

ENGLISH SPEECH AND DRAMA CATEGORY ENG

1 – 5 September 2025

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Please read the general rules, as well as the specific rules

No payment, no entry, no participation!

ENTRY FEES

Solo	R 130-00
Duet	R 80-00 pp
Small Group 3-10 members	R 65-00 pp
Large Group 11+ members	R 40-00 pp
Choral Verse	R 30-00 pp

Specific Rules

- We request that teachers and coaches familiarise themselves with the definitions and rules of each section.
- A significant aspect of the English discipline is that it is non-competitive, so members are assessed in terms of their own ability, potential, dramatic skills and their use of the spoken word.
- Each item has its own set of criteria, which will be used for adjudication. The quality and suitability of material chosen will be taken into consideration during assessment.
- Teachers / affiliates entering members will be held responsible for supplying correct details and ensuring that they are enrolled in the correct category. Incorrect information may lead to disqualification.
- Time limits will be enforced. These are listed under each item heading.
- Introductions, setting the scene and endings are an integral part of the performance and will be included in adjudication. Therefore, props and settings should be kept simple, so that they are easy to rig and dismantle within the specified time.
- Where indicated, a copy of participant's work must be handed in at registration (see each individual item).

- Adaptations can be used where stanzas or paragraphs are left out. The words of the poem may not be changed !
- No teacher participation will be permitted during performances. This applies to set rigging and dismantling except where heavy props are being used, in which case limited help will be acceptable.
- Members may enter any number of individual items and group sections, but material cannot be used in more than one section.
- No prejudicial material, derogatory language, costumes or gestures will be tolerated.
- All props, stage blocks and costumes are the participant's own responsibility.
- Movement, gestures, props and costumes should be used to enhance, and not detract, from the meaning and feeling of the work.
- Electronic equipment should only be used when absolutely necessary and is forbidden for certain items (see each individual item).
- Stage blocks and chairs used during performances, must be returned backstage left, up against the wall, where they will not pose any danger to members.
- **The adjudicator's decision is final and no discussion with teachers / parents will be allowed. This may lead to disqualification of the participant. Re-adjudication will not be allowed.**

English Drama awards: A high school and a primary school learner will be awarded floating trophies for the highest average in 4 or more items, which will be presented at the Gala evening.

INDIVIDUAL SECTION

ITEM ENG 1

UNDRAMATISED POETRY

GRADES 0 – 7:

maximum - 3 minutes

GRADE 8 – OPEN:

maximum - 4 minutes

- **The poem must be memorised and recited to bring out the meaning of the poem and make it entertaining for the audience.**
- A few hand gestures that add to the meaning or enhance the poem may be used. (Do not use hand gestures on every word.) Movement and the use of props will not be permitted, facial and vocal expression may be used.
- A copy of the poem must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 2

DRAMATISED POETRY

GRADES 0 – 7:

maximum - 3 minutes

GRADE 8 – OPEN:

maximum - 5 minutes

- **The poem must be memorised and recited. Facial and vocal expression must be used to bring out the meaning of the poem and make it entertaining for the audience.**
- Movements and gestures must be used, but must not detract from the meaning and feeling of the poem being presented, i.e. do not use meaningless gestures /hand signals. Characterisation through voice and body and use of the stage must occur. Use of levels (stage blocks or chairs), simple props and costumes are encouraged. Ensure the poem allows for 'acting out' of the poem.
- A copy of the poem must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 3

SLAM POETRY/RAP

INDIVIDUAL

GRADE 10 – OPEN:

maximum - 2 minutes

Performers may choose rap, button poetry or slam poetry for this performance. Performers may use their own material but make this known. No music or offensive words may be used.

- The use of rhythm and words to evoke meaning and understanding.
- Performers will be assessed on the use of voice and stage energy and presence. Effectiveness of rap/slam poetry style and powerfulness of message and performance.

ITEM ENG 4

PREPARED MIME

GRADE 3 – OPEN:

maximum - 2 minutes

- Members may choose to portray any topic or theme using only gesture, expression, and movement, i.e. no speech.
- Clothing should be black and close-fitting, and no footwear is allowed.
- The only admissible props are stage blocks.
- Music (without lyrics) may be used to enhance the mime.

