

PROGRAMME SELECTIONS FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA

GRADE 5



At Grade 5, candidates perform a programme of three pieces for a maximum of 11 minutes. Variety across the programme is required and one piece should be written in a non-colloquial style. The candidate must choose a minimum of two separate forms, e.g. poem, prose, and play, or two play extracts and a speech delivered by a significant real-life figure 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.
- ▶ For long narrative poems, an extract will be sufficient.
- ▶ Candidates should select pieces of some complexity to provide opportunity for personal interpretation and show their ownership of the material.
- ▶ It is important to include moments for the candidates to catch their breath or move props within the total programme length.

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 contrast in period, style and form, exploration of character, use of space and vocal and physical skills. The pieces are suitably challenging for this grade, beginning to explore unfamiliar work and apply interpretation and critical analysis.

WHAT

Play

Henry V by William Shakespeare
Act 3 scene 2, Boy

First line: 'As young as I am, I have observed these three swashers.'

WHY

Opportunities to create rapport with audience and explore the character's thoughts in this accessible soliloquy.

Poem

'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'
by W B Yeats

A lyrical poem, with clear imagery which requires technical skill in phrasing. The heightened language would be considered non-colloquial.

Play

The Truth by Terry Pratchett,
Gaspode (a dog)

First line: 'Wotcha. I'm Gaspode'

Opportunities to explore physicality and use the space while portraying an animal character. An amusing and quirky speech where the character addresses the audience directly.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 2

This programme shows the examiner contrast in period, subject matter, writing style and the technical vocal and physical skills required to realise the performances.

WHAT

Speech

Sir David Attenborough,
Davos, 2018

WHY

Clear and direct speech about climate change, allowing candidate to showcase presentation and rhetoric and to discuss an important, relatable message.

Prose

Opening of *Nicholas Nickleby*
by Charles Dickens

Classical narrative writing with dialogue to demonstrate characterisation and opportunities to show wry humour.

or

Extract from *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
by Khaled Hosseini

A powerful emotional story of two Afghan women whose friendship is set against the backdrop of war and terror.

Poem

'Brand New Ancients' (opening section)
by Kae Tempest

A hybrid of poetry, rap and performance, showcasing rhythm, sensitivity to language, audience awareness and integrated skills.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 3

This programme shows the examiner a range of period, style and character. The wonderfully eccentric Madame Arcati created by Noël Coward is a world away from Dryas' poetic reliving of the tragedy of Eurydice's death. The sonnet has some complexity and technical challenges.

WHAT

Play

Blithe Spirit by Noël Coward
Act 1 scene 2, Madame Arcati

First line: 'All in good time,
Mr Condomine. Sit down, please.'

WHY

A comic monologue allowing the candidate to build a larger-than-life character and create the suspense of a seance.

Play

Orpheus
by Kenneth McLeish, Dryas

First line:

'There's a path through the trees,
Pine needles, white pebbles.'

A poetic but modern interpretation of an ancient myth. An interesting juxtaposition of storytelling and personal involvement as Dryas re-lives the tragic moment that Eurydice is bitten by a snake.

Poem

'On the Grasshopper and Cricket'
by John Keats

A sonnet, written in non-colloquial style but with a simple message, easily accessible to a candidate at this level.

PREPARE TO PERFORM

BRING TEXT TO LIFE

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