

TEACHER ALERT

JULY 2016

Another term over. In this Teacher Alert are some ideas for you to mull over during the holidays, and some pointers for teaching in Term 3.

Do please maintain a file of Teacher Alerts so you can refer back to them in your teaching and as you prepare students for exams.

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Group work – no more than four candidates per group:

Speech New Zealand has always encouraged group work within examinations so that students have the support of fellow classmates in the exam room for developing:

- communication skills
- connecting with an audience for presentations
- developing acting techniques through group characterisations where teamwork and creative opportunities abound.

Our Speech and Drama syllabus states that groups should **not exceed four** in number. This enables candidates to stay focussed throughout the examination as they support each other. Importantly it also assists the examiner to remain focussed throughout so they give of their best to every candidate. Please respect this in choosing drama work for your students. There have been an increasing number of occurrences recently where there have been five (and even six) in a group.

If you have 5 or more students in your classes please consider the following:

- Split students into smaller groups for scene work. This can be managed well within a class time limit if you opt for scenes from the same play, or playwright. This will give all students a greater understanding of the play under study and senior students, in particular, can share any research that is required.
- Opt, for one year, to work together on the Theatre In Action Syllabus, where groups can be anywhere from 2 - 20.

Remember, too, in Grade work where the time limit for characterisations is, say 3 minutes, then you may multiply that time by the number of students, e.g. 3 students.

Timing in group impromptu sections:

In working with improvisations and storytelling the key thing is that there is an opportunity for candidates to develop and show understanding of the learning outcomes. In junior grades where no time limits are specifically given, a brief time will be allowed for preparation for impromptu work. This will be sufficient for the examiner to write headings on reports and for the candidates to broadly organise their ideas. Again there is no time limit given for presentation, in general these might be expected to be between 2 – 4 minutes, depending on the level and size of the group.

In senior grades guidelines are given for preparation and presentation. In general two minutes preparation should give sufficient time for all group improvisations. Three students working together would NOT be expected to present and maintain a 9 minute improvisation! Common sense should prevail, the topic and characters should be established, performance ideas shaped to a climax and then brought to an appropriate conclusion. The quality of the ideas and involvement in the presentation is more important than a specific timing.

Much better an improvisation that achieves the outcomes in a shorter time, than one that is drawn out, just to achieve an arbitrary time limit.

Timing in talks:

Remember that in preparing your students for talks, at all levels, informing the examiner of the audience for whom the talk is prepared is NOT part of the talk or the stated time limit. It is important to ensure the examiner has this information before the talk begins so that he or she can then assess this from the point of view of the needs of the audience specified.

New policy on time limit for Theory assignment papers at Licentiate level:

From the beginning of July all new assignments requested will have a new and tighter framework with a time limit of 6 months for completion.

This decision follows discussion and considerations from the theory sub-committee, the Board and also a survey of recent candidates.

The new time frame will make keeping track of assignments easier for administration, but most importantly, for candidates.

- This will ensure the candidate is ready to work on the topic when the paper is assigned.
- It will greatly assist in time management - the planning and focussing of study into a realistic time frame.
- It will ensure educational philosophy and research findings are current.

All assignments that have been set prior to the end of June 2016 will still maintain the longer time limit as set out in the information that goes out with the credit assignment.

Associate and Advanced Associate Public Speaking. Dealing with the Media:

It is important to guide your students in choosing their audience and topic in Section 1 which calls for the candidate to give a talk to a group of young people on an aspect of speaking with the media. As in all talks Speech NZ is looking for students to speak as themselves and not assume a role as an expert.

There is an expanded paper on this section in the Public Speaking 'Resources' section of our website: <https://www.speechnz.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Dealing-with-the-Media-Associate-and-AdvAssociate-Diploma.pdf>. You will find the link to resources at the top right hand corner of the home page.

Website Booklist:

Under the 'Publications' link you will also find a booklist which can be referred to or downloaded for future reference.

Remember when you order books to please go through the links for Amazon or Fishpond on our home page as this also assists Speech NZ, who receive a small commission.

SCA Fellows Award for Excellence in Teaching:

Fellows of the Speech Communication Association invite nominations for this award.

Students and Teachers -

Do you know a teacher you would like to nominate?

The nominated teacher must be a member of SCA. You cannot nominate yourself. As well as demonstrating expected good teaching performance, the nominated teacher should excel as someone who is or has:

- ✓ An ability to inspire good performance
- ✓ An ability to encourage confident performance
- ✓ An excellent role model of speaking and the use of language
- ✓ Uses creative and imaginative teaching

What should I do?

Send in the name and contact details of the teacher you wish to nominate together with a letter that sets out some specific reason or reasons for the nomination to:

Fellows Award for Excellence in Teaching

SCA Council
PO Box 207,
Palmerston North 4440

Please have nominations in by 1 September 2016.

**The award will be presented at the Professional Development Weekend in Blenheim
1 - 2 October 2016.**

Enjoy the holidays and the challenges of the teaching term ahead.

Warm regards

Pam Logan

Chair, Examinations Division.
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