



# 2019 Speech Syllabus package

Australian Guild of Music Education Inc



## Overview

Effective  
01/01/2019

## Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>Key points</b> .....	3
<b>Contact us</b> .....	3
<b>Obtaining the Syllabus documents</b> .....	3
<b>Overview of the Syllabi for Individuals</b>	
1 Speech and Drama.....	4
2 Oral Communication.....	6
3 Oral Communication (ESL).....	8
4 Integrated Drama Programmes .....	9
<b>Overview of the Syllabi for Groups</b>	
5 Oral Communication for Small Groups.....	10
6 Spoken Language Development for Class or Group .....	11
7 Choral Speaking for Class or Group .....	12
<b>Overview of the Syllabus for Business</b>	
8 Business Presentations .....	13

### VERSION CONTROL

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# 2019 Speech Syllabus package

Australian Guild of Music Education Inc

A0010797V

## Introduction

This document provides an overview of the Australian Guild's Speech Syllabus package, effective 1 January 2019.

## Key points

- **Eight UPDATED syllabi**
  - ✓ Speech and Drama
  - ✓ Oral Communication
  - ✓ Oral Communication for ESL students
  - ✓ Oral Communication for Small Groups
  - ✓ Spoken Language Development for Class or Group
  - ✓ Choral Speaking for Class or Group
  - ✓ Integrated Drama Programmes and
  - ✓ Business Presentations.
- **OWN CHOICE items**
  - ✓ AGME syllabi have always offered the concept of own choice items on the basis that no one person is the same as another.
- **TEACHER CHOICE of exam levels**
  - ✓ The AGME examinations for individuals are mostly set to standard rather than age, as a student beginning to study Speech may be perhaps 6 years old, 16, or even 66 years of age.
- **Summaries of selected examinations are on the following pages.**

## Contact us for further information

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## To obtain the syllabus documents

- **Download the syllabi as PDF files** from the Guild's website using this link: \*  
<https://www.guildmusic.edu.au/syllabi-downloads>
- **Order hard copies** by contacting  
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Web: [www.guildmusic.edu.au](http://www.guildmusic.edu.au)

\* Note: Speech and music syllabi are being progressively uploaded to the Guild's website.  
If the syllabus you require is not available at the above link, please phone the AGME office on 03 9822-3111.

## Syllabus no 1

# Speech and Drama

- The Speech and Drama syllabus is the most longstanding within the Speech syllabus package.
- It is designed for individual students who wish to undertake **practical** speech and drama training, accompanied by equivalent **theoretical studies**. As such it takes the most **academic** approach.
- It offers students the opportunity to achieve high level qualifications such as the **Associate** Diplomas (Performer and Teacher) and the **Licentiate** Diplomas (Performer, Teacher and Creative Drama).
- From Grade 6, Theory exams are compulsory.
- The examination levels are as follows: Steps 1 to 3, Grades 1 to 7, Proficiency (Grade 8), Associate, Licentiate.

<b>Overview of the Step 1 examination</b>	
<b>Speech and Drama</b>	
Time: 15 minutes	
1	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short talk of approximately 50 words.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 12 lines.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some gestures and movement may be used where appropriate.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Mimes (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate's choice—one mime from a list provided, including playing with your pet, painting or sketching a picture.</li> <li>• Examiner's choice—one mime from the same list.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Oral theory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many letters there are in the alphabet, how it is divided, say the vowels, say 10 consonant letters.</li> </ul>

<b>Overview of the Grade 2 examination</b>	
<b>Speech and Drama</b>	
Time: 20 minutes	
1	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe one from a list provided, including your home, your hobby.</li> <li>• One or two pictures or small objects may be used.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Prose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 200 consecutive words.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humorous or light verse of approximately 24–30 lines.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Creative Drama</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will suggest a title for an improvisation, for example, the slippery grass.</li> <li>• To include at least 3 different ways of walking, for example, hopping, striding.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the novel chosen for Item 2.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Oral theory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diphthongs.</li> <li>• Explosives and continuants.</li> </ul>

