

# PROGRAMME SELECTIONS FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA

## GRADE 4



At Grade 4, candidates perform three pieces allowing for variety across the programme. The maximum programme time is 9 minutes and one piece should be written in a colloquial style. The candidate must choose a minimum of two separate forms e.g. poem, prose, and reportage; or two play extracts and one poem etc.

## TOP TIPS

- ▶ Candidates are expected to have read, and be familiar with, the whole play or book.
- ▶ Reading a modern language version of a period play can help to ensure an understanding of meaning and mood, and start to work on characterisation before approaching the actual text.
- ▶ Using local and cultural material will present students with the best opportunity to connect to the material.
- ▶ Encourage candidates to think about integrating skills to ensure vocal and physical impulses are connected.
- ▶ Encourage candidates to interpret the material and show personal involvement.

All pieces are available in published versions. A variety are also available online or in the [Trinity Anthology](#).

## EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 1

This programme shows the examiner comedy in colloquial language which is easy for young people to relate to, a characterful performance as Caliban, and a poem with a serious message.

### WHAT

#### Play extract

*Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*  
by Alan Ayckbourn, Ernie

First line: 'It started with these daydreams.'

### WHY

Ernie's Mum and Dad have taken him to the Doctor to discuss his 'illucinations'. An opportunity to include comedy and drama as he recounts his story.

#### Play extract

*The Tempest* Act 3 scene 2, Caliban

First line: 'Be not afeard...'

I cried to dream again.'

Opportunities to work on physicality and explore the character, described as a monster, whose mother is a witch, but who is capable of poetic language and human feeling.

#### Poem

'I Sing of Change' by Niyi Osundare

A poem from a Nigerian poet with a serious message.

## EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 2

This programme shows the examiner a mysterious and magical moment of discovery for the character of Lucy in *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. It also includes a poem which uses repetition and explores breathing as a springboard for poetic imagery, and a piece of writing about the sinking of the Titanic.

### WHAT

#### Play extract

*Voyage of the Dawn Treader*  
by C S Lewis (adapted Glyn Robbins),  
Lucy  
First line: 'What a beautiful book...  
I must say that spell.'

### WHY

Adventure and magic collide in this scene, with Lucy trying to break a spell.

#### Poem

'A small wind, breathing'  
by Julia Martin

A multi-layered poem from South Africa, simple and yet complex, exploring the breath and using it as a springboard for poetic imagery.

#### Prose

*Kaspar, Prince of Cats* by Michael  
Morpurgo – particularly excerpts from  
penultimate chapter 'Good Luck and  
God Bless you'

High tension and tragic story of the sinking of the Titanic, but written in accessible language from the point of view of a young boy.

or

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

The Night Diary is set in 1947, during the tumultuous independence of India from Pakistan. It is written as diary entries from the perspective of a 12-year old girl.

## EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 3

This programme shows the examiner a nonsense poem that plays with sounds and language, an uplifting poem about the end of war and a piece of reportage about Greta Thunberg's speech to the United Nations.

### WHAT

#### Poem

'The Jabberwocky'  
by Edward Lear

### WHY

Captivating use of nonsense-language, playing with sounds, but dramatic and with a strong narrative. The candidate has to make choices about meaning.

#### Poem

'Everyone Sang' by Siegfried Sassoon

A lyrical and uplifting poem about hope at the end of World War I, but with the underlying tragedy.

#### Reportage

Report on Greta Thunberg's speech  
to the UN (e.g. NBC news)

A report on a current issue that is very relevant to young people with a clear message.

**PREPARE TO PERFORM**

**BRING TEXT TO LIFE**

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