

**SOLO ACTING**

## **Drama**

The following Grades in Solo Acting, duologues and group drama have been designed to introduce both adults and children to Drama and Literature. The following examinations concentrate solely on the art of performance. The syllabus allows you the freedom to be as creative and adventurous as you wish, by offering you a chance to mix modern and classical drama with improvisation and mime. "Theatre exists above all, for the actor, and without him it cannot exist at all." The aim of the following grades is to develop an understanding of drama and theatre and to develop confidence in each individual sitting an examination. It has been decided by the examining body at the Leinster School that no student under the age of 10 should be allowed sit exams in Solo Drama. Solo Drama selections are designed around younger candidates. Older candidates wishing to participate may choose their own material.

## **Solo Acting**

The following grades in Solo Acting have been designed for students who show an interest in Acting and Drama. Candidates will be expected to perform 2 pieces of solo drama in which they must show a clear understanding of the following

- ❖ The characters which they have chosen to portray.
- ❖ An understanding of the piece or play from which the extract has been taken.
- ❖ An ability to convey emotions and feelings where required by the author.
- ❖ An ability to employ vocal variety if called upon to do so in chosen scenes.
- ❖ If movement is required Candidates will be expected to use the space provided.
- ❖ Candidates will be required to use accents where called for in certain selections.
- ❖ The candidates may present themselves in costume but no extra marks will be given for costume or the use of props in any area of Drama.

# Grade 1

Candidates must be between the age of 10-12 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Presentation              | 10 |
| Set Solo Drama            | 50 |
| Mime                      | 20 |
| Questions                 | 20 |

## Presentation

Candidates will be expected to greet the examiner in the appropriate manner and marks awarded will be a reflection of the candidate's ability to communicate effectively throughout the exam. At the start of the examination candidates should present a copy of each set piece and/or own choice piece to the examiner. All material presented must be neat and legible. The candidates may present themselves in costume but no extra marks will be awarded for costume or use of props.

## Set Solo Drama

Candidates will be expected to speak from memory one poem from the following list:

- 1. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** **C. S. Lewis**  
from *'The Lion, the Witch and the wardrobe'* adapted by Glyn Robbins (Samuel French, London)  
Lucy Speaking 'When you went off looking for Edmund' TO 'I can bring something back to prove I really have been there.'
- 2. Charlotte's Web** **E. B. White**  
from *'Charlottes Web'* Adapted by Joseph Robinette (The Dramatic Publishing company, Illiones)  
Charlotte speaking 'I've never been more serious in my life.' TO 'I'd better catch a little nap before daybreak.'
- 3. Ballet Shoes** **Noel Streatfield**  
from *'Ballet Shoes'* by Neil Streatfield (J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd)  
Posey Speaking 'He'll take me!...Yes....' TO 'She'll have to get it. I must go...I must.'
- 4. Daisy Pulls it off** **Denise Deegan**  
from *'Daisy pulls it off'* by Denise Deegan  
Daisy speaking 'Daisy Meredith, daredevil, tomboy....' TO 'As poor as myself'
- 5. A...My Name is Alice** **Julianne Boyd & Joan Micklin Silver**  
from *'A...My name is Alice'* by Julianne Boyd and Micklin Silver  
Actress Speaking 'Hello you...Remember me?' TO 'Good-night Papa!'
- 6. Tom Kitten and his friends** **Beatrix Potter**  
from *'Tom Kitten and his friends'* based on a story by Beatrix Potter, the play by Adrian Mitchell (Samuel French-London)  
Tabitha Speaking 'Stop playing kittens! Tom and Mittens!' TO 'It doesn't do to keep hot buttered toast a waiting'
- 7. Fantastic Mr Fox** **Roald Dahl**  
from *'Fantastic Mr Fox'* by Roald Dahl, adapted by Sally Reid (Puffin Books -London)  
Mr Fox Speaking 'Do you know where we've just been' To 'You are far to respectable'
- 8. Winnie the Witch** **Helen Murdoch**  
from *'Winnie the witch'* by Helen Murdoch  
Winnie speaking 'Drat that cat. I'll fix you pussy' TO 'I turn very nasty, very nasty indeed!'
- 9. The Snow Queen** **Hand Christian Anderson**  
from *'The Snow Queen'* by Hans Christian Anderson, adapted by Jean Marlow  
Kay Speaking 'Gerda! Come and see.' TO 'And I'm going to tobogganing with the other children in the square'
- 10. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** **C. S. Lewis**  
from *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'* adapted by Adrian Mitchell (Oberon Books - London)  
Edmund Speaking 'A Lion! Why's it standing so still?' TO 'Could I have some Turkish Delight?'

