

Irish Board
of
Speech
&
Drama



Syllabus
2021-2022



Irish Board of
Speech & Drama

Inspiring confidence & imagination

Introduction

The Irish Board of Speech and Drama is the fastest-growing, friendliest, most approachable, and most flexible speech, drama and communications examining body in Ireland. Our professional approach to exams, our encouraging and experienced examiners and our accessible and modern syllabus (catering for all age groups from age 4) have made us a firm favourite with speech, drama and communications teachers throughout Ireland.

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.

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.

In this booklet you'll find our exam syllabuses effective from 1 January 2018 to 31 August 2020. Our Musical Theatre syllabus is contained in a separate booklet.

On our website – **irishboard.ie** – you'll find a range of useful items which will help you in your exam preparation. In addition to the essentials (entry forms, fees information, poetry suggestions, theory guides, diploma materials), you'll find information on

- How Irish Board exams work
- How we assess your candidates
- What our examiners need on exam day.

Remember, we want to make the exam process as pleasurable as possible for your candidates and you. No question is too small so please don't hesitate to contact us.

David Meredith
Director



Irish Board of
Speech & Drama



Find us on
facebook.com/IrishBoardofSpeechandDrama
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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.

From Grade One, it is expected that candidates will be familiar with the book/ story from which the extract is taken.

Please refer to the section 'How Irish Board Examiners Assess Candidates' on irishboard.ie for detailed guidelines on the criteria used by the Irish Board during the examinations.

Entry Forms are available from the Irish Board's office or may be downloaded from irishboard.ie

Examination fees are printed on a separate sheet enclosed with this syllabus and are also available on irishboard.ie

Preliminary Grade One *Suggested ages: 6 - 7 years*

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

Preliminary Grade Two *Suggested ages: 7 - 8 years*

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

Grade One *Suggested ages: 9 - 10 years*

- 1 Announce and 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 the words in the prepared selection

Grade Two *Suggested ages: 11 - 12 years*

- 1 Announce and 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*

- 1 Announce and 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 Announce and read at sight a selection provided by the examiner

Grade Four *Suggested ages: 13 - 14 years*

- 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*

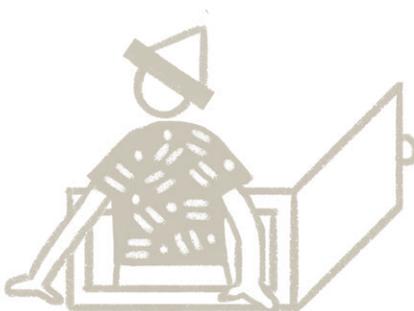
- 1 Announce and read aloud three pages from a book of your choice
- 2 Announce and read aloud a poem of your choice
- 3 Discuss, with the examiner, the technique of speaking verse and prose

Grade Six *Suggested ages: 15 - 16 years*

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

Final Grade *Suggested ages: 16 - 17 years*

- 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 Announce and read a prepared extract of your choice from any Shakespearean play



Irish Board of Speech & 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 or through the online booking system. Each entry must be accompanied by the correct entry fee. Entries and fees must reach the Irish Board of Speech and Drama at least one month before the proposed date of the examination. The Irish Board reserves the right to refuse entries which do not comply with these conditions.
- 3 The person submitting the entry must complete an agreement to abide by the regulations of the Irish Board.
- 4 The minimum fee for the recognition of an examination centre is €400. 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. The pass mark for all Diploma examinations is 75%.
- 10 A certificate will be awarded to each candidate achieving a pass mark or over in an examination.
- 11 One Irish Board Centre 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 in the Acting Performance and Musical Theatre solo and duologue examinations achieving a mark of 80% or above will receive a certificate and an Irish Board Performance Medal. Acting Performance and Musical Theatre candidates are not eligible to receive an Irish Board Centre Medal in respect of their Acting Performance and Musical Theatre examinations.
- 13 In the Grade Proficiency, Public Speaking Proficiency, Acting Proficiency and Musical Theatre Proficiency examinations, a medal will be awarded to each candidate achieving a mark of 85% or above.
- 14 The Irish Board of Speech and Drama welcomes candidates with particular needs. Candidates requiring particular provision, for example, sight reading in a large format or on a coloured background must notify the Irish Board at the time of entry.