ITEM ENG 5

SHOW AND TELL

GRADES 0 – 3: maximum - 2 minutes

- Any topic of interest can be presented, but it must be kept in mind that this is a speech and not a recitation.
- Aids, such as posters, charts and objects, must be an integral part of the speech. Electronic equipment will not be allowed.
- The use of live animals is not encouraged as they are extremely vulnerable to stress.
- The speech must be memorised and presented solely by the participant.

ITEM ENG 6

DEMO SPEECH

GRADE 4 – OPEN: maximum - 3 minutes

- Any topic of interest can be presented, but it must be kept in mind that this is a speech and not a recitation.
- The use of live animals is not encouraged as they are extremely vulnerable to stress.
- Aids such as posters, charts and objects, must be an integral part of the speech. Electronic equipment will not be allowed.
- The speech must be memorised and presented solely by the participant.

ITEM ENG 7

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

GRADES 4 – 7: maximum - 3 minutes

GRADE 8 – OPEN: maximum - 5 minutes

- Exceeding the time limit may result in penalties.
- Members may choose to speak on any topic, appropriate to their age and experience.
- Cue cards may be used. These should be point form, on postcard-sized cards.
- A public speech should entertain, inform, motivate, persuade or express a point of view.
- The speech must be memorised and presented solely by the participant using vocal and facial expression as well as natural gestures.

ITEM ENG 8

INDIVIDUAL STORY TELLING

GRADES 1 – 3:	maximum - 2 minutes
GRADES 4 – 9:	maximum - 4 minutes
GRADE 10 – OPEN:	maximum - 5 minutes

- Exceeding the time limit may lead to penalties.
- The story, either true or invented, should be told in the participant's own words and acted out, using levels and moving around the stage.
- Members are encouraged to draw on imagery, poetry, movement and sound effects.
- The limited use of songs, other languages, musical and percussion instruments will be allowed.
- The use of props and costumes are permitted but must not detract from the story.

ITEM ENG 9

DRAMATISED PROSE

GRADES 4 – 7:	maximum - 3 minutes
GRADE 8 – OPEN:	maximum - 5 minutes

- Exceeding the time limit may lead to penalties.
- Members may select an extract from a **novel or short story** (not plays or poems). The extract must be appropriate to their age and experience.
- The selection must be introduced and must include dialogue.
- The only admissible props are chairs / stage blocks.
- Members should dress in black and may make use of one symbolic item of clothing, e.g. a hat or scarf.
- A copy of the material must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 10

MONOLOGUE

GRADES 4 – 6:	2 - 3 minutes
GRADES 7 – 12:	3 - 5 minutes

- Exceeding the time limit may lead to penalties.
- Extracts may be selected from any play, script from a film or book (**not poems**) and should be dramatized **in the first person**, i.e. the participant takes on one particular character. (other invisible characters may be spoken to or reacted to).
- The piece may be the participant's own work. Please make clear mention of this.
- The participant should introduce and set the scene.

- The use of props and costumes are permitted but must not detract from the work.
- A copy of the material must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 11 INDIVIDUAL THEME PROGRAMME

GRADE 7 – OPEN: maximum - 5 minutes

- Exceeding the time limit may lead to penalties.
- Choice of material, e.g. prose, poetry, drama, movement, music, should be determined by a **central theme**, which must be properly introduced and suitably linked.
- **Three** different dramatic genres must be used, with the emphasis on audible and distinct speech. Costume, make-up, lighting and props are optional.
- The theme and an outline of the work must be presented at registration

ITEM ENG 12 SOLO EXPERIMENTAL

GRADES 4 – 7: maximum - 3 minutes

GRADE 8 – OPEN: maximum - 5 minutes

Exceeding the time limit may lead to penalties

- Members are encouraged to present their own, original work, inspired by current issues, personal experience, existing literature or imagination.
- Creativity is encouraged, and one or more of the following may be included: - speech; movement; mime; song; dance; rap; masks; puppets; props; costumes.
- Sound effects may be used. Electronic equipment should be kept to a minimum. Limited use of music is permitted, as is the use of percussion instruments.
- A workshop set may be used, e.g. chairs, screens, rostra, etc.

ITEM ENG 13 IMPROMPTU READING

GRADES 3 – 12: time - at Adjudicator's discretion

- Performers will be given a minute to familiarise themselves with the mood setting and characters of the reading.
- This passage will include dialogue.
- The following will be assessed: reading fluency, voice projection, clarity of speech, correct enunciation and audibility.
Intonation, use of different voices for different characters, depiction of mood and meaning and eye contact with audience.

