



Speech Syllabus no 3

# Oral Communication (ESL)



## Examination Syllabus

Beginner's Stage to English Speaker's Certificate

Australian Guild of  
Music Education  
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## Introduction

### Background to this syllabus

- This syllabus is designed to accommodate students whose first language is other than English.
- In keeping with the remainder of the Speech Syllabus package, these examinations involve challenging activities, especially at the higher levels.
- Examiners understand that candidates presenting for these examinations will most likely have accents, and allowances will be made in this area. However, it is essential that candidates can be clearly understood.

### Notes for Teachers

- All items are to be spoken in English.
- Talks and speeches should not be read or delivered as a recital.
- Headline notes may be used, but must be inconspicuous.
- This syllabus must be used in conjunction with the supporting document 'Speech Syllabi Background Information for Teachers' which contains essential information such as
  - Structure of the Speech Syllabi package
  - Grade set
  - Age of candidates
  - Guidelines for selecting appropriate selections at each examination level
  - Prepared versus Impromptu items
  - Memorisation requirements
  - Reading of books prior to practical examinations
  - Hard copy requirements
  - Suggested reference books.

## Beginner's Stage

	Time: 15 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to appropriately address the examiner upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her brief introductory comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example 'Good morning, my name is XXX XXX. I am XXX years old and I am in Grade XXX at XXX school ...'</li> <li>Time limit: ½ minute.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Poem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul>	25
3	<p><b>Alphabet / Numbers</b></p> <p>a) Say how many letters there are in the alphabet and how it is divided.</p> <p>b) Say the alphabet clearly.</p> <p>c) Say all the vowel letters clearly.</p> <p>d) Say any 10 consonant letters clearly.</p> <p>e) Count aloud from 1–20.</p>	20
4	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to describe the clothes he/she is wearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example 'My shoes are black and have a Velcro strip ...'</li> <li>Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul> <p>b) The examiner will point to 5 objects in the examination room for the candidate to name and briefly describe. This description should include the object's colour where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example 'Window with blue curtains, power point switched off ...'</li> </ul>	20
5	<p><b>Mimes (2)</b></p> <p>a) Playing an indoor game or playing with a toy.</p> <p>b) Playing an outdoor game or sport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly.</li> <li>Time limit: ½ – 1 minute for each mime.</li> </ul>	20
6	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate is to thank the examiner in a formal yet friendly way when leaving the examination.</li> </ul>	5

## Stage 1

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to appropriately address the examiner upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her brief introductory comments about his/her school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example 'Good morning, my name is XXX XXX and my school is great because ...'</li> <li>• Time limit: ½ minute.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Poem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 1 – 1½ minutes.</li> </ul>	25
3	<p><b>Alphabet / Numbers</b></p> <p>a) Say the 5 long vowel sounds and the 7 short vowel sounds.</p> <p>b) Give examples of one long vowel sound and one short vowel sound in words and spell each word.</p> <p>c) The examiner will say one consonant sound and the candidate is to say a word beginning with the same consonant sound. Three consonant sounds will be given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, the examiner might say the sound of the consonant 'd' to which candidate might answer 'dog'.</li> </ul> <p>d) The examiner will give the candidate a range of approximately 10 numbers (between 1 and 50) to say aloud.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example: 'Count aloud from 21 to 30'.</li> </ul>	20
4	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to describe a teacher or best friend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul> <p>b) The examiner will ask the candidate questions about any of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toys</li> <li>• The candidate's room.</li> <li>• Favourite food/s.</li> </ul>	20
5	<p><b>Mime</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Painting or drawing a picture</li> <li>○ Cooking</li> <li>○ Washing your dog</li> <li>○ Scoring a goal/try (any sport).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly.</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul>	15
6	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner relating to the candidate's school life, including topics such as location/campuses and best subjects. The examiner will commence the conversation.</p> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to thank the examiner in a formal yet friendly way when leaving the examination.</p>	10

## Stage 2

	Time: 20 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to appropriately address the examiner upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her brief introductory comments about a hobby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example 'Good morning, my name is XXX XXX and I like to ...'</li> <li>• Time limit: ½ minute.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Poem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 1½ – 2 minutes.</li> </ul>	20
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passage of consecutive words from a simple story book.</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul>	15
4	<p><b>Days and months / Countries</b></p> <p>a) Say the names of the 7 days.</p> <p>b) Say the names of the 12 months.</p> <p>c) Say the names of 5 countries, commencing with Australia.</p> <p>d) Speak for one minute about a country other than Australia. The examiner may enter into a brief discussion with the candidate.</p>	15
5	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to describe an aspect of his/her culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, a food or custom</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul> <p>b) The examiner will ask the candidate questions on one or both of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate's special talent or skill</li> <li>• Favourite things.</li> </ul>	20
6	<p><b>Mime</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eating something which tastes wonderful</li> <li>○ Eating something which tastes awful</li> <li>○ Eating something which is too hot</li> <li>○ Tidying up your room</li> <li>○ Tidying up your toys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly.</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul>	10
7	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner relating to the candidate's hobby. The examiner will commence the conversation.</p> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to thank the examiner in a formal yet friendly way when leaving the examination.</p>	10