## Syllabus no 1

# Speech and Drama

continued

<b>Overview of the Proficiency (Grade 8) practical examination</b>	
<b>Speech and Drama</b>	
Time: 1 hour	
1	<b>Prose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>From an Australian novel, biography or autobiography.</li></ul>
2	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>By a poet of the Romantic period or the Victorian and Edwardian period.</li></ul>
3	<b>Poetry appreciation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Form, content, poetic style and author of the poem presented in Item 2.</li></ul>
4	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>From any play and involve at least two characters.</li><li>Accent must be used, for example, broad Australian.</li></ul>
5	<b>Drama One</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dramatization from any Shakespearian play.</li></ul>
6	<b>Drama Two</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dramatization from any reputable Australian play.</li></ul>
7	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A talk on a topic from a list provided including Australian speech, and live theatre.</li></ul>
8	<b>Impromptu Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A poem.</li></ul>

<b>Overview of the Proficiency (Grade 8) theory examination</b>	
<b>Speech and Drama</b>	
Time: 3 hours	
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The importance of good breathing in performance.</li><li>Vocal production, modulation, tone.</li><li>Emphasis, tune and timing.</li><li>Phonetic transcription.</li><li>Rhyme, poetic devices, metre.</li><li>Authors studied and their literary periods.</li><li>Shakespearian theatre.</li></ul>	

## Syllabus no 2

# Oral Communication

- This syllabus is designed to complement the Speech and Drama syllabus and to provide wider opportunities for Speech on a **personal** level.
- This syllabus will also meet the requirements of many people who are in **occupations** where there is a special emphasis on speech.
- Theory Examinations commence at Proficiency (Level 8).
- The examination levels are as follows: Beginner's Level, Levels 1 to 7, School Leaver's Certificate (alternative to Level 7), Proficiency (Level 8), Associate Public Speaking, Associate Teacher Public Speaking.

### Overview of the Beginner's Level examination

#### Oral Communication

Time: 15 minutes

1	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From an Australian anthology.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passage from a simple story book.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Sounds and Rhymes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sounds: For example, the examiner might say the sound of the consonant 'b' to which candidate might answer 'bread'.</li> <li>• Rhymes: For example, the examiner might say 'fish' to which the candidate might answer 'dish'.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Matching Pairs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, the examiner might say 'brush' to which the candidate might answer 'comb'.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell a story (may be original).</li> </ul>

### Overview of the Level 4 examination

#### Oral Communication

Time: 25 minutes

1	<b>Recitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prose.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impromptu or prepared—candidate's choice.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Association of Ideas / Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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.</li> <li>• The candidate is to give a short talk using the fourth word as the topic.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Imaginative Speaking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will show the candidate a picture. The candidate is to study the picture and tell a story or use descriptive language to explain what is illustrated in the picture.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Discussion of Technical work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the correct method of breathing for speech and the correct techniques for reading aloud.</li> </ul>

## Syllabus no 2

# Oral Communication

continued

<b>Overview of the Proficiency (Level 8) practical examination</b>	
<b>Oral Communication</b>	
Time: 1 hour	
1	<b>Recitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prose selection from a biography or autobiography.</li></ul>
2	<b>Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select one from a list provided, such as a chosen proverb, or obsession.</li></ul>
3	<b>Impromptu Readings (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two prose passages of contrasting styles.</li></ul>
4	<b>Informative and Persuasive Appreciation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select one from a list provided, such as 'The Australian I most admire'.</li></ul>
5	<b>Impromptu Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver an impromptu speech on a topic relating to public speaking skills.</li></ul>
6	<b>Creative Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring into the examination room a mystery object.</li><li>• Creatively describe the object and attempt to sell it.</li></ul>
7	<b>Social Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select a speech made by a well-known person.</li><li>• Based on the selected speech, present a vote of thanks.</li></ul>

<b>Overview of the Proficiency (Level 8) theory examination</b>	
<b>Oral Communication</b>	
Time: 3 hours	
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The speaker's voice</li><li>• Expression</li><li>• Style of delivery</li></ul>	

## Syllabus no 3

# Oral Communication (ESL)

- 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.
- The examination levels are as follows: Beginner’s Stage, Stages 1 to 7, English Speaker’s Certificate (Stage 8).

