dedicated and widely respected speech and drama teacher, using her experiences spanning over forty years.

€17 (including post and packing)

The Voice and the Imagination (Volume Two) by *Deirdre Galassi and Finola Ryan*

The second volume of this series is now available.

€17 (including post and packing)

Speech and Drama Theory

Theory can be dull and hard to learn. These books, however, explain the theory of speech and drama in simple and effective terms. Especially designed for Irish Board students, these books also have a wider application for anyone interested in speech and drama. Books are individually priced.

Theory Can Be Fun by Audrey Meredith

All the theory required for Irish Board Grade exams.

€17 (including post and packing)

Grade Theory: a Concise Guide to Irish Board Grade Theory

€10 (including post and packing) or available free by e-mail in pdf format

So You Want To Pass Your Associate by Audrey Meredith

A user-friendly guide to the theory required for the Irish Board Associate Diploma examinations and some useful advice for the practical examinations.

€17 (including post and packing)

(REVISED 2009) Theory Notes For Speech and Drama (Book 1):

For advanced and Associate Diploma students

by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne (edited by Finola Ryan)

This book explains speech and drama theory in great detail. An essential for Diploma students.

€28 (including post and packing)

(REVISED 2009) Theory Notes for Speech and Drama (Book 2):

For advanced and Licentiate Diploma students

by Deirdre Galassi and Imelda Byrne (edited by Finola Ryan)

This book provides masses of additional material. Also essential for Diploma students.

€28 (including post and packing)

Speech and Drama Grade Theory CD

A special presentation by Deirdre Galassi and David Meredith, covering all aspects of speech and drama theory found in the Irish Board of Speech and Drama Grade examinations.

€17 (including post and packing)

CDs

Movement to Music 1

by Deirdre Galassi with music by Timara Galassi

Volume One in a new series of albums. This CD includes a step-by-step vocal guide covering all aspects of Speech and Drama, and 8 mimes with original musical arrangements written and performed by Timara Galassi.

€22 (including post and packing)

Movement To Music 2

by Deirdre Galassi with music by Timara Galassi

Volume Two in the series. This CD contains 10 new ideas for movement to music presentations, together with original music composed and performed by Timara Galassi.

€22 (including post and packing)

Movement To Music 3

by Deirdre Galassi with music by Timara Galassi

Volume Three in this popular series of CDs with original music composed and performed by Timara Galassi.

€22 (including post and packing)

Poems for Examinations

The Irish Board is often asked to recommend suitable poems for Communication Skills and Grade examinations. We are reluctant to do this because we feel that the choice of a suitable poem is best made between teacher and student. The key things to keep in mind are ensuring that the pieces chosen are appropriate for the age of the candidate, that they will fit within the time limit, if there is one, that they suit the personality of the candidate, and allow the candidate to display his/ her talents.

It is not necessary to buy a lot of poetry books. Look in school readers and go to the Children's Section in the Library, where you will find a great many old and new books.

Alternatively, come and visit the Irish Board office (see back cover for details). We have a small, well-stocked library of poetry and other books and you are welcome to browse. Please contact us before you plan to visit as the office is not staffed on a full-time basis.

If you have any other queries, please email us on mail@irishboard.ie





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