## Stage 3

	Time: 25 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</li> <li>Time limit: ½ minute.</li> </ul>	5
2	<p><b>Recitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poem or prose selection from a novel.</li> <li>Time limit: 2 – 2½ minutes.</li> </ul>	20
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A passage of consecutive words from a novel. If prose was selected for Item 2, this reading is to be from the same novel.</li> <li>Time limit: 1½ – 2 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
4	<p><b>Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring one item to the examination, and show it and explain it to the examiner.</li> <li>Time limit: 1 – 1½ minutes.</li> <li>The examiner may enter into a brief discussion with the candidate.</li> </ul>	25
5	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impromptu.</li> <li>a) Synonyms (same or similar meanings): The examiner will say a word, and the candidate is to say an appropriate synonym. Three words will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, the examiner might say ‘big’ to which the candidate might answer ‘large’.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Antonyms (opposite or nearly opposite meanings): The examiner will say a word, and the candidate is to say an appropriate antonym. Three words will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, the examiner might say ‘light’ to which the candidate might answer ‘heavy’ (or ‘dark’).</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Odd one out: The examiner will present the candidate with four words, one of which will be out of place, and the candidate is to identify the ‘odd one out’. Three sets will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, the examiner might say ‘pen, television, paper, eraser’ to which the candidate should answer ‘television’.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15

Stage 3 examination continues on the next page.

**Stage 3**  
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6	<p><b>Mime</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will ask the candidate to mime one of the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trying to open the front door/s of your house in the dark</li> <li>○ Walking along a narrow, rocky ledge</li> <li>○ Playing your favourite electronic game</li> <li>○ Watching an exciting DVD.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head, eyes, hands and feet movements as well as facial expression should be used to show the actions clearly.</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul>	10
7	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to compare an aspect of his/her culture to that of English speaking culture, and explain the difference/s. The examiner will commence the conversation.</p> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</p>	10



## Stage 4

	Time: 30 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</li> <li>Time limit: ½ minute.</li> </ul>	5
2	<p><b>Recitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prose selection from a novel.</li> <li>Time limit: 2½ – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	20
3	<p><b>Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral review of the novel chosen for Item 2.</li> <li>Time limit: 2 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
4	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A passage of consecutive words from the novel chosen for Item 2.</li> <li>Time limit: 2 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
5	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impromptu.</li> <li>a) Homonyms (multiple meaning words): The examiner will say a word, and the candidate is to say the alternative meanings. Three words will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, suit (suit yourself/wear a suit).</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Homophones (words that sound alike): The examiner will say a word, and the candidate is to say the alternative meaning/s (and alternative spellings if appropriate). Three words will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, weak/week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Homographs (same spelling, different pronunciation, different meanings): The examiner will show a word, and the candidate is to say the alternative pronunciation/s and meaning/s. Three words will be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, <u>record</u>/<u>record</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15
6	<p><b>Descriptive speaking</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to the examination, select a photograph, picture or drawing and bring it to the examination.</li> <li>Without showing it to the examiner, use descriptive language to explain what is illustrated in the picture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time limit: 2 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Present the picture to the examiner, who may enter into a discussion with the candidate.</li> </ol>	20
7	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A conversation with the examiner relating to a recently learned aspect of English grammar or speech such as plurals, tense, the apostrophe. The candidate is to commence the conversation.</li> <li>At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</li> </ol>	10

## Stage 5

	Time: 30 minutes. Pass mark: 65	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her comments outlining the programme to be presented in Items 2, 3 and 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 1 – 1½ minutes.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Storytelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell a story relating to the candidate’s culture of origin                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example: history, myth, legend, mystery.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passage of consecutive words from a novel.</li> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 2½ minutes.</li> </ul>	15
4	<p><b>Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On one of the following                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An important event/incident in the candidate’s life</li> <li>○ The candidate’s career and/or study plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
5	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will present the candidate with approximately 10 commonly mispronounced words.</li> <li>• The candidate is to pronounce the words, and say each in a sentence.</li> </ul>	10
6	<p><b>Creative speaking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will show the candidate a picture or present the candidate with an object.</li> <li>• The candidate is to study the picture/object and explain the emotions it elicits.</li> <li>• Preparation time: 1 minute.</li> <li>• Time limit: 1½ – 2 minutes.</li> <li>• The examiner will give a warning at 1½ minutes.</li> </ul>	20
7	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner, including demonstrations, on any of the following areas relating to reading aloud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking onto the speaking area</li> <li>• Stance including holding of the book</li> <li>• Turning of pages</li> <li>• Reading ahead</li> <li>• Eye contact</li> <li>• The importance of suitable pace.</li> </ul> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</p>	15