<b>Overview of the Beginner’s Stage examination</b>	
<b>Oral Communication (ESL)</b>	
Time: 15 minutes	
1	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately address the examiner and present brief introductory comments.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short poem—approximately 1 minute.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Alphabet / Numbers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the structure of the alphabet, say the vowels and consonant letters, and count aloud.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Vocabulary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate is to describe him/herself.</li> <li>• Identify objects indicated by the examiner. For example ‘Window with blue curtains’.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Mimes (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate’s choice—two mimes such as playing with a toy and playing an outdoor game.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Conclusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank the examiner when leaving the examination.</li> </ul>

<b>Overview of the Stage 5 examination</b>	
<b>Oral Communication (ESL)</b>	
Time: 30 minutes	
1	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately address the examiner and outline the programme to be presented in Items 2, 3 and 4.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Storytelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell a story relating to the candidate’s culture of origin.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passage from a novel.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On an event in the candidate’s life or his/her career/study plans.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Vocabulary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will present the candidate with approximately 10 commonly mispronounced words and the candidate is to pronounce the words, and say each in a sentence.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Creative speaking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will show the candidate a picture or object and the candidate is to study the picture/object and explain the emotions it elicits.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A conversation with the examiner, including demonstrations, on the correct techniques for reading aloud.</li> </ul>



## Syllabus no 4

# Integrated Drama Programmes

- This syllabus has been created to satisfy the needs of students studying **drama in a classroom** environment.
- It gives students the opportunity to **integrate** and develop a number of drama skills.
- In the performance items in this syllabus, the marks are weighted in favour of the recitations, with fewer marks allocated to the contribution of music and dance. The technical standard of music and dance performances will not be assessed, but how these are **interwoven** into the various presentations will be assessed.
- The examination levels are as follows: Years 7 to 11, Higher Certificate in Drama Performance (Year 12).

<b>Overview of the Year 7 examination</b>	
<b>Integrated Drama Programmes</b>	
Time: 20 minutes	
1	<b>Performances (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recite a poem and a prose selection, incorporating music, movement or mime.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Theatrical Devices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to the examination prepare a puppet relating to either recitation.</li> <li>• Explain to the examiner how the puppet relates to the recitation.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About the programme presented.</li> </ul>

<b>Overview of the Year 11 examination</b>	
<b>Integrated Drama Programmes</b>	
Time: 45 minutes	
1	<b>Introduction to Contrasting Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introduction to the contrasting presentations in Item 2.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Contrasting Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver two contrasting presentations, each one based on a different emotion.</li> <li>• Incorporate two of the following in each presentation: poem, prose, drama, storytelling.</li> <li>• Incorporate music, movement, dance, mime and/or improvisation.</li> <li>• Support each presentation with: properties, masks, and/or puppets.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Theatrical Elements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare three of the following relating to the presentations above: make up design, costume designs, set design, lighting plot.</li> <li>• Explain to the examiner how the three elements relate to the presentations.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About any aspect of the programme presented.</li> </ul>

## Syllabus no 5

# Oral Communication for Small Groups

- This syllabus is excellent for students who wish to learn how to speak **meaningfully, clearly, expressively and with confidence**, whilst not wishing to make an in-depth study of speech as a possible career or special hobby.
- This syllabus is graded by age level, as teachers may use this with private students.
- Groups are to be from 2-6 candidates.
- All candidates will receive **individual assessment** sheets.
- If desired, a small **audience** may be allowed for the higher level examinations.
- The examination levels are as follows: Preparatory (7-8 years) to Advanced Certificate in Oral Communication (over 18 years).

