



Qualifications

Support for teachers

Resources

Internationally respected assessments, resources and support  
for drama and performance education worldwide

[www.trinitycollege.com/drama](http://www.trinitycollege.com/drama)



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# Awarding excellence

## Why choose Trinity's drama & performance exams?

- ▶ **Our heritage** – we've been providing exams since 1877. Today, over 600,000 people across the world take a Trinity assessment every year
- ▶ **Our choice of assessments** – our wide range of drama & performance assessments means that every student will find one that suits them, whatever their level and their performance genre and style
- ▶ **The flexibility in our exams** – every performer is an individual, so we develop exams that give candidates opportunities to perform to their strengths
- ▶ **Recognition** – our certificates have real currency – they are internationally recognised and accredited by education authorities across the world
- ▶ **Creating career pathways** – our exams and professional diplomas help prepare candidates for careers in the performing arts

## Our International Playwriting Competition

Since 2010 our International Playwriting Competition has seen an array of new and emerging playwrights from around the world have their work published and performed. The playwriting competition has encouraged the creation of new plays for young performers and audiences. To find out more visit [www.trinitycollege.com/playwriting](http://www.trinitycollege.com/playwriting)



# Drama & performance portfolio

## Qualifications

Trinity's drama & performance portfolio includes assessments for students at all levels and in a range of performance styles. We develop our syllabuses through extensive research and discussion involving teachers, examiners, students and industry experts.

Trinity offers a range of assessments as below:

- **grades** – from Initial to Grade 8 in a range of disciplines for individuals, pairs and groups
- **certificates** – individuals can create their own multi-genre performance programme
- **diplomas** – professional qualifications for advanced performers, teachers and directors

## Support for teachers

At the heart of Trinity's activity in drama and performance education is the belief that working with and supporting teachers is the key to making sure that our assessments and resources are relevant and effective. We provide the following support for teachers including:

- a range of publications and online resources for teachers
- workshops, seminars and other training events
- a dedicated email address for academic enquiries from teachers – [dramateachers@trinitycollege.com](mailto:dramateachers@trinitycollege.com)



## Publications and resources

Trinity publishes a range of materials to support preparation for Trinity assessments. This includes:

- ▶ a set of musical theatre repertoire books with helpful performance notes, hints and tips, and a backing track CD – available through local retailers and our online shop [www.trinitycollege.com/shop](http://www.trinitycollege.com/shop)
- ▶ Anthology Online – a unique resource for all drama teachers and students which offers examples of suitable pieces for our exams at all levels – available at [www.trinitycollege.com/anthology](http://www.trinitycollege.com/anthology)



# Grades

Trinity's graded drama & performance exams start at Initial level and go up to Grade 8. They give performers of all ages a progressive learning framework which helps them develop their skills, and rewards their achievements.

The exams give students the chance to perform to their strengths through a wide choice of styles and genres.

Graded exams are available for:

- ▶ acting and speaking
- ▶ musical theatre
- ▶ performance arts
- ▶ communication skills



## Acting and speaking

Our qualifications in acting and speaking subjects encourage candidates to develop their creativity and engage with a range of texts and performance styles.

Solo exams in acting and speaking are available in the following areas:

- ▶ **speech and drama** – offers assessment of skills in dramatic performance with particular emphasis on the use of the voice and speech
- ▶ **individual acting skills** – focuses on the vocal and physical skills that contribute to performance, including acting, movement and characterisation
- ▶ **Shakespeare** – encourages candidates to develop an understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's work through practical and imaginative approaches to text and performance
- ▶ **performing text** – designed for candidates who wish to focus on spoken interpretation of text through reading aloud and memorised performance

Candidates may also enter the following pair and group exams:

- ▶ acting in pairs
- ▶ Shakespeare in pairs
- ▶ group drama – devised
- ▶ group drama – scripts
- ▶ group drama – Shakespeare
- ▶ choral speaking
- ▶ plays in production



## Exam structure

Our drama & performance exams are designed to encourage individuality and creativity. Within the specific requirements of the syllabus the choice of performance pieces is entirely the candidate's own – this may include material from the candidate's own country or culture.

## Solo and pair exams

Candidates for solo and pair exams additionally undertake various tasks that enable them to display supporting skills such as sight reading, storytelling and improvisation.

## Group exams

In group drama exams, candidates may present scenes of plays from contrasting periods of dramatic literature or develop and devise their own scenes through improvisation.



## Musical theatre

Grade exams in musical theatre are available for individuals, pairs and groups. Candidates are examined in singing, acting and dance/choreographed movement. They also discuss the pieces presented with the examiner.

The choice of performance pieces is entirely the candidate's own.

Trinity's musical theatre qualifications are supported by a series of musical theatre repertoire books with CD recordings.

## Performance arts

The performance arts syllabus recognises the validity of the huge range and variety of performance-based work that integrates different skills, styles and disciplines.

From physical theatre to puppetry, from stand-up comedy to dance, the performance arts syllabus encourages candidates to explore the unique performance possibilities presented by combining practical and supporting skills.





## Communication skills

Our communication skills exams encourage candidates to develop their proficiency in all modes of oral communication – including face-to-face interpersonal skills, group discussions, making presentations and public speaking.

All exams comprise a series of tasks which have a direct relation to communication challenges that candidates meet – or will meet – in real-life situations, such as job interviews, public speaking and conflict resolution.



## Performances 'in production'

Our 'in production' options allow schools, colleges and theatre groups to offer an entire production for assessment. The production should be intended for a public performance in front of an audience and must include production elements such as lighting, set, costume, sound, make-up and props. The efforts of everyone involved, including the creative team and backstage crew, can be entered for assessment.