## Stage 6

	Time: 45 minutes. Pass mark: 70	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her comments outlining the programme to be presented in Items 2, 3 and 6, including some background information on the authors for Items 2 and 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 2½ minutes.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Poem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From a novel or a work of non-fiction.</li> <li>• Time limit: 2½ – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
4	<p><b>Impromptu talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• Speak for 1 – 1½ minutes on a word suggested by the examiner.</li> <li>• Preparation time: 1 minute.</li> <li>• The examiner will give a warning at 1 minute.</li> </ul>	15
5	<p><b>Dictionary usage</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to bring his/her dictionary to the examination, and to open it to the pronunciation guide and pass it to the examiner.</p> <p>b) Explain to the examiner how the pronunciation guide works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 2 minutes.</li> </ul> <p>c) The examiner will show the candidate 3–5 words to look up and pronounce, based on the candidate’s understanding of the pronunciation guide.</p>	15
6	<p><b>Storytelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell an original story.</li> <li>• One or two props maximum may be used.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
7	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner, including demonstrations, on any or all of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The benefits of correct breathing for speech</li> <li>• The correct method of breathing for speech</li> <li>• Two suitable breathing exercises.</li> </ul> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</p>	15

## Stage 7

	Time: 1 hour. Pass mark: 70	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her comments outlining the programme to be presented in Items 2, 4 and 7, including some background information on the authors for Items 2 and 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Recitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From a novel or a work of non-fiction.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <p>The candidate is to select whether this reading will be impromptu or prepared. When marking this item, the examiner will take this choice into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will select a passage from the book chosen for Item 2, for the candidate to read aloud.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared.</li> <li>• A passage of approximately 2 minutes from the book chosen for Item 2.</li> </ul>	10
4	<p><b>Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My language/s other than English.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
5	<p><b>Association of ideas / Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will say a word and the candidate is to say 4 words in succession, each word having been inspired for its association with the previous word only.</li> <li>• The candidate is to give a 2 minute talk using the fourth word as the topic. For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The examiner might say ‘mouse,’ and the candidate’s sequence might then be ‘clock ... punctuality ... transport ... travel’. The talk would then be on the topic of travel.</li> <li>○ Note: avoid too close an association such as ‘mouse ... trap ... cheese ... caught’, where all the words are related to the same act.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The examiner will give a warning at 1½ minutes.</li> </ul>	15

Stage 7 examination continues on the next page.

**Stage 7**  
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6	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will show the candidate approximately 10 words. For example             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Words with 'ed' endings where some are pronounced 't' and others 'd'</li> <li>○ Words with silent letters</li> <li>○ Words with letters having alternative pronunciations (for example, great/giraffe)</li> <li>○ Words with 'ough' endings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The candidate is to pronounce the words, and say each in a sentence.</li> </ul>	10
7	<p><b>Appreciation</b></p> <p>a) Prior to the examination, the candidate is to select a poem which has a special appeal for him/her, and bring it to the examination.</p> <p>b) Explain this special appeal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 2 minutes.</li> </ul>	10
8	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner on both of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of facial expression and eye contact in oral communication (including demonstrations)</li> <li>• Any aspect of the programme presented.</li> </ul> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</p>	15

## English Speaker's Certificate (Stage 8)

	Time: 1 hour 15 minutes. Pass mark: 70	Marks
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>a) The candidate is to address the examiner in a formal yet friendly way upon entering the examination room.</p> <p>b) The examiner will then ask the candidate to commence his/her comments outlining the programme to be presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	10
2	<p><b>Recitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prose selection from a biography or autobiography.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
3	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu.</li> <li>• The examiner will select a passage from the book chosen for Item 2, for the candidate to read aloud.</li> </ul>	10
4	<p><b>Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A formal speech on any topic of interest to the candidate.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 – 4 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
5	<p><b>Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On a speech sound which, over the years, the candidate has found difficult to articulate.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example, 'th' or 'l' or 'r'.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The candidate is to explain to the examiner how he/she has gone about overcoming this difficulty and present an estimate of the level of success achieved to date.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> <li>• The examiner may enter into a discussion with the candidate.</li> </ul>	10
6	<p><b>Book review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral review of a book which the candidate has read in his/her first language.</li> <li>• The book must be brought to the examination.</li> <li>• Time limit: 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	10

English Speaker's Certificate (Stage 8) examination continues on the next page.

## English Speaker's Certificate (Stage 8)

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7	<p><b>Creative talk</b></p> <p>a) Present one of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music to be performed (or play recorded music)</li> <li>• Dance/movement to be performed (or play a recording of dance/movement)</li> <li>• Artwork such as painting, sculpture to be shown (or a photograph thereof)</li> <li>• Time limit: 1 minute.</li> </ul> <p>b) The candidate is to present a creative talk on his/her response to the music/dance/movement/artwork.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limit: 2 – 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	15
8	<p><b>Conversation / Conclusion</b></p> <p>a) A conversation with the examiner on both of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of body language and gesture in oral communication (including demonstrations)</li> <li>• Any aspect of the programme presented.</li> </ul> <p>b) At the conclusion of the examination, the candidate is to offer appropriate parting comments.</p>	15