ITEM ENG 14 IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

GRADE 4 – OPEN: maximum - 2 minutes

- Members will receive their topic 3 minutes prior to speaking.
- Cue cards may be prepared during this time, but members will be penalised for merely reading the speech.
- A signal will be given to indicate time limits.

GROUP SECTION

- Any extract from poetry, prose, dialogue or a play, may be chosen.
- Actions and movement may be used but should not detract from the meaning and feeling of the piece.
- Props and costumes may be used. Simple sets are recommended because the allocated time includes setting up and striking the stage.
- No pre-recorded sound effects or soundtracks may be used.
- The piece must be memorised and may not be directed by a conductor.
- A copy of the material must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 15 DRAMATISATION DUO **2 participants**

- An extract from a play or poem

ITEM ENG 16 SMALL GROUP DRAMATISATION **3 – 10 members**

- An extract from a play or poem

ITEM ENG 17 LARGE GROUP DRAMATISATION **11 or more members**

GRADES 0 – 7: 3 - 5 minutes
GRADES 8 – OPEN: maximum 5 minutes

- Any extract from prose or a play may be chosen.
- Actions and movement may be used but should not detract from the meaning and feeling of the piece and has to be acted out.
- Props and costumes may be used. Simple sets are recommended because the allocated time includes setting up and striking of the stage.
- No pre-recorded sound effects or soundtracks may be used.
- The piece must be memorised and may not be directed by a conductor.

ITEM ENG 22 SMALL GROUP THEME PROGRAMME (3-10)
ITEM ENG 23 LARGE GROUP THEME PROGRAMME (11+)

GRADE 0 – OPEN: maximum 5 minutes

- The choice of material should be determined by a **central theme**. Material must cover **3 or 4 different genres**, i.e. prose, poetry, drama, movement, music and these should be **suitably linked** and properly introduced.
- The emphasis is on speech, which must be audible and distinct.
- Costumes, make-up, lighting and props are optional.
- The allocated time includes setting up the stage, so simple sets are recommended.
- A copy of the sequence must be presented at registration.

ITEM ENG 24 MIME DUO

ITEM ENG 25 SMALL GROUP MIME

GRADE 3 – OPEN: maximum - 5 minutes

- **SMALL GROUP: 3 - 6 members** (please see group payment details)
- Members may choose to portray any topic or theme, using only gesture, expressions, and movement, i.e. no speech.
- The only admissible props are stage blocks.
- Clothing should be black and close-fitting, and no footwear is allowed.

ITEM ENG 26 GROUP CHAIN STORY TELLING

GRADE 4 – OPEN: maximum – 5 minutes

- **GROUPS: 4 - 7 members** (please see group payment details)
 - 6 Minutes preparation time will be given. The adjudicator will suggest the first line of the story.
 - Each participant must continue the story line, with the final participant concluding the story at the end of the second round.
 - Members should attempt to make the story well structured, with a logical development and a clear ending.
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ITEM ENG 27

SMALL GROUP POETRY WRITING

GRADE 5 – OPEN:

maximum - 2 minutes

- **SMALL GROUP:** 3 - 6 members (please see group payment details)
 - The group will choose one of three topics presented by the adjudicator.
 - Preparation time of **20 minutes** will be given for each group. The poem must be written and organised for presentation within this time frame.
 - The poem need not be longer than 10 lines and must be presented by the whole group.
 - Groups will be evaluated on imagination and originality, choice of words, delivery and presentation.
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ITEM ENG 28

IMPROVISATION DUO (Unprepared) See requirements below

ITEM ENG 29

SMALL GROUP IMPROVISATION

GRADE 4 – OPEN:

maximum - 3 minutes

- **SMALL GROUP:** 3 - 5 members (please see group payment details)
 - Each group will decide which topic they would like to present:
i) Acted Scene or ii) Advert or iii) Story telling
 - **10 minutes** will be allowed for allocation of characters, scene-setting and story development.
 - The only admissible props are stage blocks.
 - The group will be evaluated on imagination, originality, delivery, presentation, content and relevance of material.
 - A signal will be given to indicate time limits.
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