**11. Alice in Wonderland**

**Lewis Carroll**

from *'Alice in Wonderland'* Adapted by *Eva Le Gallienne and Florida Friebus*

Alice Speaking 'Oh, you wicked, wicked little thing.' TO 'I'll just hold you up to the looking glass and you can see how sulky you are!'

**12. Matilda**

**Roald Dahl**

from *'Matilda'* by *Roald Dahl (Puffin Books – London)*

Trunchbull speaking 'You are vile, repulsive, repellent.' TO 'Go on, sit down at once!'

**Mime**

Prepared mime of candidate's own choice which should not exceed 1 ½ minutes.

**Questions**

The examiner will ask the candidates a selection of questions based on their chosen pieces. The candidates should show that they understand the character they are playing and the story surrounding their selection.

# Grade 2

Candidates must be over 12 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Presentation              | 10 |
| Set Solo Drama            | 30 |
| Own Choice Solo Drama     | 30 |
| Mime                      | 15 |
| Questions                 | 15 |

## Presentation

Candidates will be expected to greet the examiner in the appropriate manner and marks awarded will be a reflection of the candidate's ability to communicate effectively throughout the exam. At the start of the examination candidates should present a copy of each set piece and/or own choice piece to the examiner. All material presented must be neat and legible. The candidates may present themselves in costume but no extra marks will be awarded for costume or use of props.

## Set Solo Drama

Candidates will be required to perform from memory one piece of drama from the following selection. **Where called for omit other characters.**

- 1. Jane Eyre** **Charlotte Bronte**  
from 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte, dramatised by Audrey Merideth (Source unknown)  
Jane Speaking 'Mrs. Reed I must speak. I am not deceitful.' TO 'Send me to school soon, Mrs. Reed, for I HATE to live here.'
- 2. The Secret Garden** **Francis Hodgson Burnett**  
from 'The Secret Garden' adapted by Therese Kitchen (William Heinemann Ltd, Oxford)  
Martha speaking 'Mrs Medlock says it's not to be talked about. Mre Medlock says his troubles are nowt....' TO 'It'll tire you out, then you'll sleep an' not bother about wind howling!'
- 3. The Innocents** **William Archibald**  
from 'The Innocents' by William Archibald (Source Unknown)  
Flora Speaking 'O, look a dead beetle! You'd never know it was dead...' TO 'I don't wish I were out there. I'd rather be here with you.'
- 4. Daddy Long Legs** **Jean Webster**  
from As Above (Publisher unknown)  
Judy speaking ' "What? I'm to leave the John Grier Home. Well, I shall be very happy to go' TO ' I know – I'll call him my dear, old Daddy Long-Legs!'
- 5. Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** **Kate Douglas Wiggin**  
(Publisher unknown)  
Huldah Speaking 'How d' ye do girls? Can you stop studying a minute and show me your room?' TO ' ...not that I care much, but just for fun'
- 6. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** **Roald Dahl**  
(Penguin books)  
Violet speaking ' Just as long as it's a piece of gum. Just as long as it's a piece of gum and I can chew it, then that's for me' TO ' I feel sick, I feel most peculiar.'
- 7. Brighton Beach Memoirs** **Neil Simon**  
from As Above (Samuel French, New York)  
Nora Speaking ' Oh, God, he was so handsome. Always dressed so dapper, his shoes always shined' TO ' No lipstick or magazines or nail polish or bubble gum. NOTHING...Is it a fact?'
- 8. Anne of Green Gables** **L.M. Montgomery**  
from As Above (publisher unknown)

Anne Speaking ' Would you like to hear my latest story, Diana? It's called the 'Jealous Rival,....' TO ' I thought that was a fit retribution for her terrible crime'

**9. The Storytellers**

**Brian Way**

from *As above, Act 1 (Baker's Plays, Boston, USA)*

Toyman speaking ' One more! And then I think, It's finished.' TO ' "Any of these would be lovely" – signed the "Queen".'

