

TEACHER ALERT

March 2022

Welcome to the first Teacher Alert for 2022!

- Do check the new Theatre in Action 2022 syllabus – an ideal syllabus for drama groups. This is now available to download on the website, and if you would like hard-copies, please contact the National Office, who will be happy to post copies out to you.
- Do explore our revamped website – in particular, the Resources section.
 - You will find recordings of a range of past workshops and training sessions for working on-line, both teaching and for Zoom exams.
 - Also included now are previous copies of Teacher Alert.
 - We are continuing to upgrade this section, so please keep an eye out for new resources.

Please double check you are using the latest syllabus and destroy old ones – sadly there have been some instances of people working from out-of-date syllabuses. The updated versions can always be found on the website and can be posted out to you on request.

This Alert covers:

- Updates and reminders from National Office
- General tips from Karen Austin, Chair of Examinations
- SNZ responses to a range of queries on various syllabuses.

Updates from National Office:

1. Teacher detail-gathering survey

To appear on the Speech NZ 'Find a Teacher' page, we need you to fill out our survey!! This ensures we have the correct information for you, and we can also now display your region, syllabi taught, and whether you teach online and/or in-person!!

The survey only takes 5minutes, so please complete it here if you have not already!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNZTeacherDetails>

2. Exam Fees 2022 – including Viva Voce

The updated examination fees for 2022 are now available on the website and the online entry system. The examination committee have agreed that the new examination style of viva voce will be priced the same as a practical examination, because the costs involved are the same as that of a practical examination.

3. Entry Fee Payment Changes - IMPORTANT

a) Entry closing date vs payment due date

In 2022 the examination entry payment due date will be 1 week AFTER the entry closing date.

This means, for you as teachers, (whether you pay a lump to SNZ for your candidates, or have the parents/caregivers pay directly to SNZ), we will require your entries to be submitted BEFORE any payment is submitted. As soon as entries are processed, you will receive a reference number (one reference number per entry form, not per student). You will then need to use this reference number for your lump payment, or direct the parents/caregivers to use this reference number for their payments.

b) One bank account for all entry fees

All payments for examination fees for 2022 need to be paid into the Speech NZ National Office account, rather than the regional accounts. This change comes strongly recommended by our annual financial audit team, and will further aid in our tracking of the entry payments.

If you have a regional account saved in your internet banking that you use for paying entry fees, please remove it, and use the National Office account going forwards.

This account is 02-0500-0580136-00

4. Teacher Liaison and Entry Administrator

A new role has been created of "Teacher Liaison and Entry Administrator". This role will be undertaken by Claire Tanner. Claire has been involved with Speech NZ for more than eight years, and looks forward to connecting with teachers all across the country to assist and support them with the examination entries.

Claire can be reached at claire.tanner@speechnz.co.nz and via text or call on 028 851 44752.

Please contact Claire for all queries regarding examination entries, payment, examination material and examination timetables.

5. Please place orders for badges through the website

Badges are now ordered through the online system. You can order badges in conjunction with an examination entry, or separately as required.

Here's the badge order link - <https://online.speechnz.co.nz/badges>

Please remember to use the order reference number when paying for your badges!

6. Examination Material Submission

To simplify the collection and organisation of examination material, we have created an Examination Material Submission page on our new website. This is where candidates and teachers need to submit ANY examination material that is required in advance to the examination itself, for both in-person and Zoom examinations.

Here's the exam material submission link - <https://www.speechnz.co.nz/what-we-do/examinations/examination-material-submission/>

7. Certificate of Attainment supporting documentation

Certificate of Attainment (CoA) can be applied for at the time of entry, if candidates have a disability that may affect their performance. We no longer require a doctor or other professional's supporting documentation to be provided with the application. Please refer to our website for further information. <https://www.speechnz.co.nz/what-we-do/examinations/enter-for-speech-nz-exams/how-to-enter-under-certificate-of-attainment/>

8. Professional Speaking Course opportunity!

We've had requests from speech teachers around New Zealand who would like to move into teaching adults, either as individuals or in small groups. A great way to develop your skills and move in that direction would be to become a student in a professional speaking course! We're gathering expressions of interest for a 10-week Zoom course in Professional Speaking, where you'll achieve your Certificate in Professional Speaking, receive the resources for the course, and have the support and experience from the course tutor and from Speech NZ to deliver the course yourself as the teacher. There will be a pedagogical focus to this course, because while you'll be preparing to sit the certificate examination, you'll also be preparing to teach the course yourself.

Registrations for the first cohort close on **Monday 14 March**, so if you're keen, please register your interest by clicking the link to fill out a very short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProfessionalSpeaking>

Please feel free to share this among your friends, family and network to anyone at all who might be interested in teaching adults!

