

PROGRAMME EXAMPLES FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA

GRADE 6



Candidates perform three pieces of different forms with a maximum prepared programme time of 12 minutes. Each piece must contrast in period and/or culture. There is an additional option of a passage of verse, meaning that an extract from the longer form of epic poetry or verse drama could be used, distinct from the complete form of a poem.

TOP TIPS

- ▶ Encourage candidates to read more than one piece by the chosen writers, so that they understand the writer's style and begin to make informed choices about interpretation.
- ▶ Ask candidates to do their own research around topics and themes to enable personal ownership. Assist them by checking the authenticity or suitability of the chosen sources and pieces.
- ▶ Try and aid students to select a passage that has structure – perhaps a dramatic moment or the description of a particular place or a conversation between two contrasting characters. This will aid memorisation, and provide opportunities for variation in vocal skills and engagement with the audience.
- ▶ When selecting an extract remember that an audience is unlikely to know what happened before the extract starts. They will be listening to the passage as though it were a complete story or poem.

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 a range of periods, moods, language and styles of delivery, and engagement with serious topics such as discrimination, equality, personal responsibility.

WHAT

Prose with direct speech

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
Stave 5 The End of It: 'Yes! and the bedpost was his own. The bed was his own, the room was his own.'

Poem

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

Speech

Nelson Mandela speech

First line: 'Those who are voteless cannot be expected to continue...'

WHY

A period piece demonstrating a connection with language and character as Scrooge reaches his joyous epiphany, learning his lessons and vowing to change.

A poem with a strong rhythmic pulse and a powerful message, requiring technical stamina.

Inspirational, yet succinct, requiring direct rapport with the audience.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 2

This programme shows the examiner a range of accents, styles, periods and subjects and technical skill in the poetic/verse extracts. There is the opportunity for humour or drama depending on the chosen extract from Harper Lee.

WHAT

Play

Paradise by Kae Tempest, Aunty
First line: 'This island screams and screams all night to We're all just rubbish on the shore'

WHY

A 21st century take on an ancient Greek play. Written in poetic language, with a strong narrative feel but needing characterisation and a sense of environment to bring it to life.

Poem

'How do I love thee?'
by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A lyrical sonnet, Victorian, requiring breath control, a sensitivity to rhythm and a connection to the inner thought.

Prose with direct speech

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
First line: 'One Saturday Jim and I decided to go exploring to "old Tim Johnson....yes sir....yessir - yes" '

This is a suggested extract, but there are a myriad of passages to choose from this classic novel which show American speech rhythms, atmosphere and dramatic action.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 3

This programme shows the examiner a range of periods, moods and styles, modern and classical verse types. It requires an understanding of style, speech rhythms and character development.

WHAT

Play

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
Act 1 scene 1, Murellus
First line: 'Wherefore rejoice?'

WHY

Iambic pentameter, a clear establishment of scenario and character's views with opportunities to use the space and create the environment.

Prose with direct speech

The Inimitable Jeeves
by P G Wodehouse
First line: 'I had met Sir Roderick Glossop before, of course...'

Lots of possibilities from P G Wodehouse. Heightened language, non-colloquial but characterful and amusing, with a range of larger-than-life characters to inhabit vocally.

Verse

'The Hill We Climb' by Amanda Gorman (delivered at President Biden's inauguration). Finish at 'This is the era of just redemption'.

Inspirational, spoken-word poetry that requires technical skill to highlight the rhythmical, musical qualities of language and sustain phrasing.

PREPARE TO PERFORM

BRING TEXT TO LIFE

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