### Overview of the Preparatory Level examination (7-8 years)

#### Oral Communication for Small Groups

Time: 30 minutes

1	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is to read a different passage from a chosen novel.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Poem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is to recite a poem from an Australian anthology.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is to select one from a list provided, such as my pet, my room.</li> </ul>

### Overview of the Intermediate Level examination (13-14 years)

#### Oral Communication for Small Groups

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

1	<b>Impromptu Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is to read a passage from a novel or biography.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Recitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is to recite a story (may be original).</li> </ul>
3	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate is select one from a list of topics provided, such as freedom, modern music.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Creative Group Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examiner will use a sentence to start a story, and group members in turn continue the story for one minute each.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A conversation with the examiner on a topical matter.</li> </ul>

## Syllabus no 6

# Spoken Language Development for Class or Group

- This syllabus has been designed for students studying speech in a classroom or private group environment. The educational aim is the development of the **spoken language** for a class or group as a whole.
- The examinations are graded by school year level.
- Groups are to be from 2-6 candidates.
- All candidates will receive **individual assessment** sheets, incorporating a group mark for the drama and discussion segments of the examination.
- The examination levels are as follows: Year 3 to Higher Certificate in Spoken Language Development (Year 10).

### Overview of the Year 3 examination

#### Spoken Language Development for Class or Group

Time: 30 minutes

1	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each candidate is to read a passage from a book of his/her choice.</li></ul>
2	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each candidate is to present a short talk on a favourite Australian animal, bird or reptile.</li></ul>
3	<b>Group Mime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A mime based on a nursery rhyme.</li></ul>

### Overview of the Year 9 examination

#### Spoken Language Development for Class or Group

Time: 1 hour

1	<b>Impromptu Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each candidate is to read an Australian newspaper or magazine article.</li></ul>
2	<b>Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each candidate is to present an imaginative appreciation on a theme such as colour.</li></ul>
3	<b>Group Drama</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A dramatized scene based on a topic such as escape, discovery.</li></ul>
4	<b>Group Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A group discussion with the examiner based on the programme presented.</li></ul>

## Syllabus no 7

# Choral Speaking for Class or Group

- This syllabus has been designed for use in a **classroom or private group** environment.
- The examinations are graded by school year level.
- The minimum number of students for a choir is four.
- **Solo lines and sound effects** may be incorporated if desired at any year level.
- The examination levels are as follows: Prep to Year 2, to Higher Certificate in Choral Speaking (Year 10).

### Overview of the Prep to Year 2 examination

#### Choral Speaking for Class or Group

Time: 20 minutes

1	<b>Practical Exercises</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The class is to say the alphabet and the vowel letters.</li><li>• Individuals will be asked to say selected consonant letters.</li></ul>
2	<b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The examiner will ask several students to briefly introduce him/herself and another student.</li></ul>
3	<b>Choral Speaking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speak a poem in unison.</li><li>• Speak a poem in part speaking.</li></ul>

### Overview of the Year 9 examination

#### Choral Speaking for Class or Group

Time: 20 minutes

1	<b>Choral Speaking – 15 minute presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speak a poem in part speaking.</li><li>• Present a prose or drama selection.</li><li>• Incorporate movement and/or music.</li></ul>
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## Syllabus no 8

# Business Presentations

- This syllabus is a business stream alternative to Oral Communication levels 6, 7, Proficiency and Associate Public Speaking.
- It is designed to meet the needs of business people who are required to present information professionally to others, both with and without the assistance of electronic presentations.
- Theory Examinations commence at Proficiency (Level 8).
- The examination levels are as follows: Levels 6 to 7, Proficiency (Level 8), Associate Business Presentations.

### Overview of the Proficiency (Level 8) examination

#### Business Presentations

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

1	<b>Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select one from a list of business topics provided.</li></ul>
2	<b>PowerPoint Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information of an instructional/procedural nature.</li></ul>
3	<b>Impromptu Creative Speaking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present thoughts on an item shown by the examiner. For example, the Commonwealth Bank logo.</li></ul>
4	<b>PowerPoint Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breathing method for public speaking.</li></ul>
5	<b>Reading / Impromptu Speaking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read aloud an article from a business magazine, newspaper or website.</li><li>• Deliver a short talk based on the subject matter of the article.</li></ul>
6	<b>PowerPoint Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sales presentation.</li></ul>
7	<b>PowerPoint Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On a topic of interest to the candidate.</li></ul>

### Overview of the Proficiency (Level 8) theory examination

#### Business Presentations

Time: 3 hours

Topics:

- The speaker's voice
- Expression
- Style of delivery
- PowerPoint: preparing the content, technology, presentation features, associated materials, delivery style

## Contact us for further information

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## To obtain the syllabus documents

See Page 3.