'In production' exams are available for:

- ▶ plays in production
- ▶ musical theatre in production
- ▶ performance arts in production



# Certificates

## Young performers certificates

Our young performers certificates encourage young children to develop performance, musical and communication skills as they create and explore stories, songs, roles and situations through the imaginative and integrated use of movement, voice and artwork. Groups of 6 to 12 children may enter and the work is presented to a Trinity examiner at their school or teaching centre. The young performers certificates are available at three levels – bronze, silver and gold. The emphasis is on celebrating participation so no numerical mark is awarded and all candidates receive a certificate.

## Performance certificates

Performance certificates are available at foundation, intermediate and advanced levels, giving candidates the opportunity to devise and present a continuous performance programme that reflects their own interests and enthusiasms, and demonstrates a wide range of performance styles. Performance certificates differ from graded exams as there are no assessed components of discussion or impromptu work such as sight reading or improvisation.

These are offered at three levels:

- ▶ **foundation performance certificate** – programme duration of 12-15 minutes
- ▶ **intermediate performance certificate** – programme duration of 17-20 minutes
- ▶ **advanced performance certificate** – programme duration of 25-30 minutes



# Professional development

## Diplomas

We offer a range of teaching and performance diplomas for advanced candidates at three levels – ATCL (QCF\* Level 4), LTCL (QCF Level 6) and FTCL (QCF Level 7).

Within these diplomas, the following subject options are available:

- ▶ speech and drama
- ▶ musical theatre
- ▶ theatre arts
- ▶ communication skills
- ▶ applied drama
- ▶ education studies
- ▶ directing

## Public speaking diploma (ATCL, LTCL)

Trinity's diplomas in public speaking offer candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise in oral communication in a wide variety of contexts. At both ATCL and LTCL levels, candidates are required to give a number of contrasting oral presentations appropriate to a variety of settings and audiences. LTCL candidates are additionally required to sit a written paper and submit an essay to further demonstrate their understanding of the theoretical concepts that underpin effective communication.

\* Qualifications and Credit Framework

## Professional certificate in communication skills

The Level 3 professional certificate in communication skills is designed for candidates who wish to gain recognition for their presentation and communication skills in higher education or in the workplace. The certificate provides assessment of integrated presentation skills (including the use of audio-visual aids), public speaking, summarisation, problem solving and conflict resolution.





## Dance qualifications

Trinity's dance qualifications have been developed in partnership with national and international organisations, to give candidates the chance to demonstrate their skills and knowledge as a performer or a teacher of dance.

- ▶ **Diploma in dance teaching and learning (children and young people)** – this Level 6 teaching diploma provides dancers from any genre with the ability to provide evidence to employers, parents and carers that they have the expertise to teach children and young people effectively
- ▶ **ATCL performance arts (contemporary dance)** – this Level 4 qualification is designed to enable contemporary dance performers to display and evidence their skills and knowledge in a range of different contexts. It encourages candidates to be multi-skilled, reflective performers showing professional potential





# Trinity exams – from syllabus to certificate

## Before the exam

### Finding out about the exam

Our syllabuses contain detailed information about each exam, including:

- ▶ exam structure
- ▶ how the exam is assessed
- ▶ details of the mark scheme

All of our syllabuses are available on our website at [www.trinitycollege.com](http://www.trinitycollege.com)

### Choosing material

When selecting material for assessment, candidates are offered an entirely free choice of repertoire (within the stated requirements of each exam).

Candidates who wish to perform their own original work are able to do so in some syllabus strands.

Our online anthology is designed to help candidates choose their pieces. This is available on our website at [www.trinitycollege.com/anthology](http://www.trinitycollege.com/anthology)

## Exam day

- ▶ Candidates are required to arrive at least 15 minutes before the time of their appointment
- ▶ Candidates must bring their appointment form to the exam and check that all details on it are accurate
- ▶ Candidates may be accompanied by a prompter for the performance elements of their exam
- ▶ Candidates for performance exams should be dressed to allow maximum flexibility of movement







## After the exam

### The report form

Candidates receive their report form shortly after their exam. The report form gives a written assessment of all the tasks completed. Candidates doing pair exams receive individual report forms. Groups and 'in performance' candidates receive one report form for the whole group.

### The certificate

Successful Trinity candidates will receive their certificate within six to eight weeks of taking the exam. The certificate shows the date, exam centre, subject and level achieved by the candidate. If requested at the time of enrolment, it can also show the name of the school and teacher. Every candidate in a group or 'in performance' assessment will receive a certificate showing their name and the name of the group.



## Tips for teachers and candidates

### Tips for candidates – exam day

- ▶ It's a good idea to warm up at home before you set out for the exam centre
- ▶ Make sure you arrive at the centre in plenty of time
- ▶ Take a few moments before the exam to think your way through your programme so you're ready for each part
- ▶ Don't worry about feeling nervous – even the most experienced performers may feel nervous before they perform. Think about the exam as an exciting opportunity to give an entertaining performance





## Tips for teachers

- ▶ You'll find syllabus support documents on the support pages of our website at [www.trinitycollege.com/dramasupport](http://www.trinitycollege.com/dramasupport)
- ▶ Our local representatives are there to help – they'll be able to advise you and answer your questions about the exams
- ▶ If you have a candidate with special needs, remember to complete the special needs provision form at the time of enrolling for the exam
- ▶ Before the exam, it's a good idea to run through a mock exam so students can understand what to expect on the day
- ▶ Your students will never have to wait too long to find out how they've done – they'll receive their report form shortly after their Trinity exam



## Contact us

Syllabuses for all grade, certificate and diploma qualifications in drama & performance subjects may be ordered from Trinity or downloaded from [www.trinitycollege.com/drama](http://www.trinitycollege.com/drama)

For further information about Trinity's drama & performance exams, please contact [drama@trinitycollege.com](mailto:drama@trinitycollege.com)

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