



Helping our Nation to communicate

TEACHER ALERT

APRIL 2019

Speech New Zealand trusts your teaching is going well and you are enjoying working with the new 2019 Speech and Drama Syllabus.

It has been good to receive some queries this term and this is to bring you up to date with our responses – and alert you to a tweak in the syllabus.

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2019 Speech and Drama Syllabus:

Grade 4:

You may already have noticed that the timing for the talk at Grade 4 is incorrect. The time limit should be the same as it was in the previous syllabus – 4 minutes. Somehow this slipped through as 3 minutes. You will have noted that the poem has been dropped in this grade to ensure the overall time of 20 minutes is achievable.

Grade 5:

The content of the two modules has been swapped to equalise the work load in each module. If you have a student who has already achieved one of these modules in 2018 – then they will need to complete the Grade using the old (2012) Speech and Drama Syllabus. Please mark this clearly on your entry form.

In the other senior grades, there is no change in the module structure, only a slight difference in the timing of characterisations. Always remember the timing for characterisations is a maximum and students are not necessarily required to achieve that limit.

Grade 7: Module 3; Communication – Thematic Study

A Thematic study is a worthwhile section for students, and it is also stimulating for teachers as there is encouragement to explore techniques of literature and images through a wide range of different genre.

It was originally introduced to support a similar exercise for NCEA, and SNZ found it suited well for our Grade 7 level.

It is a mini programme with a clear purpose which contains structural and presentational aspects of talks as well as performance elements. For example, the purpose of one Thematic Study was ‘to alert my Year 12 English class to some techniques that writers use to provoke laughter and make us think’. The programme included a static image (the cover from a ‘Horrible Histories’ book by Terry Deary), a humorous poem on war by Roger McGough and an extract from an intellectual farce by Dario Fo.

For further information go to the Drama Section of the Teaching Resources on SNZ website where you will find a paper written as a guide to Grade 7 Thematic Study.

Diploma Levels: For Speech and Drama and Public Speaking

As you know, this year we have added a Merit level to Diplomas.

Pass is competence in all learning criteria at Associate level.

Merit is where some sections are of a higher standard.

Distinction is where the work is of an exceptionally high standard.

Diploma Certificates:

This year the Diploma Certificates will show an overall grade rather than listing the Distinction passes. grades. The certificates will read “With Distinction” or “With Merit” or be left blank for Pass level.

Distinction is worth 3 points, Merit is worth 2 points, Pass is worth 1 point. Please see quick reference table below.

QUICK REFERENCE TABLE			
	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Associate	3-4 points	5-7 points	8-9 points
Adv Associate	7-10 points	11-17 points	18-21 points
Licentiate	11-16 points	17-27 points	28-33 points

Audiences:

A reminder that in the syllabus where an audience is suggested it is **optional** except for Fellowship, Communicating in Leadership and Professional Speaking where an audience is compulsory.

Please also note that four participants are required for the Licentiate in Public Speaking Performance Module 3.

Speech New Zealand sees the value in a ‘real’ audience, however the reality is that it was becoming increasingly difficult for students to be released from classes.

Responses to queries:

Yes, Speech New Zealand examines groups containing different levels (and sometimes differing syllabuses).

Usually these students are learning together, and it makes good sense for them to still be examined together. Participants in group characterisations, too, may be from differing grades.

Yes, it does create more challenge for examiners. To help ensure the examination goes smoothly always provide the examiner with a ‘programme’. List the order of sections and candidates along with the talk topics and audiences, and the titles and authors of pieces for poems, characterisations and books. Always leave the impromptu section to last.

Remember **no more than** 4 students to be examined in any one group.

Public Speaking and Communication Syllabus:

Introduction to Communicating in Leadership:

Speech New Zealand frequently gets queries re suitability of certain leaders or about role models vs Leaders.

For instance – may a Year 8 student use a Year 13 student leader for this talk? Or a team coach or captain? Or a guide leader?

The key elements are that the candidate includes aspects of the leader’s attributes, background, influence on others and possibly key events of their life and how they are viewed by others. Students also need to be able to discuss their ideas of leadership and the reasons for their choice of leader as well as ensure they fulfil the Learning Criteria.

Sometimes the question of a role model vs a leader can be a little murky!

Definitions for these will be included in the next syllabus.

Meantime – a couple of quick definitions:

Role Model: A person looked up to by others as an example to be imitated. e.g. ‘We need positive role models for young people to aspire to’.

Leader: A person who leads a group, a team, an organisation or country. e.g. ‘The team worked really well under his/her leadership’.

A leader may well also be a role model in that they set examples for others to follow. Some, few, might not be considered good role models! However, although a role model may be a person to aspire to, they do not deliberately create strategies to ‘lead’ or ‘guide’ others to higher endeavours.

The Public Speaking and Communication syllabus is currently under review in preparation for a revised edition for 2020.

If you have any comments or suggestions, Speech New Zealand would love to hear them. Please email info@speechnz.co.nz

clearly marked – ideas for new Public Speaking syllabus

As always, Speech New Zealand is happy to respond to questions you may have – please send them to info@speechnz.co.nz. The office will know who is available to answer specific queries. Please do **NOT** send them to individual Board members.

Enjoy the last weeks of the term. Speech NZ wishes you a safe and relaxed holiday break.

Regards

Pam Logan

Examinations Division.

Speech New Zealand

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