**10. Ernie's Incredible Hallucinations**

**Alan Ayckbourne**

from *As above (Samuel French – London)*

Ernie Speaking ' It started with these daydream. You know the sort everybody gets' TO ' .and there's that tremendous right upper-cut – and he's down again!...'

**11. The Magic Mirror**

**E. C. Brereton**

from *As above (publisher unknown)*

Queen Speaking ' No one can be more beautiful than I! It isn't possible!' TO ' I HAVE IT! Page, send the head huntsman here to me at once'

**12. Oliver Twist**

**Charles Dickens**

from *As Above (Publisher unknown)*

Dodger Speaking ' I suppose you don't even know what a prig is?...I am.' TO ' – and you've just as good a right to them as they have'

**Own Choice Solo Drama**

Candidates will be required to perform from memory a piece of drama which they themselves have selected. This selection should not exceed 3 minutes.

**Mime**

Prepared mime of candidate's own choice which should not exceed 1 ½ minutes.

**Questions**

The examiner will ask the candidates a selection of questions based on their chosen pieces. The candidates should show a clear understanding of the plays and the authors.

# Grade 3

Candidates must be over 14 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Set Solo Drama            | 35 |
| Own Choice Shakespeare    | 35 |
| Improvisation             | 15 |
| Questions                 | 15 |

## Set Solo Drama

Candidates will be required to perform from memory one piece of drama from the following selection.

Where called for omit other characters.

- 1. Keeping Tom Nice** **Lucy Gannon**  
(*Warner Cambell Plays*)  
Charlie Speaking 'Right Tom. Time for an update. Update time.' TO 'It's our bargain, isn't it? I talk, you'll listen.'
- 2. An Actor's Nightmare** **Christopher Durang**  
George speaking 'Oh don't go. Maybe someone else will come out in a minute' TO 'Oh, good. Are you Ophelia? Get thee to a nunnery!'
- 3. Lovers** **Brian Friel**  
(*Faber and Faber*)  
Mag Speaking 'I can see the boarders out on the tennis courts' TO 'And I have a feeling it's going to be premature.'
- 4. Our Town** **Thornton Wilder**  
  
Emily speaking 'It seems thousands of years since papa remembered that that was my favourite hymn' TO 'Do any human beings ever realise life while they live it?- every, every minute?'
- 5. Same Old Moon** **Geraldine Aron**  
Bella Speaking 'Stay with me, Brenda, and learn about the interesting side of life' TO 'I could get anyone to love me! Anyone – even the Pope.'
- 6. The Plough and the Stars** **Sean O'Casey**  
Nora Speaking 'Oh, I know that wherever he is he's thinkin' of me.' TO 'Oh, Jack, Jack, Jack!'
- 7. Pygmalion** **George Bernard Shaw**  
Eliza speaking 'You're a great big bully, you are. I won't stay here if I don't want to' TO 'Stop pushing me! Aw-oo! Aw-oo! It's too hot! .....Aw –o-o-o-o-o!'
- 8. Saint Joan** **George Bernard Shaw**  
Joan Speaking 'Yes: They told me you were fools, and that I was not....' TO 'I know that your counsel is of the devil, and that mine is of God.'
- 9. Sive** **J. B. Keane**  
Mena Speaking 'Your father was never a father. God forgave him' To 'Now go to the room and be sure to think of what I said'
- 10. Great Expectations** **Charles Dickens**  
Pip speaking 'Estella, dearest Estella, don't let Miss Havisham lead you into this fatel step!' TO 'Now ... I will leave you. Oh God bless you! God forgive you'
- 11. Bed among the Lentils** **Alan Bennett**  
Susan Speaking 'On this particular morning the rota has Miss Frobisher and ...' TO 'This is not a flower arrangement. It is a booby trap.'