9. Future Teacher Coaching Programme

After a highly successful pilot run in 2021, we are continuing with the initiative the Future Teacher Coaching Programme to great success! If you know someone who is interested in becoming a teacher of speech and communication, please direct them here: <https://www.speechnz.co.nz/what-we-do/future-teacher-coaching-programme/>

Also, if you're already an established teacher, but are looking to add a syllabus to your repertoire, or perhaps grow your business by adding a website, a business plan, or want some assistance with other areas of teaching speech and communication, this programme is PERFECT!

10. Please continue to send through your student's Success Stories!

We have LOVED putting together the Success Stories we have received so far, and would love to keep this going! If you have any students who you think would be interested in answering a few questions, and having a short article written about their experience with Speech NZ and where they are now, please get in touch!

We've found that the best way for this to happen is for teachers to ask their students if they would be okay to be interviewed (just via email), and then for the teacher to let Emma know the student's details. Then, when Emma reaches out to the student, they're already expecting it!

GENERAL TIPS FROM KAREN AUSTIN, CHAIR OF EXAMINATIONS

Transferable Skills

We have had some enquiries about moving students between our syllabi e.g. Speech and Drama to Flexi Speaking and Performing. Teachers and students are able to move between syllabi in order to meet their needs.

Flexi Speaking and Performing

Teachers are reminded that the syllabus states candidates must take a programme into the exam. This is essential so that the examiner is clear about what options they have prepared. Please include – Tahi, Rua, alongside the task number and the titles of the texts they are using.

Diploma Theory Credits – AASB and LSB

Remember that the Theory Credits in the Syllabi have been revised. All on-line syllabi reflect this. Please mark this in the hard copies of Speech & Drama Syllabus and Public Speaking and Communication Syllabus that you have on your shelves.

Viva Voce Examinations

Diploma theory credit examinations at Advanced Associate and at Licentiate levels are now available in Viva Voce form to all candidates. Please note that Viva Voce examinations cannot be done in a group, they are individual examinations. **The examinations for Advanced Associate can be face to face on a tour or on Zoom, however those for Licentiate are only available on Zoom as these are examined by theory examiners.**

Fellowship qualification:

Should you be working on this for yourself or with a student, please note also recent changes to Fellowship – all of which are in on-line syllabi.

RESPONSES TO A RANGE OF RECENT QUESTIONS:

FLEXI SYLLABUS

Memorised prose – at all levels:

These may be taken from a novel or short story – just be sure that at senior levels your student can fulfil the requirements for reflective discussion on the book from which the extract is taken. This would include the anthology from which a short story is taken.

Grade 7:

Tahi # 3: Plea for a good cause

While many students choose to make a plea for an existing cause, some are making a plea for an cause they wish existed, giving details, naming it etc. This is perfectly acceptable as long as that cause is totally grounded in reality and something that might actually happen.

The key here is to ensure that this chosen audience is realistic. Eg School Class having a 'book drive' to provide library books for a primary school that was burnt down, or is in poor circumstances, or, perhaps, to send to Tonga after the devastation there. Maybe this could even turn into a real plea!!

Characterisations (Flexi and Speech and Drama)

- **Up to and including Grade 4:**

You may choose to present a scripted scene or monologue adapted from a book or play or other source. These are assessed on the actual presentation, with no requirement to discuss this in the context of the source of the material. At Grades 3 & 4 some knowledge and discussion on the context of an extract will certainly help to deepen characterisations and acting skills.

- **At Grades 5 and 6:**

Speech New Zealand is encouraging students to develop and broaden their literary knowledge, These two grades are transitions to the more senior grades. Thus candidates are required to discuss the book or play from which the characterisation/monologue is drawn. Frequently, to fit material to their needs, teachers and students adapt and/or edit material to suit. This text should maintain the integrity of the original work, use as much of the original work as possible and stand alone as a scene.

- **From Grade 7 onwards:**

All characterisations/monologues must be developed from an actual play. They may still be edited to suit the group and the time available.

NB Where Speech New Zealand request candidates bring a text of presentations to examinations this is intended to be the text of the extract presented not the full script of the play or novel. In junior grades this may be simply an outline of the actions in the piece.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND COMMUNICATION SYLLABUS

Grade 7: Module 2

Section 1 – see Flexi G7 Tahī #3 as above.

Grade 8: Module 2

Section 3: Your student is required to bring ‘a publication, no more than two months old, which should contain two or three articles of an informative, controversial, debatable or persuasive nature.’ The articles must be clearly marked, and the examiner will choose one of these for the candidate to read aloud and comment on.

This must be from a recent publication – hence ‘no more than two months old’. In this section Speech New Zealand is wanting candidates to have the ability to sight read and to discuss an article of current interest. A good exercise is to practise this on a range of articles throughout the term or year.

Do keep your queries and questions coming in to info@speechnz.co.nz. This not only helps you, as a teacher, but also others who may have similar concerns. Another bonus is that this assists Speech New Zealand to ensure our syllabi are clear and helpful.

Pam Logan

Examinations Division