

PROGRAMME EXAMPLES FOR ACTING

GRADE 3



ACTING

At Grade 3, candidates are developing their curiosity when exploring character and texts and growing in confidence when sharing their performance with an audience. Some candidates will be developing their writing skills and may enjoy the challenge of devising a speech or scene rather than simply creating a mime. The maximum programme time is 4 minutes for a monologue and 4 minutes for a prepared mime or original speech/scene based on a given title and 2 minutes for an original scene based on the character from task 1.

TOP TIPS

- ▶ Encourage candidates to bring their own ideas to lessons and help guide them when structuring their mime or speech/scene to ensure ownership of their piece.
- ▶ Ensure that the work presented is age appropriate and that the candidates can relate to characters, themes or language.
- ▶ Encourage the candidate to have a clear picture in their head of their imagined environment, and to show both their surroundings and their feelings to the audience.
- ▶ Ensure that the mime or original speech/scene has a clear and well developed narrative that engages the audience.

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 contrasting environments, a variety of moods and emotions, using the space creatively and opportunities for the candidate's own exploration of a storyline.

WHAT

Monologue

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
(adapted by Stuart Patterson), Michael
First line: 'We need Mum to get better Stella.'

WHY

A soulful story about a young boy who is travelling around the world on a yacht with his parents and dog. This scene takes place at night on deck - opportunities to create an imagined relationship with Stella the dog, the environment of the boat and the sea, and use physicality to show him slipping overboard as he attempts to grab the dog.

Mime or original speech/scene

The Surprise Party

The scene could be played from the point of view of a party organiser or someone who thinks everyone has forgotten their birthday - showing the initial excitement of a birthday, then disappointment at being alone and finally shock as a party is discovered. An emotional narrative through the story will allow the candidate to use vocal and physical skills.

Character Development

An original scene showing the character in a situation that takes place either immediately before or immediately after the events of the piece performed in Task 1.

The monologue shows Michael at night with his dog Stella, feeling sad because his Mum is ill. In an imagined scene that happens immediately before, Michael could be helping prepare his Mum her favourite food, or grooming his dog Stella because she's smelling very fishy and might make his Mum feel worse.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 2

This programme shows the examiner two very different moods, one full of whimsy and the other dramatic suspense. There is capacity to use the space creatively and an opportunity for the candidate's own exploration of a storyline.

WHAT**Monologue**

Kiki's Delivery Service by Eiko Kadono (translated Joe Todd-Stanton), Kiki
Adapt from the novel

WHY

A whimsical character, a 13 year old witch preparing to fly from home and find a town of her own to settle in. There are opportunities to use humour and physicality to give the impression of flying.

Mime or original speech/scene

Terror

Dramatic suspense will be important when putting this scene together, in order to share the feelings of terror with the audience. The candidate can use vocal modulation (speaking very quietly) and body language (cowering) to convey the mood accurately.

Character Development

An original scene showing the character in a situation that takes place either immediately before or immediately after the events of the piece performed in Task 1.

Before Kiki embarks on her voyage she could be receiving a parcel containing her new broomstick, and trying it out for the first time before setting off. This could be humorous and full of energy, or Kiki could be feeling very nervous.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 3

This programme shows the examiner the candidate's ability to engage with serious subjects and become personally involved in an imaginary world.

WHAT

Monologue

Playing from the Heart by Charles Way, Evelyn

WHY

This piece shows the exploration of the inner world of a deaf child as she prepares to perform. Based on the life of percussionist Evelyn Glennie, there is a rhythmic feel to the writing. The candidate can explore how they would respond to their physical surroundings and the importance of the imagined visual environment.

Mime or original speech/scene

The Disappointment

There is an opportunity to make this scene comic or tragic, and work to the strengths of the candidate.

Character Development

An original scene showing the character in a situation that takes place either immediately before or immediately after the events of the piece performed in Task 1.

Imagining how she would feel immediately after the concert, Evelyn could be on a video call with her teacher, talking about how she felt, what she noticed, how the audience responded and how well she thought she played. Bearing in mind that Evelyn has a hearing impairment, her impressions of the occasion will be quite different to those of a hearing child, and this will give the candidate a creative opportunity to put themselves in her position.

PREPARE TO PERFORM

**PRACTICAL ACTING SKILLS
FOR ASPIRING PERFORMERS**

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