**Own Choice Shakespeare**

Candidates will be required to perform from memory an extract from any of Shakespeare's works. This extract should not exceed 3 minutes.

**Improvisation**

This will be a piece of unprepared improvisation, which Candidates will be given 1 minute to prepare during the examination. It will stem from either the set or own choice drama

**Questions**

The examiner will ask the candidates a selection of questions based on their chosen pieces. The candidates should show a clear understanding of the plays and the authors

# Grade 4

Candidates must be over 15 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks  |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Own Choice Irish Drama     | 30 |
| Own Choice Classical Drama | 30 |
| Improvisation              | 20 |
| Discussion & Questions     | 20 |

## **Own Choice Irish Drama**

The candidates are required to perform from memory a piece of drama from the works of any Irish Author e.g. Synge, Wilde, Shaw. This extract should not exceed 4 minutes.

## **Own Choice Classical Drama**

Candidates will be required to dramatize a piece of classical drama. It has been decided by the examining board that any work penned before 1950 will be accepted. This performance must not exceed 4 minutes.

## **Improvisation**

This will be a piece of unprepared improvisation which Candidates will be given 1 minute to prepare during the examination. It will stem from either the set or own choice drama

## **Discussion and Questions**

Candidates will be expected to have a discussion with the examiner about their chosen pieces. The examiner will then ask the candidates a selection of questions relating to the period in which the drama was set. Candidates will also be expected to have researched the authors and their backgrounds.

# Grade 5

Candidates must be over 16 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks  |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Own Choice Irish Drama     | 25 |
| Own Choice Modern Drama    | 25 |
| Own Choice Classical Drama | 25 |
| Discussion & Questions     | 25 |

## **Own Choice Irish Drama**

The candidates are required to perform from memory a piece of drama from the works of any Modern Irish Author e.g. Tom Murphy, Donal O'Kelly. This extract must not exceed 4 minutes.

## **Own Choice Modern Drama**

Candidates will be required to perform from memory a piece of modern drama. It has been decided by the board of examiners that any work penned after 1950 will be accepted. The performance must not exceed 4 minutes.

## **Own Choice Classical Drama**

Candidates will be required to dramatize a piece of classical drama. It has been decided by the examining board that any work penned before 1950 will be accepted. The performance must not exceed 4 minutes.

## **Discussion and Questions**

Candidates will be expected to have a discussion with the examiner about their chosen pieces. The examiner will then ask the candidates a selection of questions relating to the period in which the drama was set. Candidates will also be expected to have researched the authors and their backgrounds.

# Certificate in Solo Acting

Candidates must be over 16 years of age

| Schedule of maximum marks |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Programme                 | 50 |
| Sight Reading             | 20 |
| Improvisation             | 10 |
| Discussion                | 20 |

## **Programme**

Candidates will be required to present a balanced programme on a theme chosen by the candidates. This programme must not exceed the 15 minute time limit. The candidates are required to include Prose in their selection and they are permitted to include poetry and taped music. This programme must have 3 selections and linking scripts and these selections must reflect contrasting styles/ periods of drama. The candidates must in at least one selection show an ability to use accent. Marks will be awarded for artistic presentation and entertainment value.

## **Sight Reading**

Candidates will be requested to sight read from a play chosen by the examiner during the examination. Candidates will be given 2 minutes preparation time and a short synopsis of the play will be given by the examiner to the candidates.

## **Improvisation**

Candidates will be requested to perform an improvisation based on words given by the examiner during the exam. Candidates will be given 3 minutes preparation time.

## **Discussion**

Candidates will be required to enter into a discussion with the examiner on presented work. They will also be required to answer any questions the examiner may have on their programme.